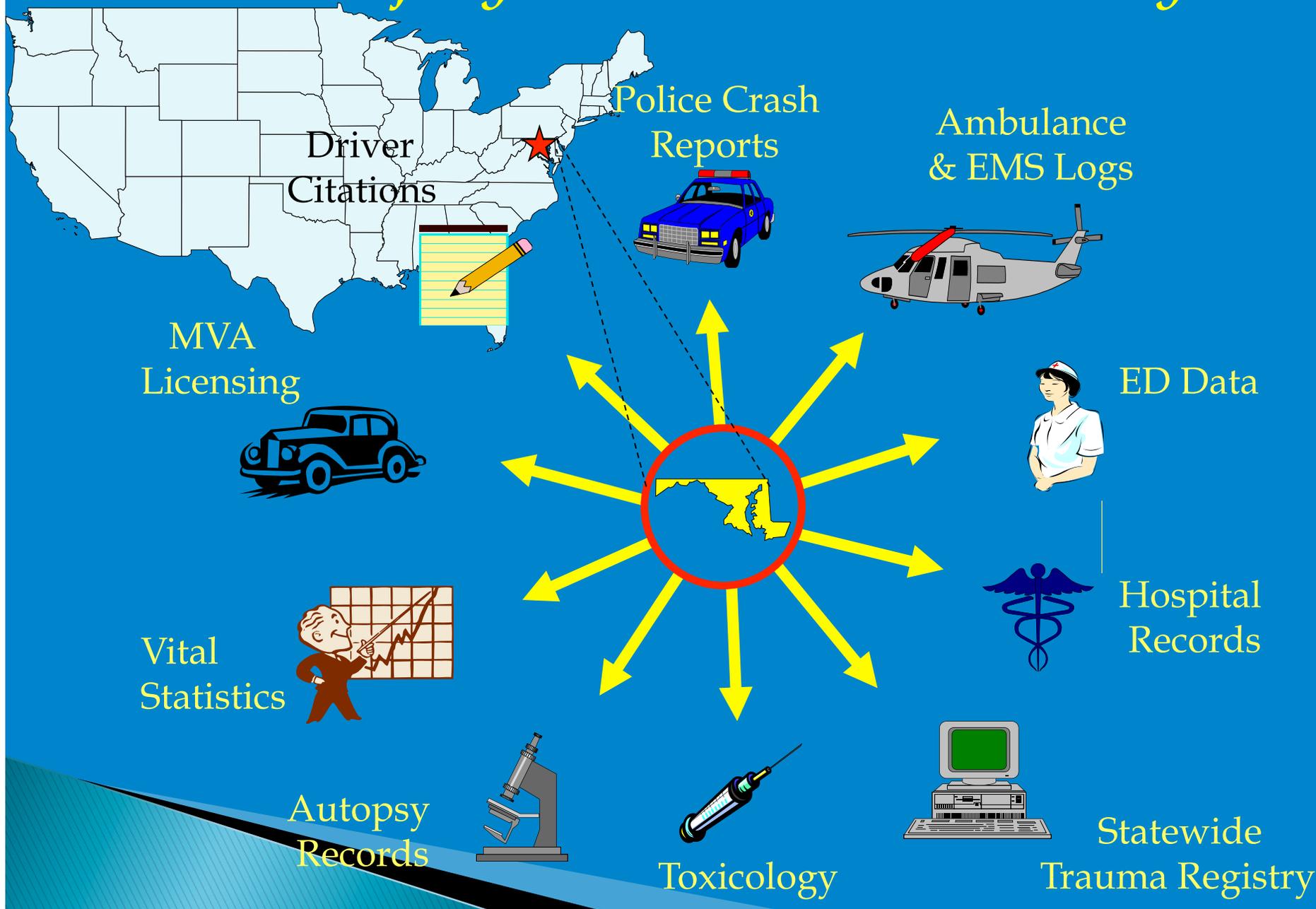


# **MOTORCYCLE STUDIES IN MARYLAND**

**Univ. of Maryland  
National Study  
Center for Trauma**



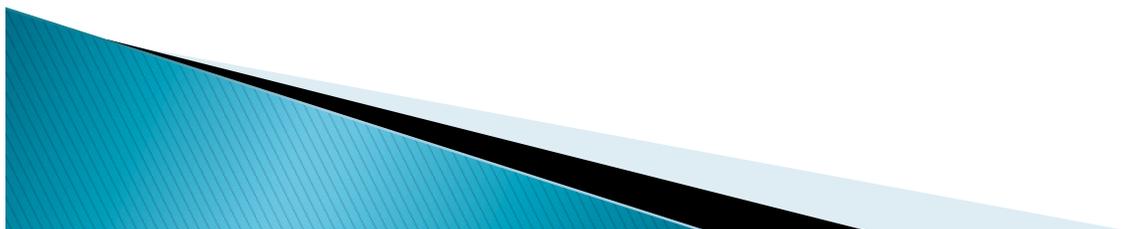
# Available Injury Data Sources in Maryland



# Crashes, Injuries and Fatalities nationally...



- ▶ Motorcyclist fatalities have decreased since 2007 by close to 27%, while total traffic fatalities decreased 21% during that period.
- ▶ There were 3% fewer injuries and 4% fewer fatalities in 2011 compared to 2010.
- ▶ Motorcycle crash-related fatalities comprised *14.4%* of all traffic fatalities in 2011, down slightly from 14.7% in 2010.

