

1 **Helmet non-use by users of bikeshare programs, electric bicycles, racing bicycles,**
2 **and personal bicycles: An observational study in Taipei, Taiwan**

3 Chia-Fen Chi^{1,#}; Ping-Ling Chen^{2,#}; Wafaa Saleh³; Shin-Han, Tsai^{2,4,5,%}; Chih-Wei Pai^{2,*,%}

4 ¹ Department of Industrial Management, National Taiwan University of Science and
5 Technology, Taiwan ROC.

6 ² Graduate Institute of Injury Prevention and Control, College of Public Health, Taipei
7 Medical University, Taiwan ROC.

8 ³ Transport Research Institute, Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland.

9 ⁴ Department of Emergency Medicine, Shuang Ho Hospital, New Taipei City, Taiwan.

10 ⁵ Ningbo Medical Center Lihuili Eastern Hospital, Ningbo, China.

11 [#] CF Chi and PL Chen contribute equally to the work.

12 [%] SH Tsai and CW Pai contribute equally to the work.

13 ^{*} Corresponding author; Email: cpai@tmu.edu.tw (CW Pai); shtsai@tmu.edu.tw (SH Tsai)

14
15 **Abstract**

16
17 The bikeshare program in Taipei City and New Taipei City, called U-bike, was
18 launched in August 2012, and has more than 7500 bicycles operating out of 769
19 stations. Research has suggested that bicycle helmet use is a means of reducing
20 morbidity and mortality among bike users. Helmets, however, are not available for
21 rent when a U-bike is rented. The current research conducted an observational study
22 to examine the prevalence of helmet non-use by users of the bikeshare program,
23 electric bicycles, racing bicycles, and personal bicycles in Taipei City and New Taipei
24 City. Trained observers using compact video cameras collected helmet non-use data
25 during various times of the day and on different days of the week. Observers collected
26 data on cyclist attributes, bicycle types, and helmet use at several selected locations
27 within Taipei City and New Taipei City. U-bike users were found to be the least likely
28 to wear helmets. Other noteworthy findings include that violations such as phone use,
29 red-light violations, and travelling at ≥ 25 km/h were associated with riding without a
30 helmet. Male users of racing bikes tended not to wear helmets, while female users of
31 other bicycle types were less likely to use a helmet. Carrying passengers by users of
32 electric bikes and personal bikes was a determinant of helmet non-use. This paper
33 concludes with a discussion and recommendations for future research.

34
35 **Keywords:** Bikeshare program; Helmet use; Electric bicycle; Racing bike

39 **1. Introduction**

40

41 Public bikeshare programs are becoming popular worldwide. The main benefits of
42 bikeshare programs include reductions in automobile use and traffic
43 pollution/congestion, as well as the health benefits associated with increased physical
44 activities (Pucher et al. 2010). Typical successful bikeshare programs are in the US,
45 where 15 bikeshare programs are active and more than 30 programs are under
46 development. There are also bikeshare programs in other metropolitan areas such as
47 Paris, Barcelona, Milan, London, and Mexico City (Midgley, 2011). With these
48 programs, the public can rent bicycles for an hourly fee at kiosks at convenient
49 locations throughout the city. The fee can be paid by tokens, coins, or bus/metro cards.
50 The bikeshare program in Taipei City, called U-bike, was launched in August 2012,
51 and has been extended to New Taipei City. Overall, there are a total of 7500 bicycles
52 and 769 stations. Other active bikeshare programs in Taiwan include Taoyuan City,
53 Hsinchu City, and Taichung City. Currently, there are more than 20,000 public
54 bicycles available in Taiwan.

55

56 Research has suggested that bicycle helmet use is a means of reducing morbidity and
57 mortality in bike users. The benefits have been well documented in several
58 case-controlled studies that helmet use is associated with decreased rates of head
59 injury and mortality in riders of all ages, with bicycle helmets decreasing the risk of
60 head and brain injuries by 65%~88% (Amoros et al., 2012). Thompson et al. (2000)
61 reported that nearly three-quarters of all bicyclist deaths and one-third of bicyclist
62 injuries were related to head injuries. The most recent national accident statistics in
63 Taiwan indicated that there were 130 bicyclist fatalities and 14,874 bicycle-related
64 injuries in 2014. The main injured body part for these bicyclist deaths was the head

65 (~61%), followed by injuries to the chest and extremities. Current efforts to increase
66 helmet use for preventing head injuries in accidents include campaigns to increase
67 awareness of the importance of helmet use, along with advocacy for helmet laws
68 (Macpherson and Spinks, 2008). In Taiwan, helmet use is mandatory for motorcyclists
69 but not for bike users, while several cities in the US have laws mandating the wearing
70 of helmets (such as the District of Columbia).

