

# Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries Suffolk County Residents 2005-2007



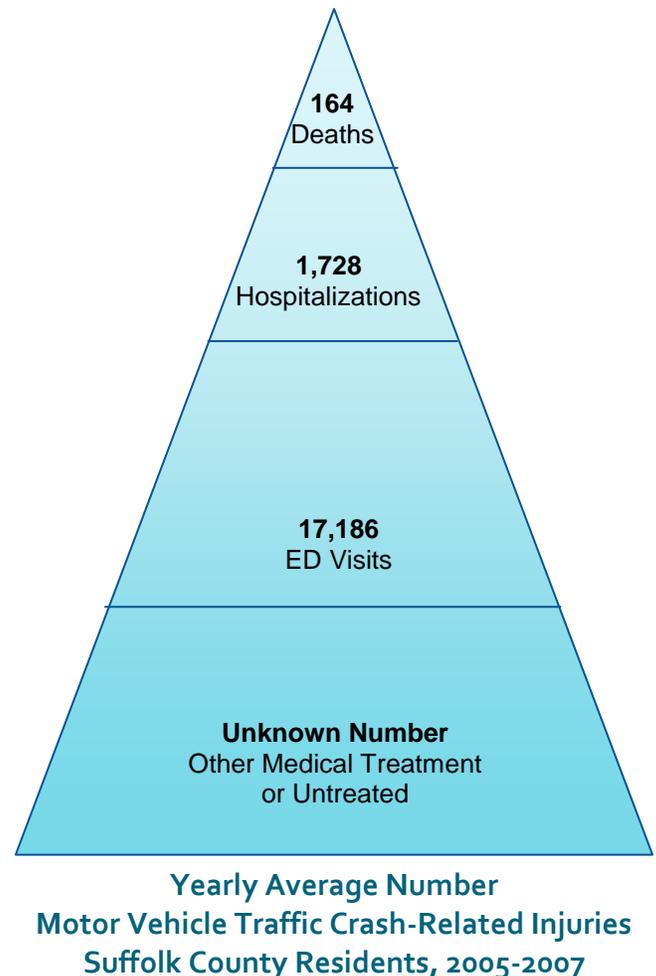
The Concern

**Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries are the leading cause of injury related death in Suffolk County.** Crash related injuries are also the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of injury related hospitalization and the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of injury related emergency department (ED) visits in Suffolk County.

Crash-related injuries are not accidents! They are not random, uncontrollable acts of fate, but occur in predictable patterns, with recognizable risk factors and among identifiable populations. A crash-related injury is a predictable and preventable event!

## Magnitude of the Crash Problem

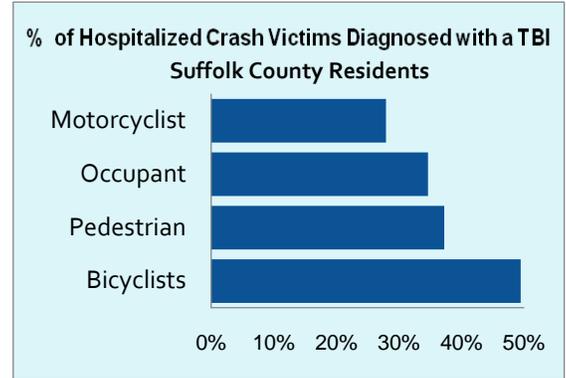
- Every **week**, because of a traffic-related crash, an average of:
  - 3 Suffolk County residents died
  - 33 Suffolk County residents were hospitalized
  - 331 Suffolk County residents were treated in an ED
- Annually, traffic crashes resulted in an average of:
  - \$85.1 million in hospitalization charges
    - **Approximately \$ 4 million was charged to publicly funded programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare, VA health care, and corrections.**
  - \$33.0 million in ED charges
- 17% of hospitalized crash victims are released to another hospital, rehabilitation center or long term care, **incurring additional costs**





**Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs)** can result from traffic related crashes and may result in the loss of independent function, requiring long-term care, and increased life-long expenses.

- ⇒ Among Suffolk County Residents that were hospitalized following a traffic crash **34.1% were diagnosed with a TBI, with almost half of bicyclists sustaining a TBI.**
- ⇒ The risk of TBI can be reduced by wearing your seat belt!
- ⇒ Bicyclists and Motorcyclists who wear helmets reduce their risk of a TBI!



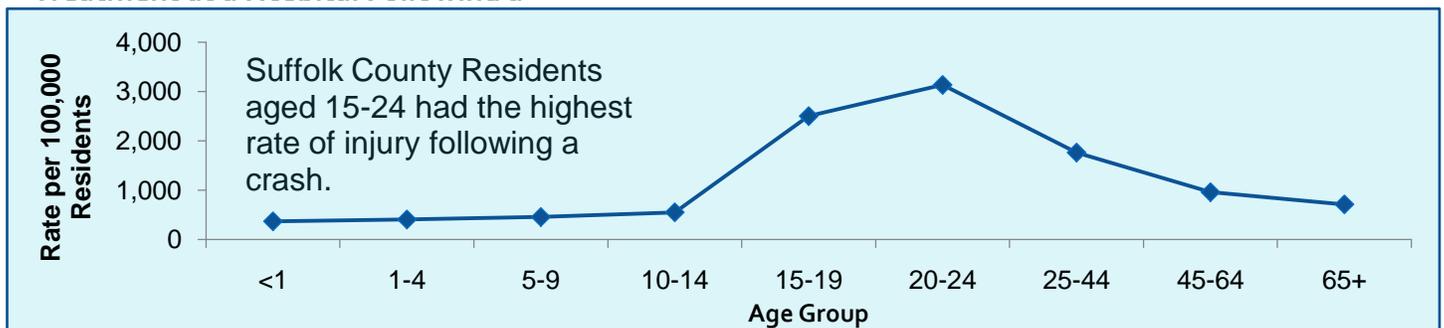
## Who is at Risk for Crash-Related Injuries?

- Although most crash victims in New York State were vehicle occupants, **a higher percentage of bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorcyclists** were injured severely enough to require hospitalization.

In Suffolk County:

- Although females have a higher rate of outpatient ED visits, males are more likely to have died, or been hospitalized following a traffic crash.
- Traffic-related crash injuries occur in all age groups.

### Treatment at a Hospital Following a



### For more detailed information on motor vehicle traffic crashes in New York State:

Please see the detailed county tables provided at [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury\\_prevention/traffic](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/traffic)

Or visit the Governors Traffic Safety Committee website at [www.safeny.com](http://www.safeny.com).

For additional questions or customized data requests, you may also contact the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Injury Prevention at (518) 473-1143. [injurv@health.state.ny.us](mailto:injurv@health.state.ny.us).

*Motor vehicle crash injuries are the leading cause of injury related deaths for Suffolk County Residents – and they can be prevented!*