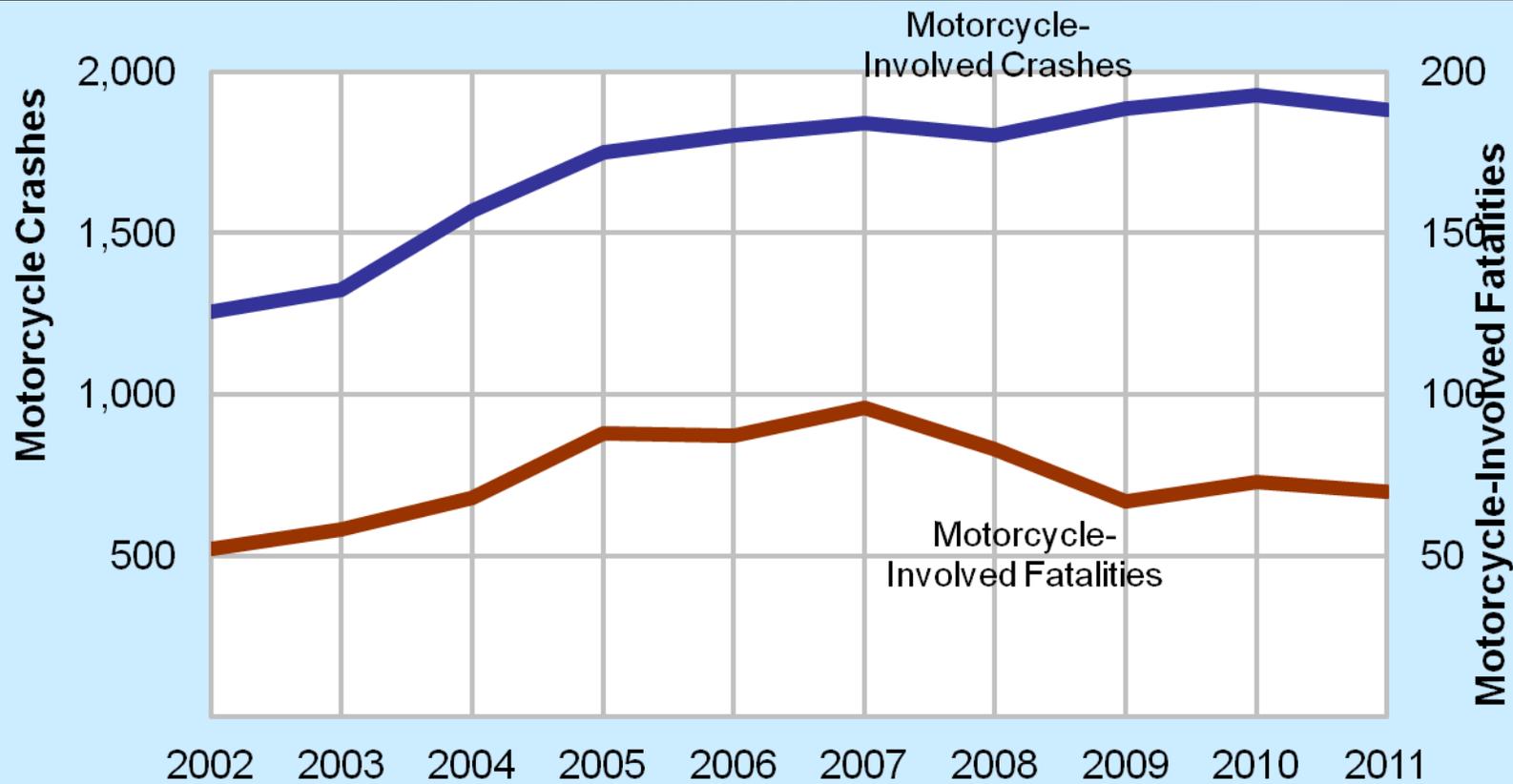


# Maryland Trends

- ▶ Motorcycle registrations increased by 1.2% from 2009 to 2011
- ▶ Motorcycle licensure increased by 12% over the same period
- ▶ More than 10,000 people received a Class M endorsement in 2005

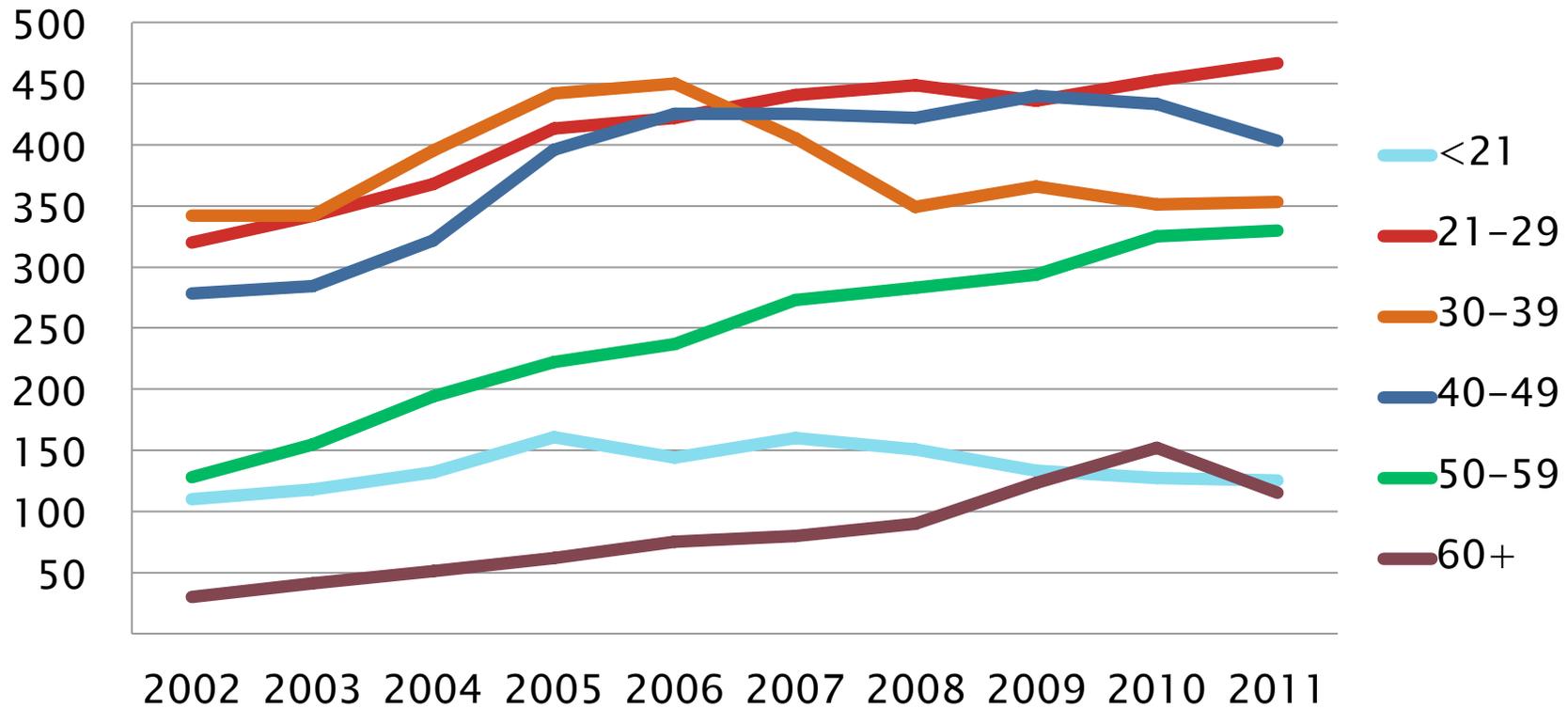


# Maryland Motorcycle Data



# Maryland Motorcycle Data

## Motorcycle Operators Involved in Crashes by Age



# Top Contributing Circumstances in Motorist-Fault Collisions with MC

- ▶ Failure to Give Full Time and Attention
- ▶ Failure to Yield Right of Way
- ▶ Following Too Close
- ▶ Improper Turn