71

72 Despite the importance of helmet use described above, most bikeshare programs do
73 not provide the public with the opportunity to purchase or rent helmets when bicycles
74 are rented, nor are there any requirements to wear a helmet while riding a rented bike.
75 In the state of Minnesota, USA, where there is no mandatory helmet law, only 14% of
76 the respondents reported wearing a helmet. Low helmet use was also reported by
77 Fischer et al. (2012) in Washington, DC and Boston. Fischer et al. observed more than
78 3000 bikeshare cyclists and found that over half were unhelmeted, with significant
79 differences depending on gender. Bikeshare users had a significantly lower helmet
80 usage rate than those on personal bikes. Men were 1.6-times more likely to ride
81 unhelmeted, and when controlling for sex, the time of week, and city, Fischer et al.
82 reported a 4.4-fold greater likelihood of a bikeshare user without a helmet than a
83 personal biker. Fischer et al. attributed this substantial difference in helmet use to the
84 reality that helmets are not provided or easily accessible. A questionnaire survey study
85 conducted in North America (Shaheen et al., 2010) confirmed results of Fischer et al.,
86 suggesting that 43%~62% of respondents reported *never* using a helmet when using
87 bikeshare.

88

89 One of the documented reasons for not using helmets was that the trips were
90 unplanned and therefore, a helmet was not brought along (Fischer et al., 2012). Indeed,

91 the inconvenience associated with carrying a helmet appears to be a major barrier to
92 their use. It seems clear that efforts should be made by governments to make helmets
93 as accessible as possible. Unfortunately, for all bikeshare schemes in Taiwan, helmets
94 are not provided at any rental kiosks, and relevant information on where the public
95 can rent/purchase helmets nearby is not available.

96

97 The Taiwan Traffic Accident Report reveals a steady increase in the number of bicycle
98 accidents, possibly because of the increasing popularity of bicycle use such as
99 bikesharing systems in several cities. A government report (MOTC Traffic Statistics
100 of Year, 2015*) indicates that the fatality rate among bicyclists is two times that of
101 motorcyclists, mainly because of head injuries, which account for approximately 50%
102 of all bicyclist fatalities. Although the government statistics are not necessarily
103 specific to users of U-bike, it is not uncommon that U-bike users have lower
104 helmet-use rates compared with other users of bicycle types. It is therefore argued in
105 this study that U-bike users are especially vulnerable to head injuries.

106

107 When reviewed together, past studies, although few in number, provide an important
108 picture of factors contributing to helmet use among users of bikeshare programs.
109 However, the effects of other important variables, such as bicycle type, temporal
110 factors, and the traffic-violation status, on helmet use have not yet been fully
111 investigated. The main purpose of the current research was to investigate helmet
112 non-use by users of U-bikes, electric bikes, racing bikes, and personal bikes. A better
113 understanding of factors contributing to helmet non-use may provide traffic
114 practitioners and policy makers with guidance in promoting helmet use.

115

116 In order to have a better understanding of the determinants of helmet use among the

117 public using different kinds of bicycles, the research design, including how data were
118 collected, selection of locations/participants, and the analytical approach are described
119 as follows.

120

121 **2. Methods**

122 2.1 Data source

123

124 This was a prospective observational study of bicyclist helmet use in Taipei City and
125 New Taipei City. Trained observers operating compact video cameras collected data at
126 selected locations during various times and on different days of the week. This
127 observational study lasted 1 year from January 2016 to December 2016.

128

129 2.2 Research design

130

131 Factors associated with helmet non-use that we examined included rider attributes,
132 time of the week, bicycle type (U-bike, electric bike, racing bike, or personal bike),
133 weather factors, and the traffic-violation status (phone use, red-light violation (RLV),
134 and speeding). Bikes provided by the bikeshare program have unique designs,
135 markings, and configurations of taillights, which make them easy to distinguish from
136 personal bicycles. Electric bikes can be identified by the batteries fitted to the bike,
137 while racing bikes are unique with specially designed pedals.

138

139 Each trained observer was assigned to collect helmet non-use data from cyclists
140 passing a selected location with a compact video camera. Bicyclists that were
141 travelling on sidewalks were excluded – only those travelling on roadways were
142 included. In order to observe whether the cyclists were running a red light, only those

143 who encountered a red light were included as the subjects. Cyclists' speeds were
144 measured by the time spent between two designated points (points A and B, as
145 illustrated in Figure 1). Three video cameras were set up at each location, and they
146 were well hidden to avoid being spotted by cyclists.

147

148 Those walking with their bikes and passengers were excluded from the current
149 observation (only the cyclist himself/herself was observed). Helmet use was recorded
150 as yes or no. For U-bike users, observation sites were chosen within sight of a
151 bikeshare rental kiosk; while for electric bicycles, where traditional markets were the
152 focal points for these riders. For racing bikes, observations were conducted on
153 sub-rural highways where there are high volumes of racing bikes; and observational
154 sites for personal bikes were in the vicinity of schools/universities. It is worth pointing
155 out here that all bicycle types travelling through the designated locations were
156 observed. For instance, all bicycle types were observed at a U-bike location.

