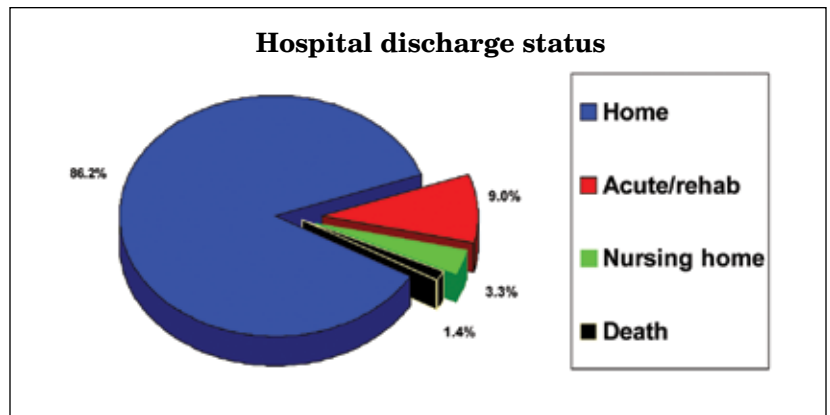

NTDB® data points

The wheel of misfortune

by Richard J. Fantus, MD, FACS; and Michele M. Mellett, MD, FACS

According to the National Safety Council, there are an estimated 57 million Americans riding bicycles that range all the way from dirt bikes up to high-performance, 18-speed models (<http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/bicycle.htm>). Cycling ranks as the seventh most popular recreational activity after exercise walking, swimming, camping, fishing, exercising with equipment, and bowling. In 2006, the U.S. bicycle industry was composed of 2,000 companies involved in producing more than 100 brands and selling more than 18 million bicycles, accounting for \$5.8 billion in spending (<http://nbda.com/page.cfm?PageID=34>). Millions of cyclists occupy the same streets, paths, and sidewalks as motor vehicles and pedestrians. Working in a trauma center along Chicago's lakefront near bike paths and major arterial thoroughfares, it is not uncommon to receive seriously injured bicyclists or pedestrians as a result of impact with a motor vehicle. There are numerous statistics on the number of bicyclist and pedestrian injuries involving motor vehicles. Unfortunately, similar statistics are not available for the far less frequent: pedestrian injured by a cyclist.

In order to examine the occurrence of pedestrians injured by bicyclists in the National Trauma Data Bank® Dataset 6.2, we uti-



lized the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification cause of injury code E826.0, pedal cycle accident with the pedestrian as the injured person. There were 631 records with discharge status recorded in the dataset with this E code. Of these records, 544 indicated that the patient was discharged to home and 57 to acute care/rehabilitation, 21 were sent to nursing homes, and nine died. These data are depicted in the figure on this page. Among victims, 70 percent were male and on average 23.5 years of age; there was an average length of hospital stay of 3.3 days and an average injury severity score of 8.0.

It is well recognized that regular physical activity increases fitness level and plays a major role in both the primary and secondary prevention of heart disease. But whether your car-

diovascular workout consists of a brisk walk or a heart-pounding cycle ride, make sure to remain vigilant during your activity so you don't encounter the wheel of misfortune.

The full NTDB *Annual Report Version 6.0* is available on the ACS Web site as a PDF file and a PowerPoint presentation at <http://www.ntdb.org>.

If you are interested in submitting your trauma center's data, contact Melanie L. Neal, Manager, NTDB, at mneal@facs.org.

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