# In Maryland in 2008.....

Table 1 – Motorcycle Crash and Rider Characteristics					
Total Riders Involved in Crashes			Riders Killed in Crashes		
	N	%	N	%	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	1,665	90	73	96	
<b>Age</b>					
<20	89	4.8	3	3.9	
20-34	686	37.1	30	39.5	
35-49	596	32.2	27	35.5	
50-64	332	18.0	14	18.4	
65+	41	2.2	2	2.6	
<b>Helmet Use</b>					
Yes	1,381	74.7	68	89.5	
Unknown	308	16.7	2	2.6	
<b>Total Motorcycle Crashes</b>			<b>Fatal Motorcycle Crashes</b>		
<b>Day of Week</b>					
Weekday	1,137	63.1	40	51.3	
Weekend	666	36.9	38	48.7	
<b>Hour of Day</b>					
12am – 8am	203	11.2	11	14.1	
8am – 12pm	212	11.8	6	7.7	
12pm – 8pm	1,078	59.8	47	60.2	
8pm – 12am	310	17.2	14	17.9	

# Hospital Admission Charge Percentile

Mechanism	Number	Charge (\$ in 1,000s)	Percent (%)	Hospital Charges (Percentile)		
				25 <sup>th</sup>	Median	75 <sup>th</sup>
Driver	3,132	60,945	45.7	3,923	5,650	14,996
Passenger	1,125	19,363	14.5	4,075	6,110	15,403
Motorcyclist	835	27,455	20.6	4,835	9,999	27,207
Pedal Cyclist	105	2,225	1.7	4,062	7,526	22,240
Pedestrian	736	18,171	13.6	4,588	9,083	25,455
Unspecified	247	5,110	3.8	4,281	7,066	18,201
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>133,269</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,104</b>	<b>6,396</b>	<b>17,713</b>

Maryland CODES - 2008

# Licensure

- ▶ In 2010:
- ▶ 2,037 motorcycle operators were involved in crashes
  - 1,544 were reported to have a MD license
    - 24% of total were out-of-state operators
  - 1,513 linked to MVA licensure files
    - 896 (59%) had an M endorsement on record
    - However, only 339 (22%) had an M in the class field on the crash report



# Challenges

- ▶ Motorcycle safety is not just one problem, but several problems:
  - Rider Vulnerability
  - Rider Inexperience
  - Driver Inattention
  - Driver Awareness and Attitudes
  - Rider Impairment
  - Aggressive Riding



# Rider Vulnerability

- ▶ Represent 2.5% of all registered motor vehicles
- ▶ Are involved in 15% of fatal motor vehicle collisions
- ▶ Motorcycle operators are 4 times more likely to be injured or die in a crash than other drivers
- ▶ 1 in 25 motorcycle crashes result in a fatality





Serious brain injury

Helmet with eye protection

Shoulder injury

Built-in shoulder protection

Heavy bruising

Abrasion resistant jacket

Severe lacerations

back injuries

Built-in elbow protection

Built-in back protection

Severe skin loss

Motorcycle gloves (reinforced and padded)

Hand and finger damage

Leather pants (abrasion resistant)

Infections from road contact

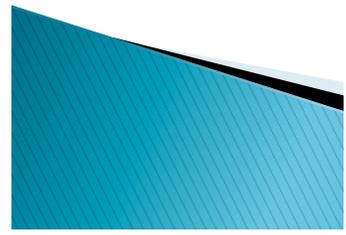
Built-in knee pads

Abrasions and nerve damage

Motorcycle boots (light, secure and reinforced)

Severe skin loss

Toes amputated



## Question:

# How well do helmets work to prevent deaths?

- ▶ Very well – can't prevent all deaths
- ▶ Reduce the chances of a traumatic brain injury
- ▶ Some helmets are not certified & will not provide protection (see example of bad helmet)