157

158 Descriptive data analyses were conducted for the frequencies of riding unhelmeted by
159 sex, type of bicycle, day of the week, and the traffic-violation status. Binary logistic
160 regression models were used to estimate the likelihood of riding unhelmeted, after
161 controlling for the type of bicycle, sex, day of the week, and the traffic-violation
162 status.

163

164 3. 3 Time/period of the observation

165

166 The survey was conducted by well-trained research assistants throughout 2016 (from
167 January to December 2016), in peak traffic hours (07:00~09:00 and 17:00~19:00) and
168 off-peak hours (09:01~16:59), and on weekdays/weekends to capture possible

169 seasonal effects and temporal variations. It is worthwhile mentioning that late
170 evening/night/early morning observations were excluded from the current research
171 because bicycling was not very popular during these periods (Pucher et al., 2010).

172

173 3.4 Selection of participants/locations

174

175 All two-wheeled users (U-bike, electric bike, racing bike, and personal bike)
176 travelling through a selected intersection and encountering a red light were included
177 as the subjects, providing a rich source of observations to facilitate statistical
178 modelling of the determinants of helmet non-use.

179 The locations of observation sites were randomly selected. For instance, an
180 exhaustive list of 614 primary and secondary schools are obtained from the Taipei
181 City Council and New Taipei City Council. All of the 614 schools were given a
182 number and a total of four schools were randomly selected using an online random
183 number generator without priori constraint. It should be noted here that only four
184 schools were selected due to limited funds on manpowers (observers) and equipment
185 (video cameras). The same random selection was applied to sites for U-bike, electric
186 bike, and racing bike (four U-bike stations, four markets, and four sub-rural highways
187 from a list of 769 U-bike stations, 91 markets, and 132 sub-rural highways).

188

189 **4. Results**

190

191 Tables 1 to 4 report the characteristics of users of various bicycle types and rates of
192 helmet non-use. In total, data on 6567 cyclists were collected, of whom 762 were
193 using racing bikes, 2861 were using personal bikes, 668 were using electric bikes, and
194 2276 were using U-bikes (see Tables 1~4). Users of U-bikes had the highest rates of

195 riding unhelmeted (87.96%), followed by users of electric bikes (83.83%), users of
196 personal bikes (74.48%), and users of racing bikes (12.6%).

197

198 A careful observation of Tables 1 to 4 shows that some consistent patterns appear
199 regarding helmet non-use rates. Mobile phone use, RLVs, and the absence of any
200 reflective lights were associated with an increased rate of helmet non-use. Bicyclists
201 observed during off-peak hours, on weekdays, and during fine weather were less
202 likely to wear helmets.

203

204 Several effects appear inconsistent across different types of bicycles. For example,
205 male users of racing bikes were more likely to be unhelmeted, while female users of
206 the other three bicycle types tended to ride unhelmeted. Riders of racing bikes and
207 electric bikes had higher rates of travelling without a helmet in urban areas, although
208 riding in rural settings was associated with an increased rate of non-use of helmets for
209 users of personal bikes and U-bikes. A higher travel speed appeared to result in a
210 decreased non-helmet rate for users of racing bikes, but the other three groups of
211 cyclists exhibited a higher non-helmet rate with an increase in their travel speed.

212

213 One overall logistic regression model and four individual logistic regression models
214 were estimated, with odds ratios (ORs), 95% confidence intervals (CIs), and *p* values
215 being reported (Tables 5-9). The overall model includes bicycle type (U-bike, electric
216 bike, personal bike, and racing bike) as one of the variables (see Table 5). Four
217 individual models were employed to estimate factors contributing to helmet non-use
218 among different bicycle types, and results are reported in Tables 6 to 9. Only one
219 interaction effect was found statistically significant in the overall model, and no
220 interaction effect was found in the four individual models.

221

222 The overall model reports that U-bike users were 187% more likely to be riding
223 unhelmeted, compared to racing bike users. Other determinants of riding unhelmeted
224 include rural roadways, males, carrying a passenger, non-rush hours, absence of
225 reflective aids, weekend, phone use, and red-light violation (RLV). One interaction
226 effect “phone use and RLV” appears to a contributory factor to helmet non-use. The
227 interaction variable reports that those using a phone and violating red light were 107%
228 more likely to be riding unhelmeted.

