

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2015



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NEW REPORT SHOWS INCREASES IN BIKE COMMUTING AND BIKE COLLISIONS: OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING SAFETY

Santa Clara County, CA: A report released today shows that both bicycling and bicycle-related collisions increased in Santa Clara County between 2009 and 2013. The *Bicycle Transportation & Safety in Santa Clara County* report was released by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department and Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN) at the Silicon Valley Bike Summit in Palo Alto. It shows that the number of county residents, age 16 and older, who commute to work by bicycle increased by about 3,200 riders (from 11,149 in 2009 to 14,403 in 2013). During the same period, the number of emergency department visits for bicycle-involved collisions in the county also increased from nearly 2,300 in 2009 to over 3,000 in 2013; an increase of 32%.

"Currently, a small but increasing number of people in our county are biking to work. We have a golden opportunity to support this trend – *which is good for both health and the environment* – by starting today to improve bicycle safety," said Santa Clara County's Health Officer and Public Health Director, Dr. Sara Cody.

The report offers recommendations to increase ridership and improve bicycle safety in six key areas, called the "6 E's": education, engineering, enforcement, evaluation, engagement, and encouragement. For example, it recommends:

- Offering affordable safety education for bicyclists of all ages and abilities;
- Targeting the enforcement of bicyclist and motorist behaviors leading to the greatest number of crashes; and
- Improving data collection to provide a clearer understanding of bicycling and safety issues.

"As interest in active transportation grows, we must use data to make informed decisions on how to direct efforts and resources to make bicycling a safe transportation alternative", says County Supervisor Mike Wasserman.

The report provides city-specific maps of bicycle collision locations and ranks intersections with the highest number of motor vehicle-bicycle crashes. Report data were obtained from local and national surveys, emergency department and trauma center reports, and a statewide database of police reports. The release of this report corresponds with the City of San Jose's recently adopted Vision Zero goal, and the release of the Vision Zero Toolkit by Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition.

The Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN) is a community collaborative of health professionals, law enforcement officers, injury prevention and health education specialists, elected officials, engineers, emergency medical responders, bicycle advocates, and others. To access the report and get involved in improving bicycling in Santa Clara County please visit www.sccphd.org/traffic.

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