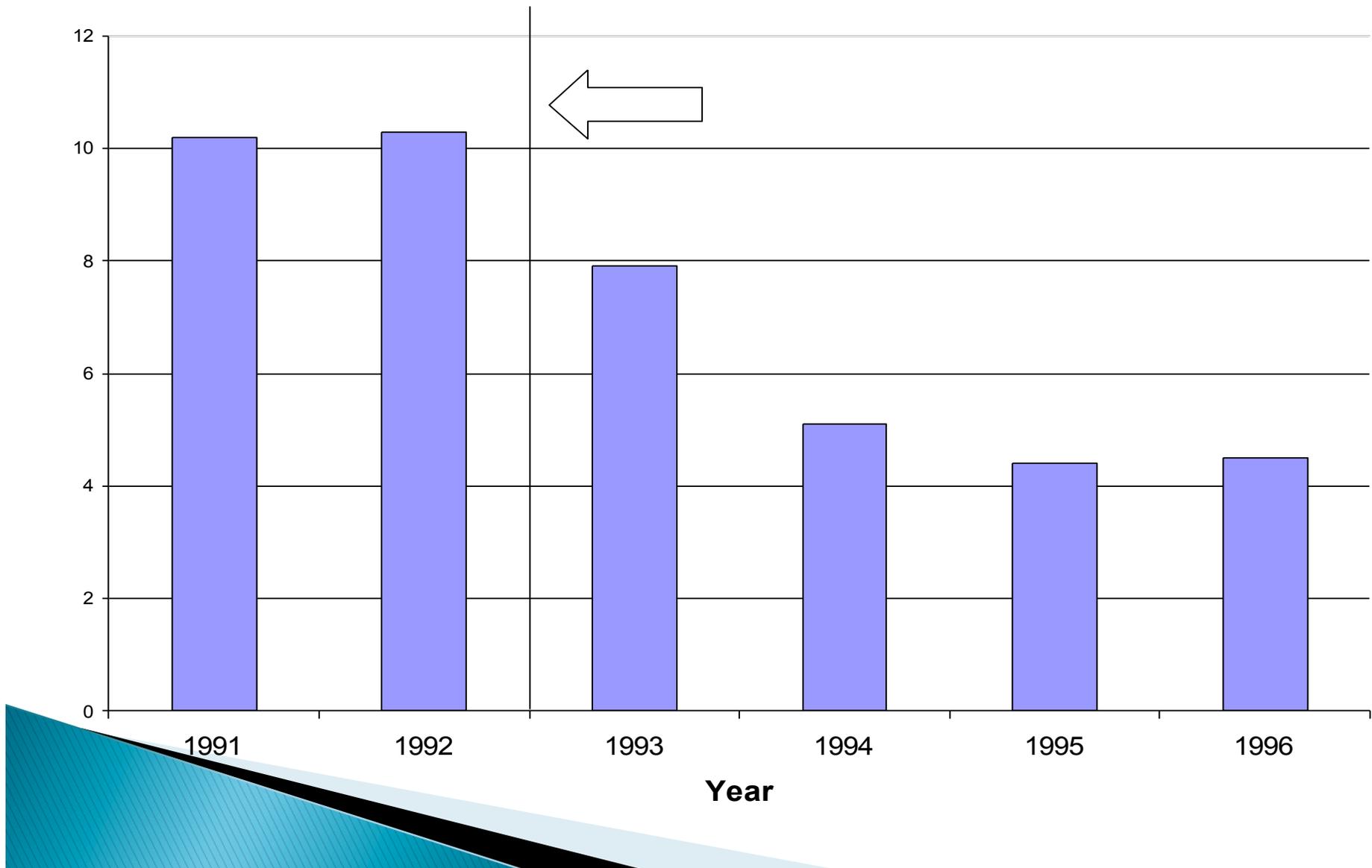
# Estimated effectiveness of helmets

- ▶ Reduce chances of death in crash by 40% (Keng, 2005)
- ▶ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: estimates helmets saved 1,316 motorcyclists' lives in 2004



# Deaths per 10,000 registered motorcycles before and after helmet law, Maryland

(Auman et al., 2002)



# Motorcycle Research Projects

- ▶ Injury Patterns – Hospitalized Younger and Older Motorcycle Operators
- ▶ Driving Behavior – Motorcycle Training
- ▶ Data Collection – Promising Practices
- ▶ Characteristics of Motorcycle Operators in MD
  - Crash Statistics
  - Helmet Photographs
  - Motorcyclist Survey (riding behaviors)
  - SF-36 (psychosocial outcomes)



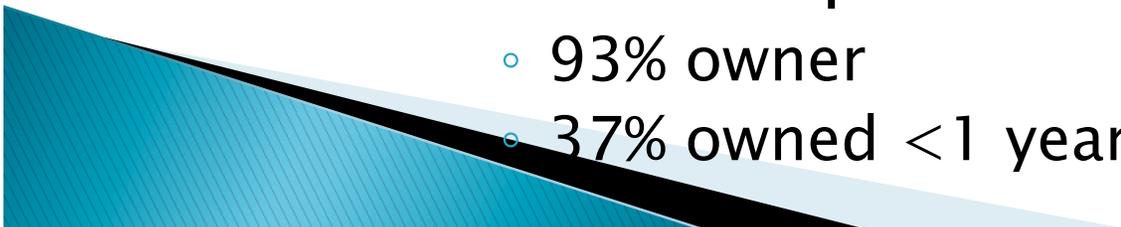
# Characteristics of Motorcycle Operators

- ▶ 2007–2009 (n=189)
- ▶ 94% men
- ▶ 76% white
- ▶ Education
  - 21% < 12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 27% High School, GED
  - 23% Some College
  - 22% College Graduate or higher



# Characteristics of Motorcycle Operators

- ▶ Motorcycle ridden most often
  - 36% Harley Davidson
  - 18% Suzuki
  - 10% Yamaha
  - 16% Honda
  - 8% Kawasaki
- ▶ Motorcycle Type
  - 40% Sport
  - 33% Cruiser
  - 10% Touring
- ▶ Ownership
  - 93% owner
  - 37% owned <1 year



# Characteristics of Motorcycle Operators

## ▶ Crash Type

- 31% impact with object
- 24% laid the bike down
- 15% multiple vehicle intx
- 17% multiple vehicle not at intx

## ▶ Road Type

- 26% county road/rural area
- 29% suburban
- 22% interstate
- 14% city street/urban area



# Characteristics of Motorcycle Operators

## ▶ Training

- 60% motorcycle safety course
  - 48% basic
  - 10% intermediate
  - 8% experienced

## ▶ Licensing

- 89% valid motorcycle endorsement

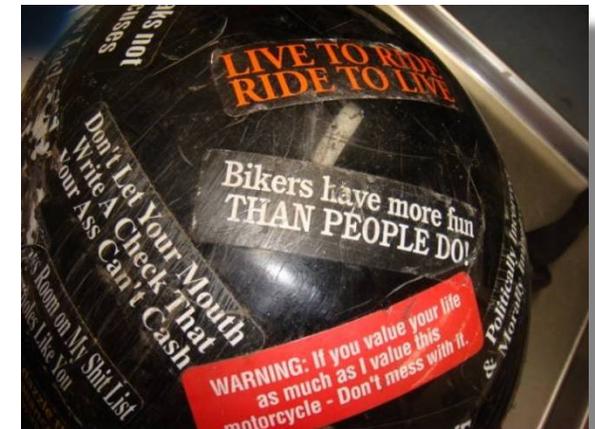
- ▶ 77% under the age of 21 when they began riding



# Helmet Type

- ▶ STC Helmet Photos (n=242)
- ▶ Type
  - 55% full face
  - 10% three-quarter
  - 35% half-shell
- ▶ Compliant
  - 80% FMVSS compliant