229

230 Turning to the individual models (Tables 6-9), the effect of rural roadways appeared
231 to be statistically significant in determining unhelmeted riding, with respective
232 increased ORs of 1.384 and 1.467 for users of personal bikes and U-bikes. Male users
233 of racing bikes were 23.7% more likely to be riding unhelmeted, while males
234 exhibited decreased odds of riding unhelmeted with the other three bicycle types (ORs
235 of 0.755 for personal bikes, 0.806 for electric bikes, and 0.770 for U-bikes).
236 Consistent results regarding the time effect (off-peak hours) were found across the
237 four bicycle types, with respective ORs of 1.570, 1.164, 1.253, and 1.143 for users of
238 racing bikes, personal bikes, electric bikes, and U-bikes.

239

240 The passenger-effect was examined for two bicycle types only. Racing bikes and
241 U-bikes are not manufactured with passenger seats, so the effect was not investigated
242 for these two bicycle types. It should be noted that it is a violation for a cyclist to
243 carry a passenger, although passenger seats are manufactured and sold. The
244 passenger-effect appeared to be statistically significant – when carrying a passenger,
245 users of personal bikes and electric bikes were 40.3% and 20.2% more likely not to be
246 wearing a helmet.

247

248 The effects of the absence of reflective aids, cyclists' RLV, and using a mobile phone
249 appeared to be significant determinants of riding unhelmeted for all four bicycle types.
250 Take the phone-use effect as an example, the odds of riding unhelmeted were 1.685
251 for users of racing bikes, 1.519 for users of personal bikes, 1.669 for users of electric
252 bikes, and 1.564 for users of U-bikes. The effect of reflective aids was not examined
253 for U-bikes as all U-bikes are fitted with reflective aids, i.e., taillights. In the event
254 that reflective aids were not present, users of racing bikes, personal bikes, and electric
255 bikes were 18.2%, 68.9%, and 37.6%, respectively, more likely to be travelling
256 unhelmeted. All bicyclists observed to have red-light violation behavior were found to
257 have increased odds of riding unhelmeted, with respective odds of 1.967, 1.781, 2.117,
258 and 1.337 for racing bikes, personal bikes, electric bikes, and U-bikes.

259

260 The speed effect appeared to be inconsistent across the four bicycle types. With a
261 speed of ≥ 25 km/h, users of racing bikes were 31.7% less likely to be unhelmeted.
262 However, a speed of ≥ 25 km/h was found to be associated with an increased odds of
263 riding unhelmeted for the other three bicycle types – with respective odds of 1.216,
264 1.836, and 1.59 for personal bikes, electric bikes, and U-bikes.

265

266 **5. Discussion and Conclusions**

267

268 The current research found that users of U-bikes had the highest rates of riding
269 unhelmeted (87.96%). This was followed by users of electric bikes (83.83%), personal
270 bikes (74.48%), and racing bikes (12.6%). Such findings are in line with those of past
271 studies conducted in developed countries (e.g., Fischer et al., 2012), where lower
272 helmet use was revealed for bikeshare users than those of personal bikes. In Taiwan, it

273 is difficult to establish a linkage between bicycle helmet use and bicycle accidents,
274 because a detailed classification of bicycle types is not available in any official
275 statistics/datasets. However, with the increasing popularity of bikeshare programs in
276 several metropolitan areas, it is possible that a majority of bicycle accidents involve
277 bikeshare users. In 2016, bicycle helmet use became compulsory for electric bicycle
278 users but not for traditional bicycle users in Taiwan. A large-scale nationwide travel
279 survey (Health Promotion Administration, HPA, 2012) reported that helmet use was
280 relatively lower among bicyclists (6.8%) than among motorcyclists (82.2%). Because
281 bikeshare program has become increasingly popular in recent years, the government
282 should consider encouraging helmet use, and education efforts and campaigns should
283 aim to increase riders' awareness of the benefits of helmet use.

284

285 Our result that users of electric bikes were the second most likely not to wear helmets
286 deserves additional attention. Currently in Taiwan by law, electric bikes can reach
287 speeds of up to 25 km/h, and some electric bikes with modifications to the engine
288 design can reach up to 40 km/h. Helmet use remains crucial for users of electric bikes,
289 considering the high-speed impact in a crash when an electric bike is involved.

290

291 The result that racing-bike users have higher rates of helmet use is reasonable, as they
292 may pay more attention to their safety equipment. The conjecture can be confirmed by
293 the greater use of reflective aids found in the current research. Furthermore, with
294 better designs of bicycles, users of racing bikes can travel faster, and therefore they
295 are more likely to wear helmets. One noteworthy finding is that users of racing bikes
296 had the highest RLV rates compared to all the other three bicycle groups. This result
297 warrants further investigation.

298

299 Turning to factors contributing to helmet non-use among different bicycle types,
300 several results merit further discussion here. Females were found to have a higher
301 tendency not to wear helmets when using personal bikes, electric bikes, and U-bikes.
302 Our results contradict those of Fischer et al. (2012) who reported that male bikeshare
303 cyclists were more likely to be unhelmeted. However, we observed an obvious
304 reduced likelihood of helmet use among male users of racing bikes.

