

# OPERATION firefly

November 2016 to March 2017  
Over 3000 light recipients countywide.

**Operation Firefly** is an education and bicycle light distribution program of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, intended to make sure bicyclists in Los Angeles County are riding safely at night. Groups of volunteers stop bicyclists riding without lights in order to give them front and rear lights along with information that explains the law for riding at night and provides tips for nighttime safety. Each light recipient was asked to complete a short survey, the results of which are below, along with some brief analysis for our 2016-2017 winter season.



**69%** of recipients told us that their bicycle is their main form of transportation. Our program strives to primarily serve people who ride out of necessity.

## Reasons for riding without lights...

- 15% Don't usually ride at night.
- 12% Lights were stolen.
- 11% Batteries were dead.
- 11% Forgot their lights.
- 10% Lights were broken.
- 9% Lights are too expensive.
- 9% Lost their lights.

No dominant reason was given for riding without lights. Understanding the importance of lights at night may be the most significant factor for bicyclists to use lights regularly

## Age

- Recipients' ages ranged from 2 to 85.
- Average age was 35.
- 39% of recipients were 40 or older.



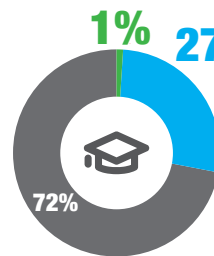
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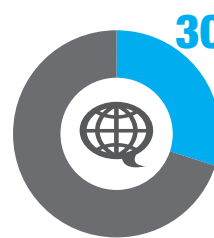


## 27% Education

72% knew some, but not all of the legal requirements when riding a bicycle at night.

27% of recipients didn't know what is legally required.

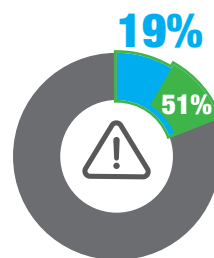
Only 1% knew all the requirements.



## 30% Language

30% of recipients' primary language was Spanish or a language other than English.

Bicycle education and safety programs must be multilingual and culturally appropriate.

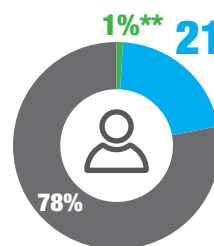


## Safety

19% of recipients have been in a collision when riding at night.

51% of them were riding without lights.

Twenty six percent of bicycle collisions in Los Angeles County happen at night.\*



## 21% Gender

78% Male \*\* 0.3% Gender nonconforming.

21% Female 0.3% Transgender male.

0.3% Transgender female.

0.1% Prefer not to answer.

Cities with streets that are safe and comfortable for bicycle riders tend to have smaller gender disparities.

\*Statistic from the California Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWTRS), 2014 data set, California Highway Patrol. This is the most current data available.