

# Cycling-related Traumatic Brain Injury 2011



The Chinese University of Hong Kong

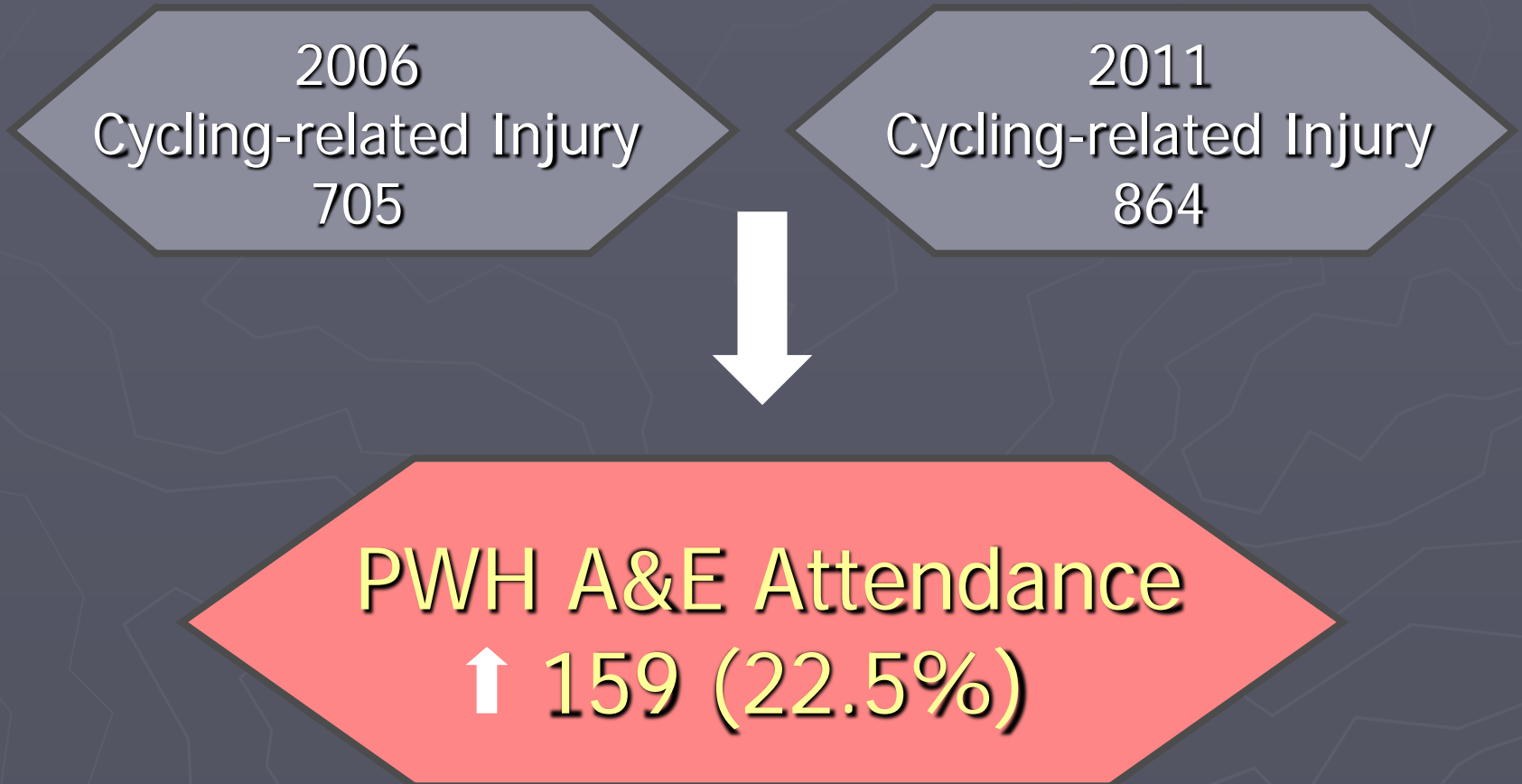