305

306 Except for users of racing bikes who tended to wear a helmet in rural areas than in
307 urban areas, users of the other three bicycle types appeared less likely to wear helmets
308 on rural roadways. Our findings are consistent with those of studies examining
309 motorcyclist helmet use in other developing countries such as studies in Malaysia
310 (Kulanthayan et al., 2000) and China (Yu et al., 2011). Possible reasons include that
311 cyclists perceive less risk in rural settings where there is less traffic. Nevertheless,
312 crash impacts can be at higher speeds in such locations where traffic speeds tend to be
313 higher, and therefore it is recommended that cyclists should always wear helmets in
314 both urban and rural areas.

315

316 Our research contributes to the current literature by reporting that cyclists' RLV,
317 phone use, and absence of reflectors were associated with an increased likelihood of
318 riding unhelmeted among all users of the four bicycle types. RLVs and phone use are
319 illegal behaviors and were found to be associated with helmet non-use for all four
320 bicycle types. RLVs by bicyclists were identified as the most frequent traffic-violation
321 behavior in Taiwan (Pai and Jou, 2014) due to the fact that bicycles without number
322 plates are less likely to be prosecuted for RLV behavior. Again, it seems evident here
323 that bicyclists engaging in RLV behaviors and using a mobile phone may have a lower
324 perception of safety, and as a result are less likely to ride with a helmet.

325

326 The absence of reflective aids on bicycles was found to be associated with helmet
327 non-use among users of racing bikes, personal bikes, and electric bikes (all U-bikes
328 are fitted with front and tail lights). It seems evident in the current research that there
329 is a link between helmet non-use and the absence of reflective aids. This result is
330 possibly because bicyclists using reflective aids are a group with higher safety
331 perceptions and therefore are more likely to wear a helmet.

332

333 Use of all bicycle types at higher speeds (≥ 25 km/h) appeared to result in a greater
334 likelihood of helmet non-use. Although speeds were measured for a short distance (i.e.,
335 points A and B) and might not be representative of the entire trip, the result indicated
336 the possibility that cyclists who ride at higher speeds may have lower safety
337 perceptions, and their helmet use might therefore be lower. Speed enforcement is
338 difficult for cyclists as they do not have number plates. Education efforts and safety
339 campaigns might first educate the public about the importance of speed control, and
340 subsequently encourage helmet use at the same time.

341

342 Similar to previous observational research, the current study has strengths as well as
343 limitations. We observed numerous cyclists of various bicycle types in real-life
344 environments and controlled for several influential variables, including phone use,
345 speed, RLV, etc. Our study was limited due to it being a quasi-experimental study that
346 was conducted on certain streets during certain hours of the day. As a result, the
347 findings might not be representative of other locales and times.

348

349 **Acknowledgements**

350

351 Chi CF contributes to data analysis, interpretation of the data, and final approval of

352 the version to be published. Chen PL contributes to data analysis, interpretation of the
353 data, and final approval of the version to be published. Saleh W contributes to
354 interpretation of the data, and final approval of the version to be published. Tsai SH
355 and Pai CW contribute to the design of the work, data analysis, interpretation of the
356 data, drafting the manuscript and final approval of the version to be published. Chi CF
357 and Chen PL contribute equally to this work. Tsai SH and Pai CW contribute equally
358 to the work. The authors declare to have no conflict of interests.

359 This study was supported by a grant jointly from Taipei Medical University and
360 National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (Grant number:
361 105-TMU-NTUST-105-06), Ministry of Science and Technology, ROC (Grant
362 number: MOST 105-2221-E-038-013-MY3), and Taipei Medical University –Shuang
363 Ho Hospital (Grant number: 102TMU-SHH-12)

364

365 **References**

366

367 Amoros, E., Chiron, M., Martin, J., Thelot, B., Laumon, B., 2012. Bicycle helmet wearing
368 and the risk of head, face, and neck injury: A French case-control study based on a road
369 trauma registry. *Injury Prevention* 18, 27-32.

370 Fischer, C., Sanchez, C., Pittman, M., Milzman, D., Volz, K., Huang, H., Sanchez, L., 2012.
371 Prevalence of bicycle helmet use by users of public bikeshare programs. *Annals of*
372 *Emergency Medicine*, 60(2), 228-231.

373 HPA (Health Promotion Administration), A survey of civilian health and drug use. Health
374 Promotion Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, 2012 (In Chinese).

375 Kulanthayan, S., Umar, R., Hariza, H., Nasir, M., 2000. Modeling of compliance behavior of
376 motorcyclists to proper usage of safety helmets in Malaysia. *International Journal of Crash*
377 *Prevention and Injury Control*, 2(3), 512-515.