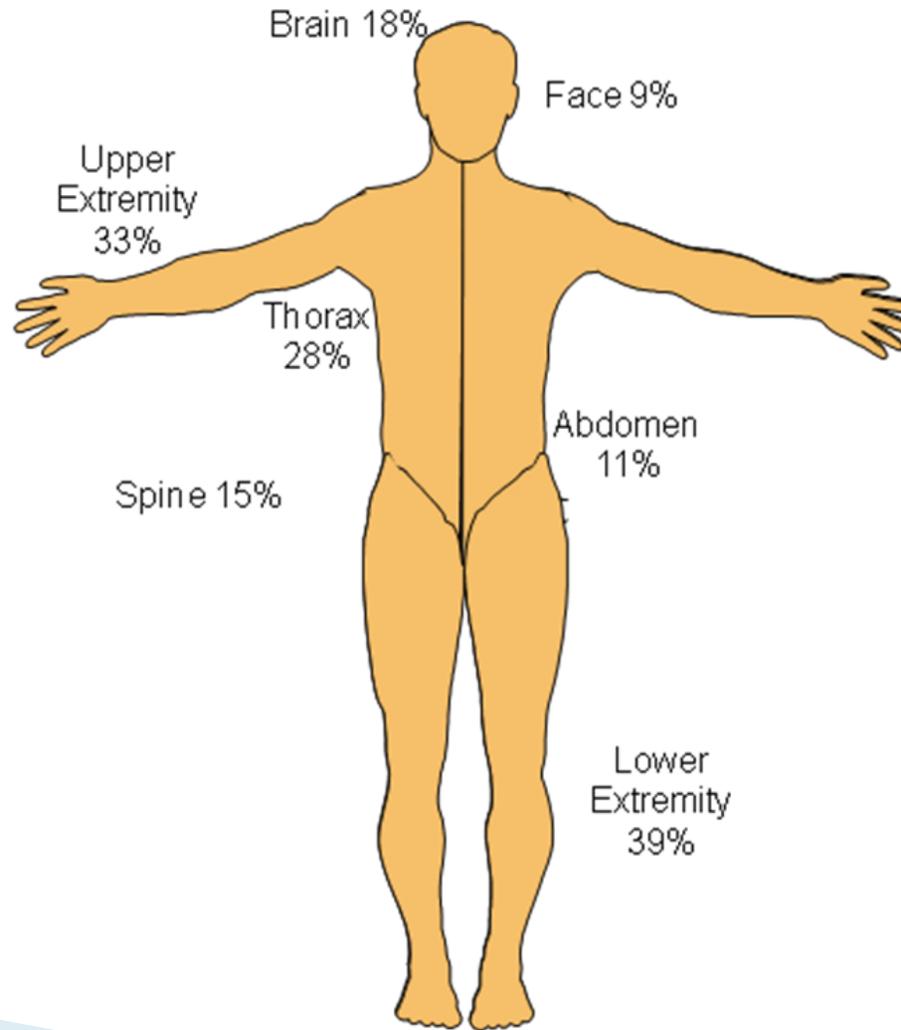




# Injured Body Regions (AIS > 1)

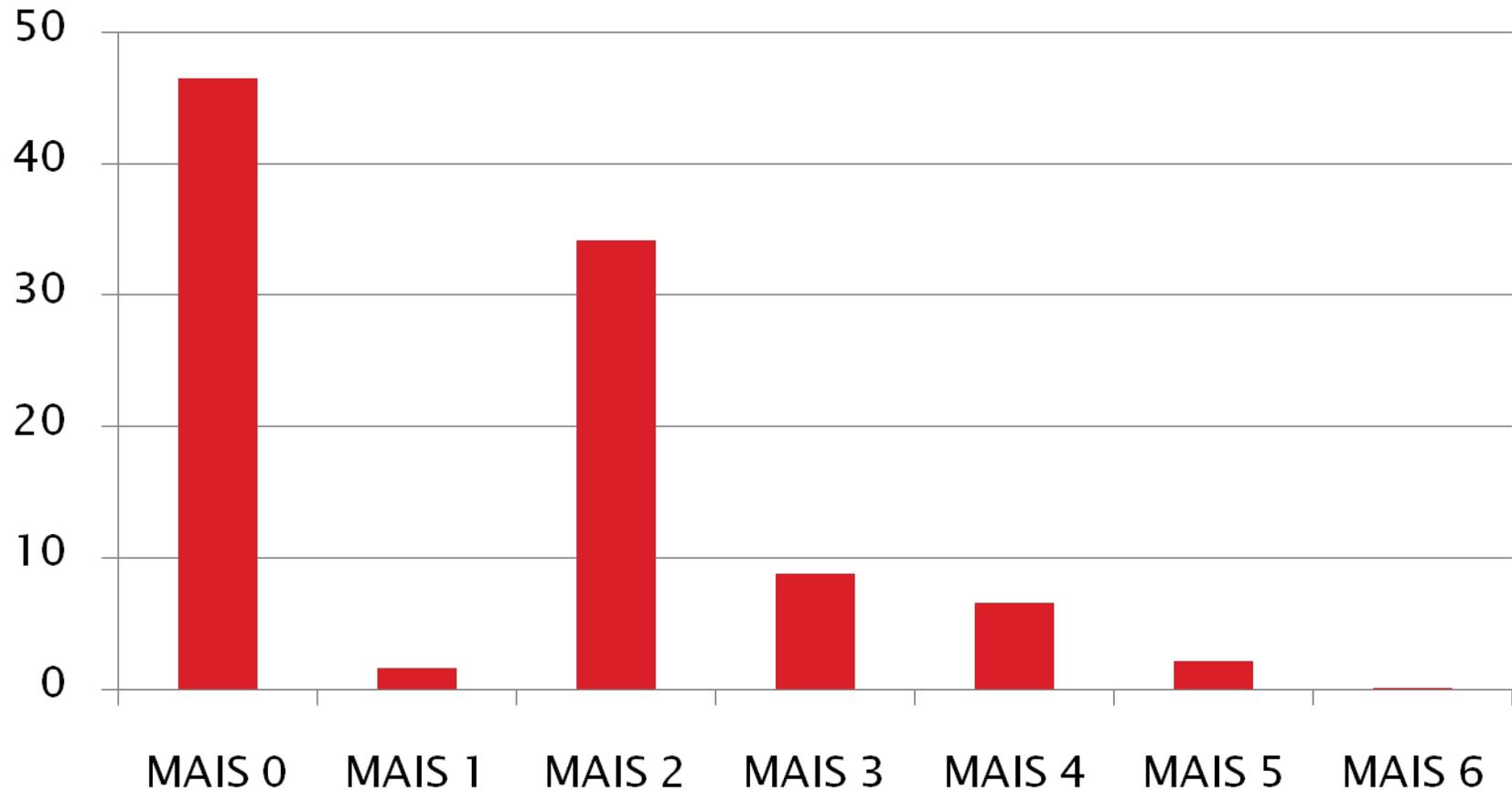
All Motorcyclists admitted to RAC Shock Trauma Center  
(July 2007–June 2009)