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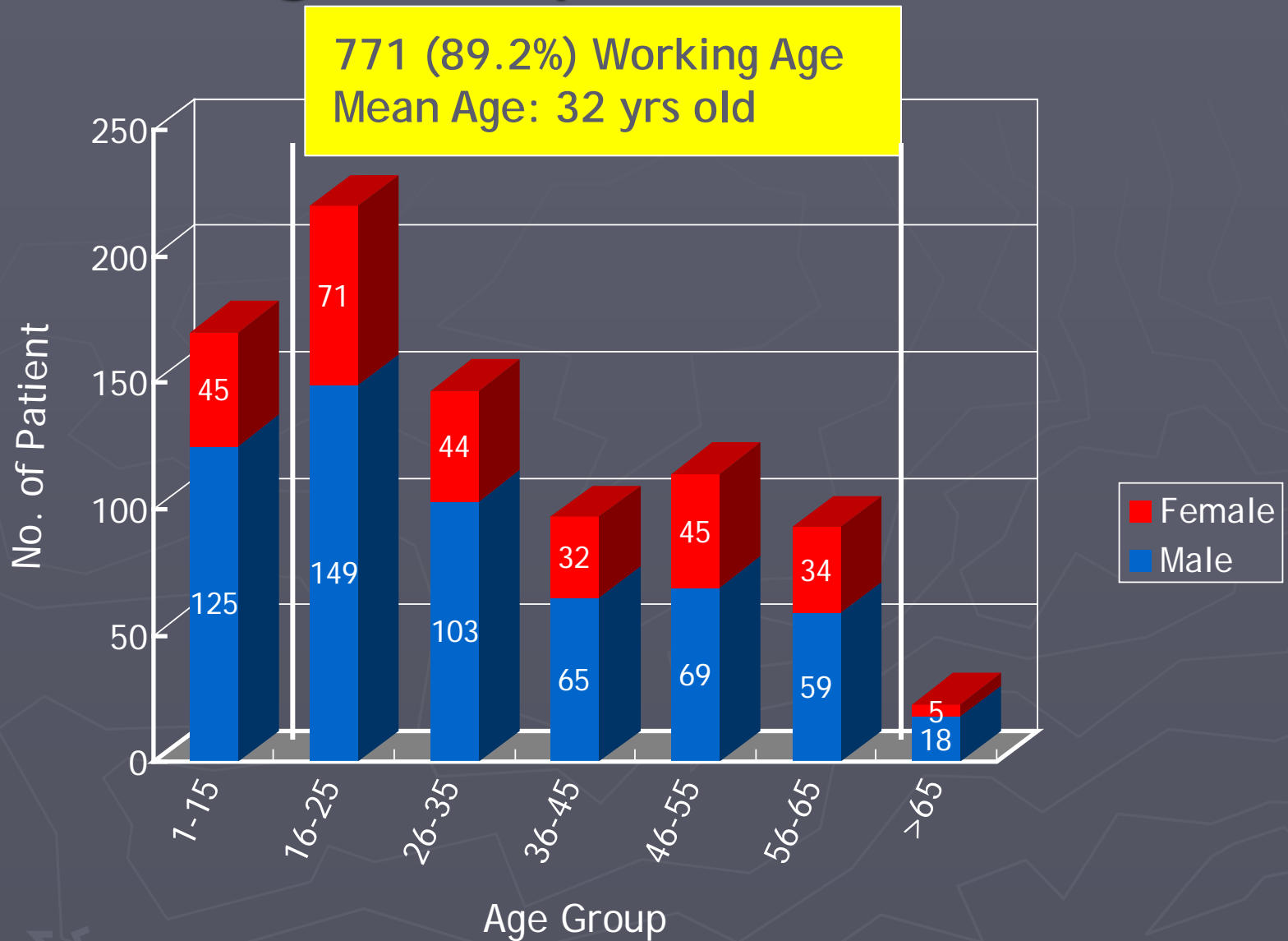
Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care