378 Macpherson, A., Spinks, A., 2005. Bicycle helmet legislation for the uptake of helmet use and
379 prevention of head injuries. *Cochrane Database System Review*. 3, CD005401.

380 Midgley, P., 2011. Bicycle-sharing schemes: Enhancing sustainable mobility. New York. NY
381 United Nations Department of Economic & Social Affairs, Commission on Sustainable
382 Development. 15(5), 447-470

383 MOTC. 2015, Traffic Statistics of Year 2014: Ministry of Transportation and Communications,
384 Taiwan, Republic of China.

385 Pai, C., Hsu, J., Chang, J., Kuo, M., 2013. Motorcyclists violating hook-turn area at
386 intersections in Taiwan : An observational study. *Accident Analysis and Prevention* 59 1-8.

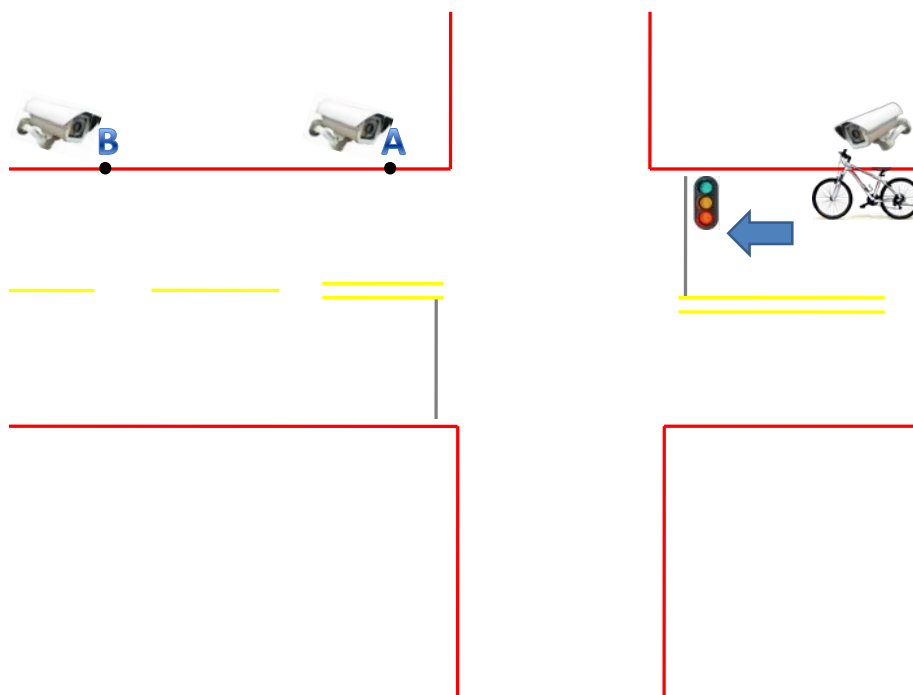
387 Pai, C., Jou, RC 2014. Cyclists red-light running behaviours: An examination of risk-taking,
388 opportunistic, and law-obeying behaviours. *Accident Analysis and Prevention* 62, 191-198.

389 Pucher, J., Dill, J., Handy, A. 2010. Infrastructure, programs, and policies to increase

390 bicycling: An international review. Preventive Medicine. 50 (suppl 1), S106-125.
391 Shaheen, S., Guzman, S., Zhang, H., 2010. Bikesharing in Europe, the Americas, and Asia.
392 Transportation Research Record. 2143, 159-167.
393 Thompson, D., Rivara, F., Thompson, R., 2000. Helmets for preventing head and facial
394 injuries in bicyclists. Cochrane Database System Review. 2, CD001855.
395 Yu, X., Ke, L., Ivers, R., Du. W., Senserrick, T., 2011. Prevalence rates of helmet use among
396 motorcycle riders in a developed region in China. Accident Analysis and Prevention 43,
397 214-219.

398
399

400 Figure 1. The layout of survey locations.



401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413

414 Table 1 Characteristics of users of racing bikes and helmet use in Taipei City

	<i>N</i> (%)	Helmet non-use, <i>n</i> (%)
Users of racing bikes	762	96 (12.6)
Sex		
Male	518 (68.0)	68 (13.1)
Female	244 (32.0)	28 (11.5)
Day of the week		
Workday	154 (20.2)	57 (37)
Weekend	608 (79.8)	89 (14.6)
Time		
07:00~08:59/17:00~19:00	228 (29.9)	51 (22.4)
09:00~16:59	534 (70.1)	45 (8.4)
Location		
Urban	233 (30.6)	67 (28.8)
Rural	529 (69.4)	29 (5.5)
Reflective aids		
Yes	631 (82.8)	39 (6.2)
No	131 (17.2)	57 (43.5)
Weather		
Fine	463 (60.8)	63 (13.6)
Raining	299 (39.2)	33 (11.0)
Phone use		
Yes	186 (24.4)	69 (37.1)
No	576 (75.6)	27 (4.7)
Red-light violation		
Yes	261 (34.3)	56 (21.5)
No	501 (65.7)	40 (8)
Speed (km/h)		
<10	35 (4.6)	29 (82.9)
10~19	436 (57.2)	33 (7.6)
≥25	291 (38.2)	34 (11.7)

