

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. MARY
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2010**

Question

“Given that in 2008 there were 105 children involved in cycle-related accidents recorded in Jersey’s Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department, could the Minister provide the Assembly with any data and analysis carried out on these 105 accidents by her Department, the analysis to include the location of the injury, the severity of the injury, where the accident took place, whether or not a helmet was worn at the time and how this fact was established, and the cause of the accident?”

Can the Minister also provide members with data and analysis relating to all head and neck injuries suffered in Jersey in 2008, to include, at least, information on the severity of the injuries, and the causes?

In the case of injuries/accidents so serious that the patients require immediate theatre admission how are these identified in the system, and are they included in the figures cited above concerning A&E?”

Answer

Cycle-related incidents

A breakdown of information relating to cycle-related incidents is provided in the 2009 Jersey Child Accident Statistics report, compiled by Child Accident Prevention Jersey^[1] on the basis of information provided from the A&E Department. The report does not include an analysis of where the accident took place or the cause of the accident, but it does include the following information for 2009:

Type of injury (% of 174 incidents in 2009)

- Upper limb injuries: 32.9%
- Head injuries: 29.5%
- Lower limb injuries: 18.5%

Severity of injury (numbers based on 174 injuries in 2009)

- 28% of children seen in A&E required further follow up treatment of which seven children were admitted to hospital. Of these seven, all the incidents occurred off road.

It is essential to differentiate between road traffic cycling accidents and off road accidents. The information provided does state that 105 children attended A&E as a result of a cycle-related incident, however the greater proportion of these relate to off-road incidents. On average, over a five year period, 18 children a year attend A&E as a result of a road traffic related cycle incident and, of these approximately 32% were wearing a helmet.

Analysis of data relating to head and neck injuries

The Department is unable to provide the other information requested. Current systems are based upon broad classifications. Extracting and analysing data relating to the causes of specific injuries - as opposed to all “head” injuries including those caused by epileptic seizure etc – would incur considerable expense.

^[1] Jersey Child Accident Statistics 2009. Available from Child Prevention Jersey.
<http://www.gov.je/Caring/Organisations/Pages/ChildAccidentPrevention.aspx>