

April 7, 2000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

2000 APR 17 A 9:34

AAOS "BOOMERITIS"

CHAIRMAN ANN BROWN
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

NEW YORK CITY

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

No. of Mfrs./Prvt. Labels on
Products Identified

Excepted by

Firms Notified,

Comments Processed.

✓

THANK YOU, DR. PURVIS.

- **BABY BOOMERS, BEWARE:**
 - **OVER ONE MILLION OF YOU WILL BE INJURED PLAYING SPORTS THIS YEAR.**
 - **THOSE INJURIES WILL COST THE NATION OVER \$18 BILLION.**
- **THE BABY BOOM GENERATION IS A TREND-SETTER. UNFORTUNATELY, ONE OF THOSE TRENDS IS A BOOM IN SPORTS-RELATED INJURIES.**
- **ACCORDING TO CPSC STATISTICS, YOUR AGE GROUP HAD 33% MORE SPORTS INJURIES IN 1998 THAN IN 1991.**

MANY OF THOSE INJURIES WERE SO SEVERE THAT YOU ENDED UP IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS.

- MORE THAN 365,000 BABY BOOMERS ENDED UP IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS IN 1998.
- THAT'S UP FROM 276,000 IN 1991.
- THAT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE MORE OF YOU AND YOU ARE ACTIVE SPORTS PARTICIPANTS.

- IN 1998 THE TWO SPORTS THAT SENT THE MOST BABY BOOMERS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT WERE BICYCLING AND BASKETBALL.
- INJURIES JUMPED SIGNIFICANTLY IN SEVEN SPORTS: BICYCLING, GOLF, SOCCER, BASKETBALL, EXERCISE AND RUNNING, WEIGHTLIFTING AND IN-LINE SKATING.
- INJURIES DECREASED IN : SKIING, TENNIS, AND VOLLEYBALL.

THREE SPORTS PROVED ESPECIALLY DEADLY.

- IN ONE YEAR 290 BABY BOOMERS DIED WHILE BIKING;
- 67 WHILE SWIMMING IN SWIMMING POOLS,
- AND 7 WHILE SKIING.

LET ME HIGHLIGHT THOSE 290 BICYCLING DEATHS.

- ONE-HALF RESULTED FROM HEAD INJURY
- BABY BOOMERS WHO RODE BIKES DIED FROM HEAD INJURIES AT NEARLY TWICE THE RATE OF CHILDREN WHO RODE BIKES.

- A SURVEY DONE FOR US LAST YEAR SHOWED THAT 69% OF CHILDREN WORE HELMETS WHEN BIKING – BUT ONLY 43% OF THE BABY BOOMER AGE GROUP.
- THAT MEANS BOOMERS WERE PUTTING THEIR KIDS IN HELMETS, BUT NOT THEMSELVES.
- BIKE HELMETS REDUCE THE RISK OF SERIOUS HEAD INJURY BY 85% .

BOOMERS, YOU CAN BE A TREND-SETTER FOR THE COUNTRY, AND AN EXAMPLE FOR YOUR KIDS AND GRAND-KIDS. WEAR A BIKE HELMET.

- AND SAFETY GEAR HELPS IN OTHER SPORTS TOO.
- FOR EXAMPLE, INLINE SKATING SKYROCKETED IN POPULARITY IN THE 1990'S.
- BUT BABY BOOMER IN-LINE SKATERS WERE INJURED LESS FREQUENTLY THAN OTHER SKATERS.

THEY SUFFERED A MUCH SMALLER PROPORTION OF ARM AND HAND INJURIES THAN OTHER AGE GROUPS -- MOST LIKELY BECAUSE THEY WORE SAFETY GEAR LIKE WRIST GUARDS AND ELBOW PADS.

SO WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR BOOMERS?

- PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS IS GREAT.
- BUT SADLY YOU ARE GETTING OLDER.
- SO TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODIES AND WEAR SAFETY GEAR.

WE WANT BABY BOOMERS TO BE HEALTHY, ACTIVE –
AND SAFE.