# The Trend of Cycling-related Injury



# Age Groups and Sex



# Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

	TBI	In-patient	Skull Fracture	Intracranial Haemorrhage	Trauma Call	Death
2006	67	56	21	25	8	2
2011	151	63	27	30	11	4
Difference	84 ↑ 125%	7 ↑ 12.5%	6 ↑ 28.6%	5 ↑ 20%	3 ↑ 37.5%	2 ↑ 100%

**Only 7 / 151 (4.6%)  
wear Helmet**



# Cycling-related Traumatic Brain Injury

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## Neurological Outcome



# Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS)

1. Dead
2. Vegetative State
3. Severely Disability
4. Moderately Disability
5. Good Recovery



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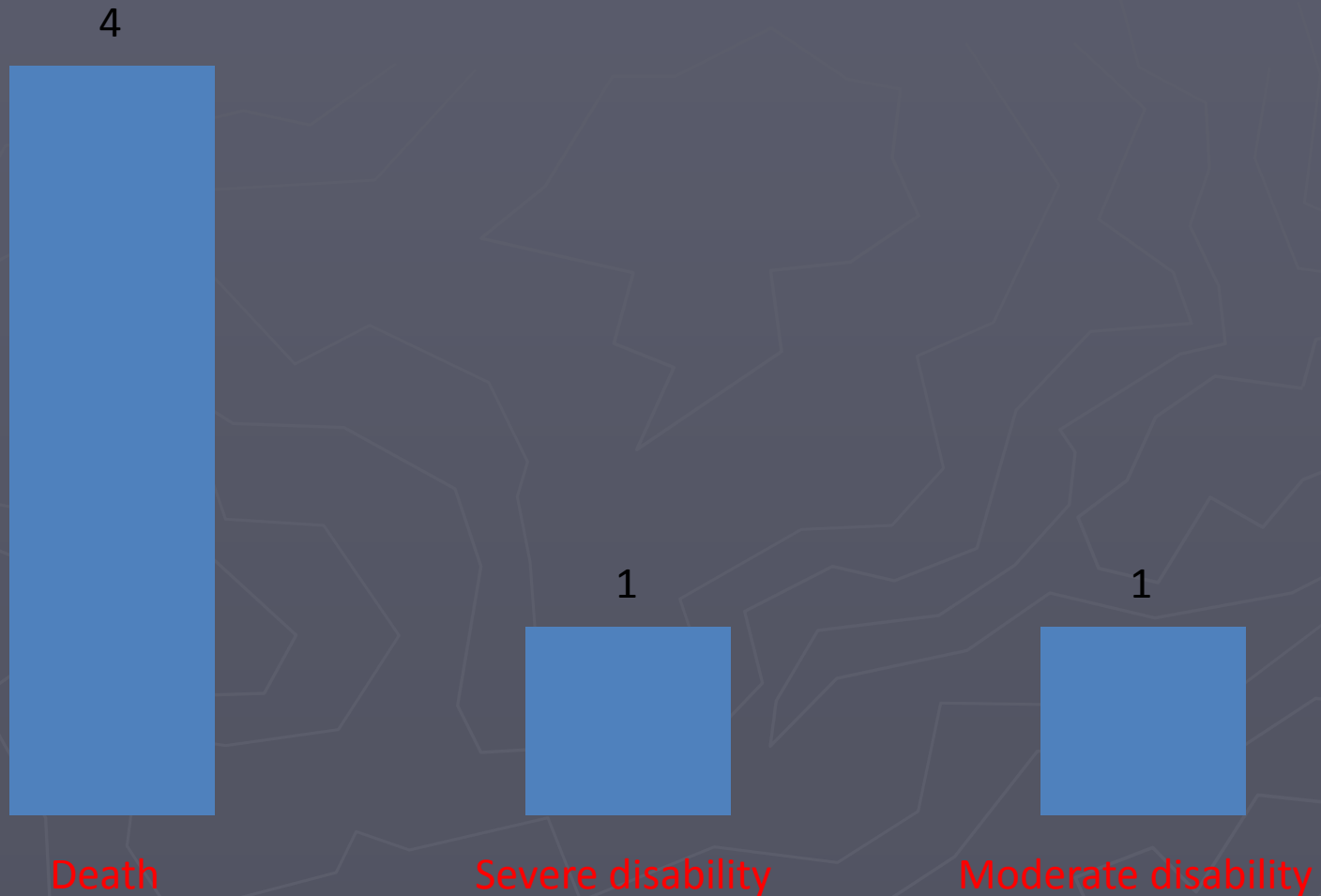
# Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS)