Mean Age = 38 yrs  
Mean ISS = 14.9



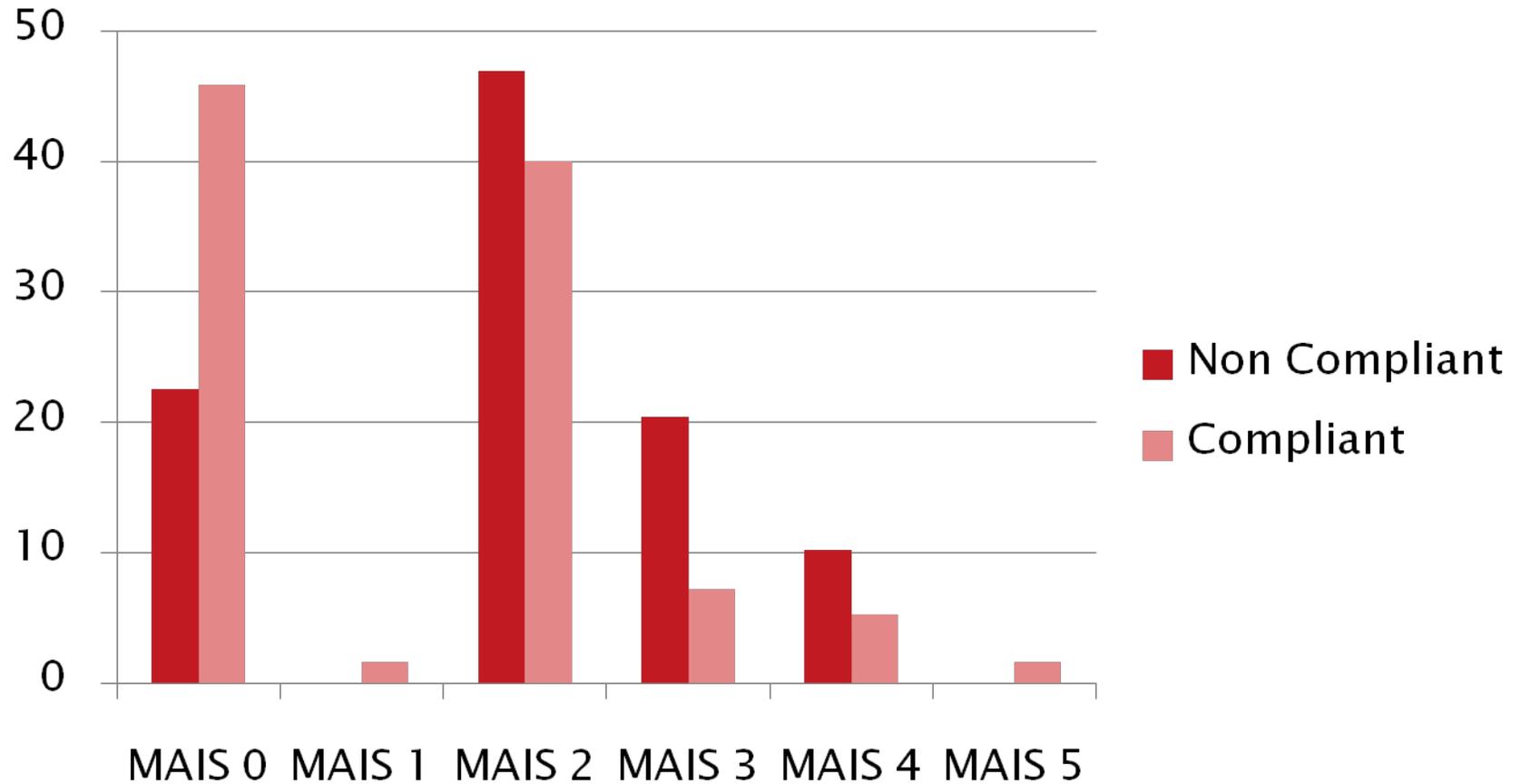
# Head MAIS - all patients

(MC identification by trauma registry, n=995, CY 2007-2009)