415

416

417

418

419

420

421

422 Table 2 Characteristics of users of personal bikes and helmet use in Taipei City

	<i>N</i> (%)	Helmet non-use, <i>n</i> (%)
Users of personal bikes	2861	2131 (74.48%)
Sex		
Male	1734 (60.6)	1045 (60.3)
Female	1127 (39.4)	1086 (96.4)
Carrying a passenger		
Yes	918 (32.1)	858 (93.5)
No	1943 (67.9)	1273 (65.5)
Day of the week		
Workday	1790 (62.6)	1708 (95.4)
Weekend	1071 (37.4)	423 (39.5)
Time		
07:00~08:59/17:00~19:00	1798 (62.8)	1123 (62.5)
09:00~16:59	1063 (37.2)	1008 (94.8)
Location		
Urban	1946 (68)	1271 (65.3)
Rural	915 (32)	860 (94.0)
Reflective aids		
Yes	1042 (36.4)	462 (44.3)
None	1819 (63.6)	1669 (91.8)
Weather		
Fine	1824 (63.8)	1409 (77.2)
Raining	1037 (36.2)	722 (69.6)
Phone use		
Yes	1609 (56.2)	1407 (87.4)
No	1252 (43.8)	724 (57.8)
Red-light violation		
Yes	572 (20.0)	557 (97.4)
No	2289 (80.0)	1574 (68.8)
Speed (km/h)		
<10	1535 (53.7)	1183 (77.1)
10~24	833 (29.1)	537 (64.5)
≥25	493 (17.2)	411 (83.4)

423

424

425

426

427 Table 3 Characteristics of users of electric bikes and helmet use in Taipei City

	<i>N</i> (%)	Helmet non-use, <i>n</i> (%)
Users of electric bikes	668	560 (83.83)
Sex		
Male	253 (37.9)	205 (81)
Female	415 (62.1)	355 (85.5)
Carrying a passenger		
Yes	205 (30.7)	173 (84.4)
No	463 (69.3)	387 (83.6)
Day of the week		
Workday	462 (69.2)	396 (85.7)
Weekend	206 (30.8)	164 (79.6)
Time		
07:00~08:59/17:00~19:00	296 (44.3)	219 (74)
09:00~16:59	372 (55.7)	341 (91.7)
Location		
Urban	478 (71.6)	415 (86.8)
Rural	190 (28.4)	145 (76.3)
Reflective aids		
Yes	179 (26.8)	124 (69.3)
None	489 (73.2)	436 (89.2)
Weather		
Fine	457 (68.4)	393 (86)
Raining	211 (31.6)	167(79.1)
Phone use		
Yes	255 (38.2)	178 (69.8)
No	413 (61.8)	382 (92.5)
Red-light violation		
Yes	167 (25)	143 (85.6)
No	501 (75)	417 (83.2)
Speed (km/h)		
<10	56 (8.4)	27 (48.2)
10~24	250 (37.4)	196 (78.4)
≥25	362 (54.2)	337 (93.1)

428

429

430

431

432 Table 4 Characteristics of users of U-bikes and helmet use in Taipei City

	<i>N</i> (%)	Helmet non-use, <i>n</i> (%)
U-bike users	2276	2002 (87.96)
Sex		
Male	1280 (56.2)	1032 (80.6)
Female	996 (43.8)	970 (97.4)
Day of the week		
Workday	1519 (66.7)	1291 (85)
Weekend	757 (33.3)	711 (93.9)
Time		
07:00~08:59/17:00~19:00	1346 (59.1)	1031 (76.6)
09:00~16:59	930 (40.9)	909 (97.7)
Location		
Urban	1409 (61.9)	1149 (81.5)
Rural	867 (38.1)	853 (98.4)
Weather		
Fine	1330 (58.4)	1296 (97.4)
Raining	946 (41.6)	706 (74.6)
Phone use		
Yes	856 (37.6)	842 (98.4)
No	1420 (62.4)	1160 (81.7)
Red-light violation		
Yes	296 (13)	239 (80.7)
No	1980 (87)	1763 (89)
Speed (km/h)		
<10	1034 (45.4)	849 (82.1)
10~24	819 (36)	755 (92.2)
≥25	423 (18.6)	398 (94.1)

