

# RSA observational study 2016 – Helmet & Mobile Phone use by Motorcyclists & Pedal cyclists



## Research Objective

To determine the incidence of motorcyclists and pedal cyclists wearing helmets and using mobile phones.

## Methodology

The study was conducted by Nationwide Data Collection on behalf of the RSA in October 2016. There were 146 urban sites surveyed in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Maynooth, Midlands, Navan, Waterford and Wexford. There was a sample size of 5,341 motorcyclists, 19,837 ‘private’ cyclists and 3,506 ‘public’ cyclists. A total of 23,343 cyclists were observed. Observations were carried out on weekdays (Monday to Friday) between the hours of 07:00 to 10:00, 12:00 to 15:00 and 17:00 to 20:00.

## Definitions:

- A **private cyclist** is: a cyclist using their own bicycle.
- A **public cyclist** is: a cyclist who was cycling a bicycle which is part of the public bike city scheme (only available in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick).

## Key Findings

- 38% of all pedal cyclists were wearing helmets in 2016 (52% in 2015)
- 99.9% of motorcyclists were wearing a helmet in 2016 (97% in 2015)
- Helmet wearing rates have decreased for both public pedal cyclists and private pedal cyclists
- In 2015, there has been a decrease in mobile phone usage with usage for private pedal cyclists down (0.3% from 2%) and public pedal cyclists down (0.2% from 4%).
- Earphone usage was higher amongst public pedal cyclists (9%) than private pedal cyclists (8%).

| Type                  | Gender       | Helmet Wearing |              | Helmet Wearing Rate |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
|                       |              | Yes            | No           |                     |
| Motorcyclist          | Male         | 4929           | 4            | 99.9%               |
|                       | Female       | 408            | 0            | 100%                |
|                       | <b>Total</b> | <b>5337</b>    | <b>4</b>     | <b>99.99%</b>       |
| Private Pedal Cyclist | Male         | 5848           | 8646         | 40%                 |
|                       | Female       | 2293           | 3050         | 43%                 |
|                       | <b>Total</b> | <b>8141</b>    | <b>11696</b> | <b>41%</b>          |
| Public Cyclist        | Male         | 466            | 1803         | 21%                 |
|                       | Female       | 306            | 931          | 25%                 |
|                       | <b>Total</b> | <b>772</b>     | <b>2734</b>  | <b>22%</b>          |