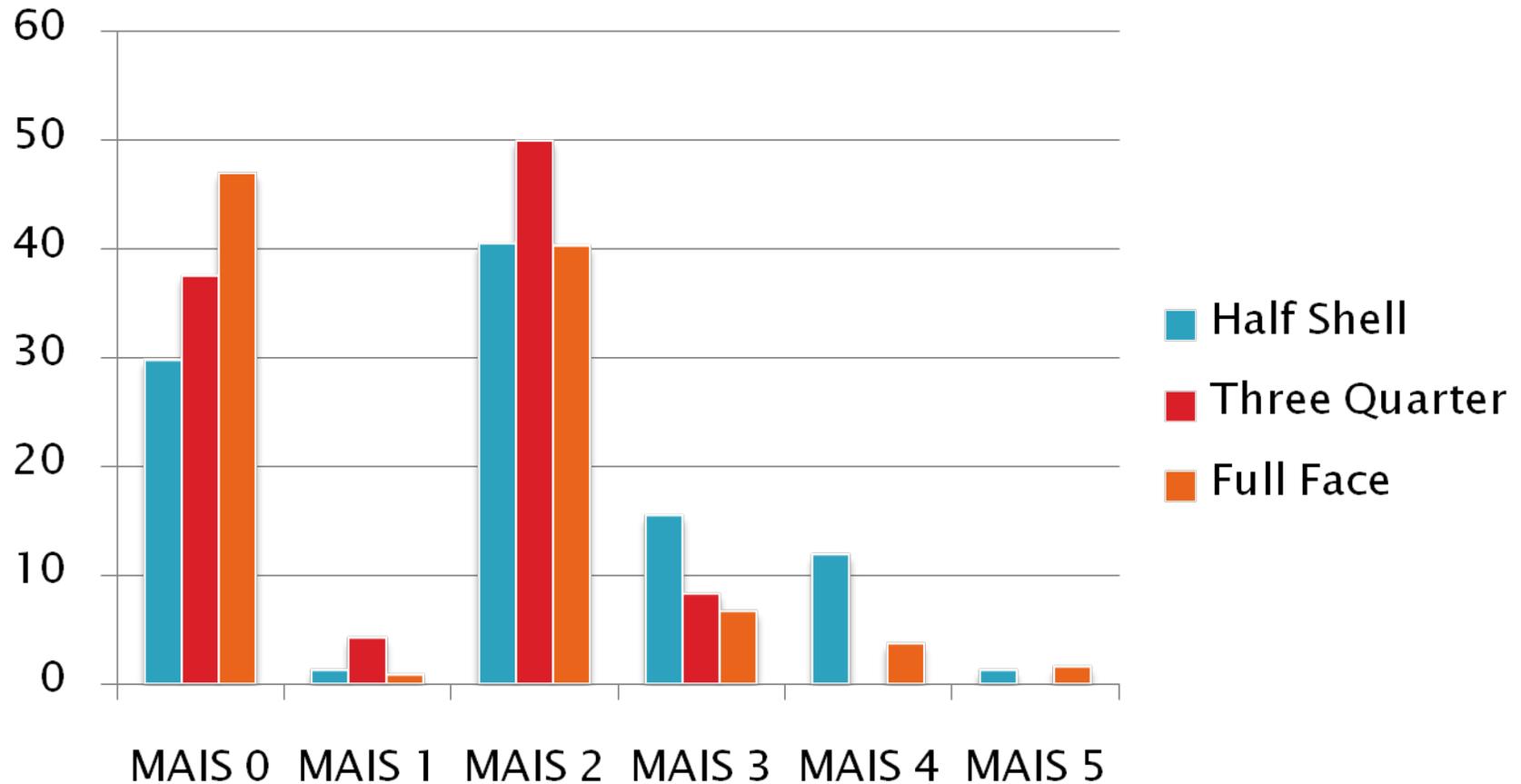
# Head MAIS by helmet type

(hospitalized patients)



# Head MAIS by helmet style

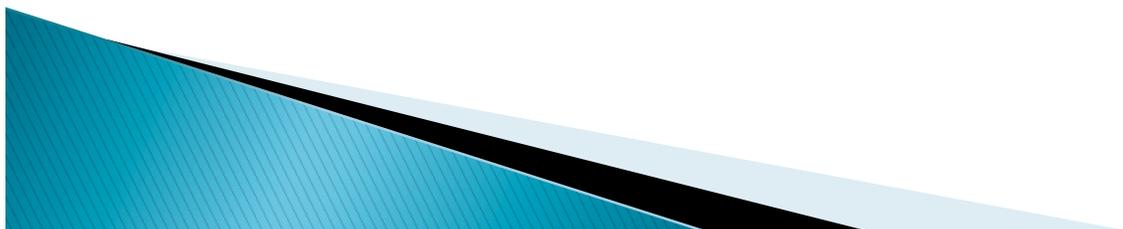
(hospitalized patients)



# Head injuries

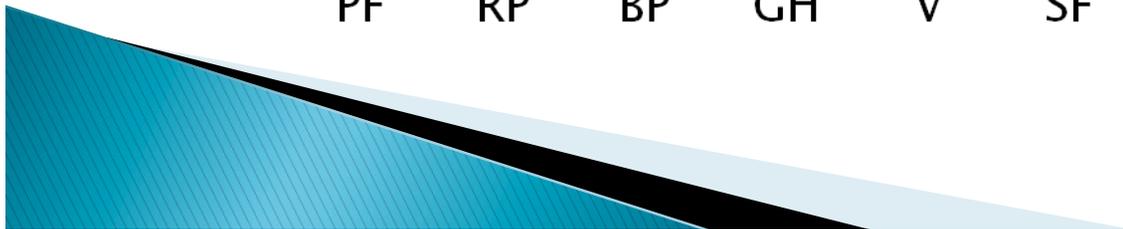
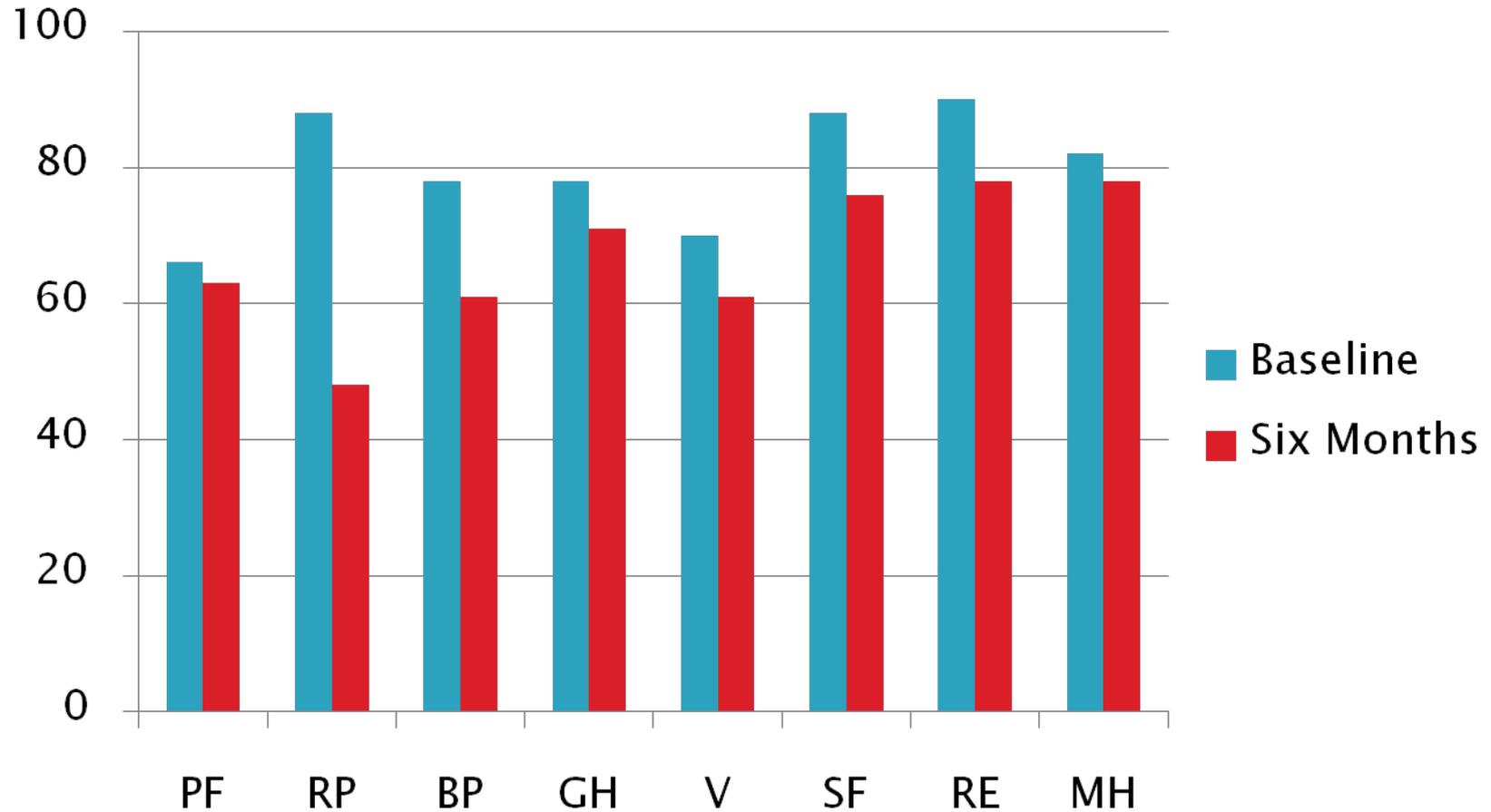
(hospitalized patients)