433

434

435

436

437

438

439

440

441

442

443 Table 5: Results of the logistic regression of unhelmeted cyclists (total bikes, $N=6567$)

	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	p value
Bicycle type (ref.: racing bike)				
U-bike users	2.873	1.973	4.738	<0.01
Electric bike users	1.907	1.242	2.984	<0.01
Personal bike users	1.462	1.094	1.954	<0.01
Location				
Rural	1.313	1.046	1.641	<0.01
Sex				
Male	1.130	1.032	1.231	0.03
Carrying a passenger				
Yes	1.231	1.073	1.419	<0.01
Time				
09:00~16:59	1.229	1.049	1.466	<0.01
Day of the week				
Weekend	1.254	1.046	1.485	0.06
Phone use				
Yes	1.760	1.267	2.444	<0.01
Red-light violation (RLV)				
Yes	1.549	1.165	2.049	<0.01
Speed (km/h)				
≥ 25	1.334	1.055	1.694	<0.01
Interaction: Phone use * RLV	2.069	1.177	3.621	<0.01
Summary statistics:				
Restricted log-likelihood (constant only): -5863.5				
Log-likelihood at convergence: -3586.2				
$\sigma^2 = 0.388$				

OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval.

444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453

454 Table 6: Results of the logistic regression of unhelmeted cyclists (racing bikes,
 455 $N=762$)

	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	<i>p</i> value
Location				
Rural	0.737	0.511	0.883	0.03
Sex				
Male	1.237	1.11	1.539	0.08
Time				
09:00~16:59	1.570	1.284	1.886	<0.01
Reflective aids				
None	1.182	1.008	1.396	<0.01
Day of the week				
Weekend	1.207	1.113	1.782	0.02
Phone use				
Yes	1.685	1.281	1.997	<0.01
Red-light violation				
Yes	1.967	1.509	2.357	<0.01
Speed (km/h)				
≥ 25	0.683	0.507	0.846	0.07
Summary statistics:				
Restricted log-likelihood (constant only): -2116.7				
Log-likelihood at convergence: -1557.6				
$\sigma^2 = 0.264$				

OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval.

456
 457
 458
 459
 460
 461
 462
 463
 464
 465
 466
 467
 468
 469

470 Table 7: Results of the logistic regression of unhelmeted cyclists (personal bikes,
 471 N=2861)

	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	<i>p</i> value
Location				
Rural	1.384	1.167	1.557	0.02
Sex				
Male	0.755	0.573	0.869	0.06
Carrying a passenger				
Yes	1.403	1.168	1.967	<0.01
Time				
09:00~16:59	1.164	1.087	1.55	0.03
Reflective aids				
None	1.689	1.385	1.993	<0.01
Day of the week				
Weekend	1.121	1.013	1.338	0.06
Phone use				
Yes	1.519	1.375	1.867	<0.01
Red-light violation				
Yes	1.781	1.502	2.025	<0.01
Speed (km/h)				
≥25	1.216	1.097	1.693	<0.01
Summary statistics:				
Restricted log-likelihood (constant only): -4086.3				
Log-likelihood at convergence: -2752.2				
$\sigma^2 = 0.327$				

OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval.

472
 473
 474
 475
 476
 477
 478
 479
 480
 481
 482
 483

484 Table 8: Results of the logistic regression of unhelmeted cyclists (electric bikes,
 485 N=668)

	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	<i>p</i> value
Sex				
Male	0.806	0.62	0.98	0.07
Carrying a passenger				
Yes	1.222	1.086	1.469	0.02
Time				
09:00~16:59	1.253	1.11	1.599	0.06
Reflective aids				
None	1.376	1.169	1.794	<0.01
Day of the week				
Weekend	1.084	0.887	1.297	0.138
Phone use				
Yes	1.669	1.308	1.998	<0.01
Red-light violation				
Yes	2.117	1.497	2.687	<0.01
Speed (km/h)				
≥25	1.839	1.447	2.097	0.02
Summary statistics:				
Restricted log-likelihood (constant only): -2329.7				
Log-likelihood at convergence: -1662.6				
$\sigma^2 = 0.286$				

OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval.

486
 487
 488
 489
 490
 491
 492
 493
 494
 495
 496
 497
 498
 499

500 Table 9: Results of the logistic regression of unhelmeted cyclists (U-bikes, $N=2276$)

	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	<i>p</i> value
Sex				
Male	0.770	0.467	0.969	<0.01
Location				
Rural	1.467	1.118	1.827	<0.01
Time				
09:00~16:59	1.143	1.087	1.339	0.09
Day of the week				
Weekend	1.217	0.859	1.405	0.16
Phone use				
Yes	1.564	1.278	1.896	<0.01
Red-light violation				
Yes	1.337	1.137	1.69	<0.01
Speed (km/h)				
≥ 25	1.59	1.197	1.806	<0.01
Summary statistics:				
Restricted log-likelihood (constant only): -3182.2				
Log-likelihood at convergence: -2095.1				
$\sigma^2 = 0.342$				

501

OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval.