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**COUNTY BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES AT ALL TIME HIGH.
HEALTH DEPARTMENT AWARDED GRANT TO UP PREVENTION EFFORTS.**

OROVILLE, CA – The Butte County Public Health Department (BCPHD) has been awarded a one-year “Bike and Pedestrian Safety” grant for \$40,000. The grant will fund activities to help promote bike/pedestrian safety in Butte County. Funding for the grant was provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Butte County has a higher number of bike and pedestrian collisions per year than the national average. Most of these collisions affect the most vulnerable populations, being those aged 14 years or younger, and who are 65 years or older (at 3 times the National rate). These collisions may be attributed to the high use of alternate modes of transportation within the county or to the low helmet use rate (28% use rate for 18 years and younger, 20% use rate for those over 18 years). However, it is most likely a result of residents not following laws or rules of the road. As reported by UC Berkeley’s Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS) most collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists from 2014-2016 were a result of violations to the law by bike riders or pedestrians. Right-of-way violations and not obeying lights/signals being the largest of those infractions.

“When the rules of the road are properly followed, Butte County residents can decrease their likelihood of becoming one of these statistics.” Says Jodi Putnam, BCPHD Health Education Specialist, “Proper education and equipment is greatly needed in our County.”

The grant work will focus on injury and collision education and prevention geared to children, parents, caregivers, teachers, and community based organizations. Outreach events will include bike helmet fitting stations, bike rodeos, classroom presentations, proper use of equipment, and how to advocate for bike/pedestrian safety.

Bicycling and walking offers fun, freedom, exercise and it’s good for the environment. To learn more about the Butte County Office of Traffic Safety Program and to find bike and pedestrian events near you, visit the [Butte County Public Health Pedestrian and Bike Safety page](#).

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