	Compliant	Non-compliant
Fx Base of skull	6.7% (13/194)	16.3% (8/49)
Fx Vault of skull	1.0% (2/194)	8.2% (4/49)
TBI	53.6% (104/194)	77.6% (38/49)



# Psychosocial Outcome Data (SF-36)

(hospitalized patients) N=177 (Baseline) / 104 (6 month follow-up)

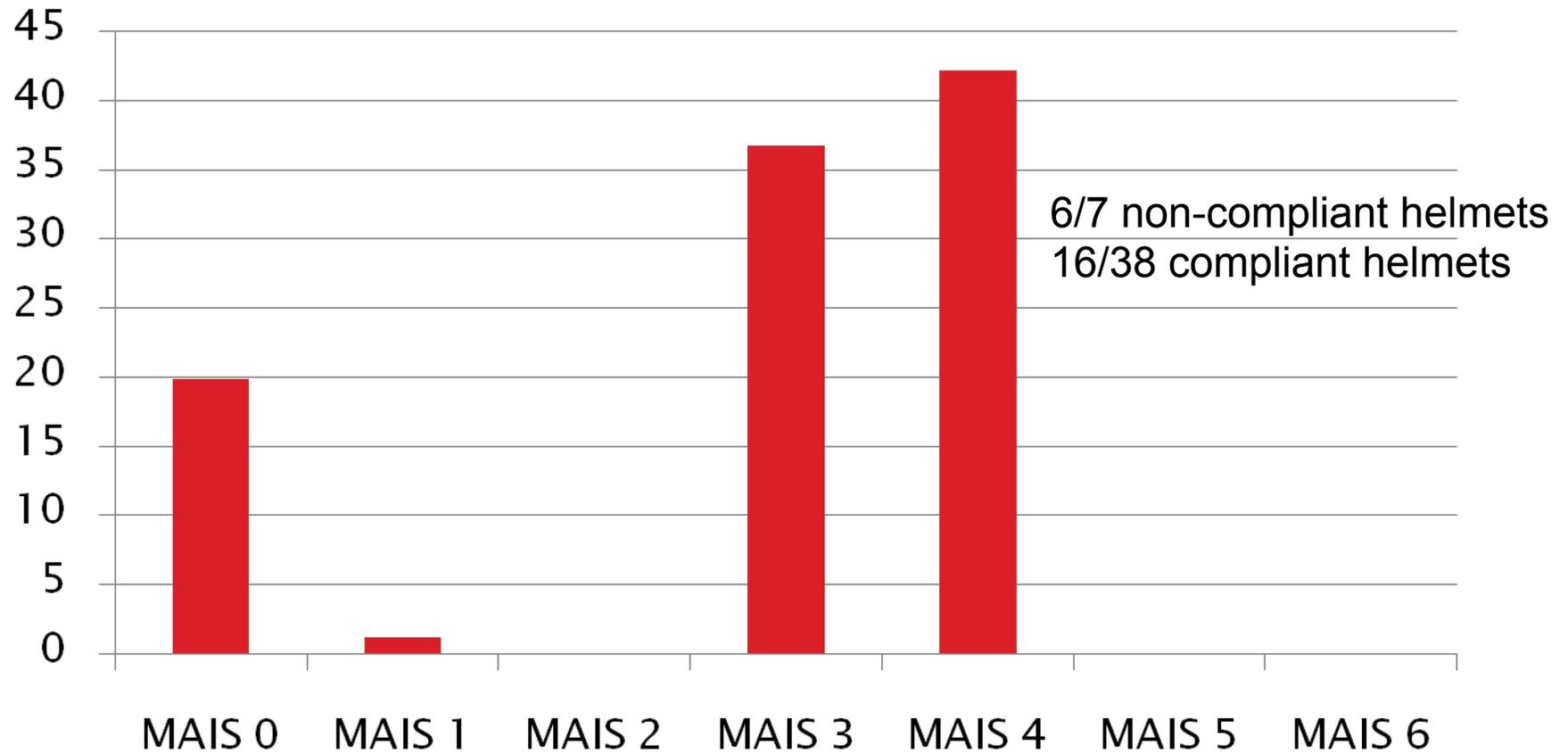


# OCME

- ▶ Abstracted autopsies – 261 (2007–2009)
- ▶ Helmet photos – 45
  - 38 compliant
  - 7 non-compliant



# OCME – MAIS Head Injuries



# Next steps....

- ▶ Reconstruction studies?
  - Biomechanics of injury
  - Effectiveness of safety equipment (all gear)



# Next steps....

## ▶ Promising Practices

- Analyze new exposure data (odometer readings = new measure of miles traveled)
- Analyze new baseline data (motorcycle safety training course test scores and reported riding histories)

## ▶ Behavioral Surveys

- Quantify and analyze knowledge, attitudes and behaviors
  - Motorcycle operators/riders
  - Motor vehicle drivers



# For more information

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