1. Dead
2. Vegetative State
3. Severely Disability
4. Moderately Disability
5. “Good Recovery”





# Unfavorable Outcome (2011)



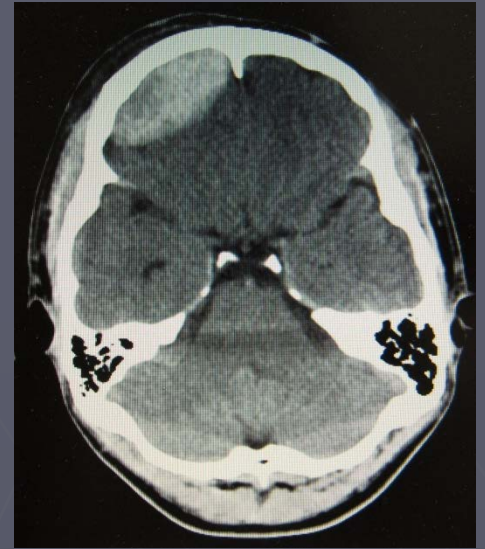
# Patient 1



- ▶ **Elderly cyclist without helmet**
- ▶ Fell from bicycle and sustained head injury
- ▶ On arrival to AED, **comatose** with dilated left pupil
- ▶ CT brain showed subdural hematoma and cerebral contusions
- ▶ Emergency craniotomy and hematoma evacuation followed by a second operation to remove the skull bone (craniectomy)
- ▶ **Hospital stay for 3 months**
- ▶ **Severe disability with cognitive impairment and dysphasia**



# Patient 2



- ▶ Young recreational cyclist without helmet
- ▶ Being knocked by another bicycle and thrown out
- ▶ Severe headache and nausea on admission
- ▶ CT showed extradural hematoma
- ▶ Emergency craniotomy for clot evacuation was performed
- ▶ Good recovery but with symptoms of persistent dizziness and cognitive dysfunction



# Cycling-related Traumatic Brain Injury

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## Functional Disabilities



# Functional Disabilities

40 patients successfully surveyed with “SF-36” questionnaire:

- Physical functioning
- Physical role
- Bodily pain
- General health
- Vitality
- Social functioning
- Emotion
- Mental health



# Functional Disabilities

Physical role:

- ▶ 22.5% worse than before
- ▶ Decreasing working hour
- ▶ Getting more difficult to complete the same task

Bodily pain:

- ▶ 12.5% reported felt more painful than before



# Functional Disabilities

## Vitality:

- ▶ **17.5%** less active and energised in general than before

## Social functioning:

- ▶ **27.5%** decrease frequency of social gathering or family visiting

## Mental health:

- ▶ **15%** felt more anxious or even depressed





# Hospital stay and sick leave

Hospital stay:

- ▶ ICU: **25** days (6 patients, 1-16 days)
- ▶ Neurosurgical ward: **351** days (range: 1-43 days)

Sick leave:

- ▶ **1546** days (0-294 days) exempted from work



# Helmets for preventing head and facial injuries in bicyclists<sup>1</sup>

- ▶ 5 case-control studies (1986-1994: UK, Australia, US)
- ▶ 63 to 88% reduction in the risk of head, brain and severe brain injury for all ages of bicyclists
- ▶ Injuries to the upper and mid facial areas are reduced 65%

<sup>1</sup>Thompson DC (1999) Helmets for preventing head and facial injuries in bicycling. Cochrane database of systematic reviews

# Promoting helmet use in cycling

## Non-legislative interventions

- Education campaigns
- Media campaigns
- The distribution of free or subsidized helmets
- Counseling from GPs or emergency clinicians
- Or in combination

▶ The odds of observed helmet wearing were significantly greater (OR 2.30)<sup>1</sup>

## Legislation

- Australia
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Finland
- Iceland
- New Zealand
- Sweden
- United States
- Spain

▶ In 2 out of 5 studies (US, Canada), statistically significant decreases in head injuries were reported following the implementation of helmet legislation (all 5 enacted for children only)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Royal S.T. (2005) Non-legislative interventions for the promotion of cycle helmet wearing by children. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

<sup>2</sup>Macpherson A (2007) Bicycle helmet legislation for the uptake of helmet use and the prevention of head injuries, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

# Conclusion

- ▶ The incidence of Cycling-related Traumatic Brain Injury is on the rise
- ▶ Cycling-related Traumatic Brain Injury can have a profound impact and may lead to permanent damage to health
- ▶ The prevalence of using helmet is low
- ▶ All severe Traumatic Brain Injury patients did not wear a helmet
- ▶ We urges widespread helmet use and protective measures against Cycling-related Traumatic Brain Injury

