Hard Heads Don't Hurt

Motorcycles make up 3 percent of all registered vehicles in the United States, yet they accounted for 12 percent of the costs associated with motor vehicle crashes and 6 percent of all vehicle deaths in 2005, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In fact, motorcyclists are about 37 times more likely than car occupants to die in crashes.

Helmets reduce the likelihood that a motorcycle rider will die in a crash by 37 percent, and are estimated to have saved the lives of 1,829 motorcyclists in 2008, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Twenty states and the District of Columbia require all motorcyclists to wear helmets, and in those states, helmet use reached 86 percent in 2009, compared to only 55 percent in states without the law.

BY THE NUMBERS

4,462
People killed in motorcycle crashes in 2009.

$2.9 billion
Amount saved because of helmet use in 2008.

$1.3 billion
How much more America could have saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets in 2008.

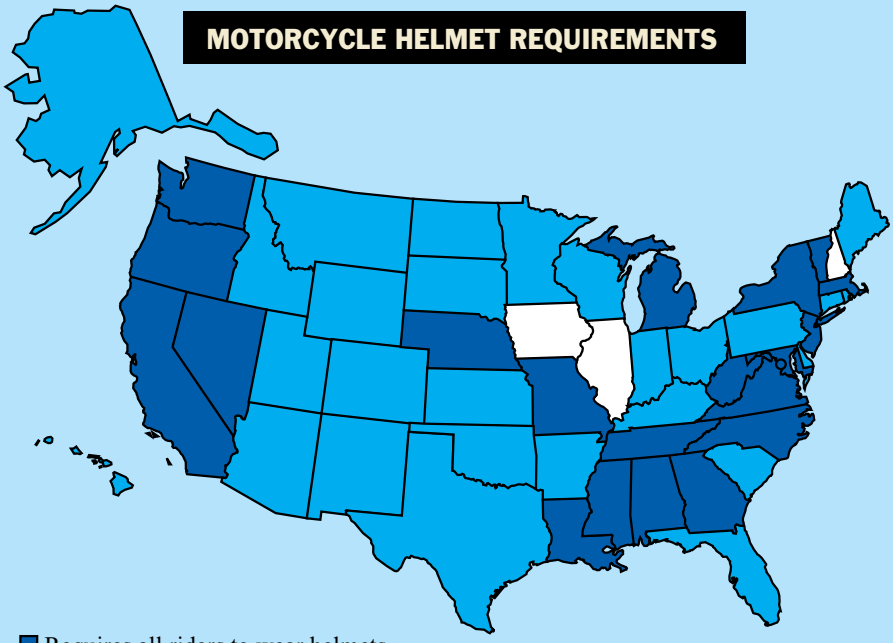
48%
Motorcycle helmet use in 2005.

67%
Motorcycle helmet use in 2009.

850
Fewer people killed in motorcycle crashes in 2009, compared to 2008. (The first decline in fatalities in 11 years.)

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Dec. 2010.

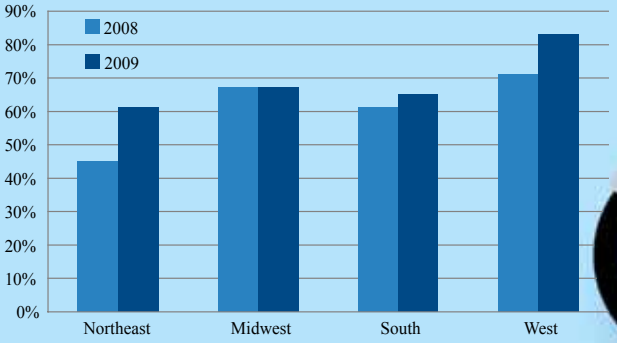
MOTORCYCLE HELMET REQUIREMENTS



- Requires all riders to wear helmets.
- Requires only riders under age 18 or 21 to wear helmets.
- Does not have a helmet law.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, 2010.

MOTORCYLE HELMET USE BY REGION



Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2010.