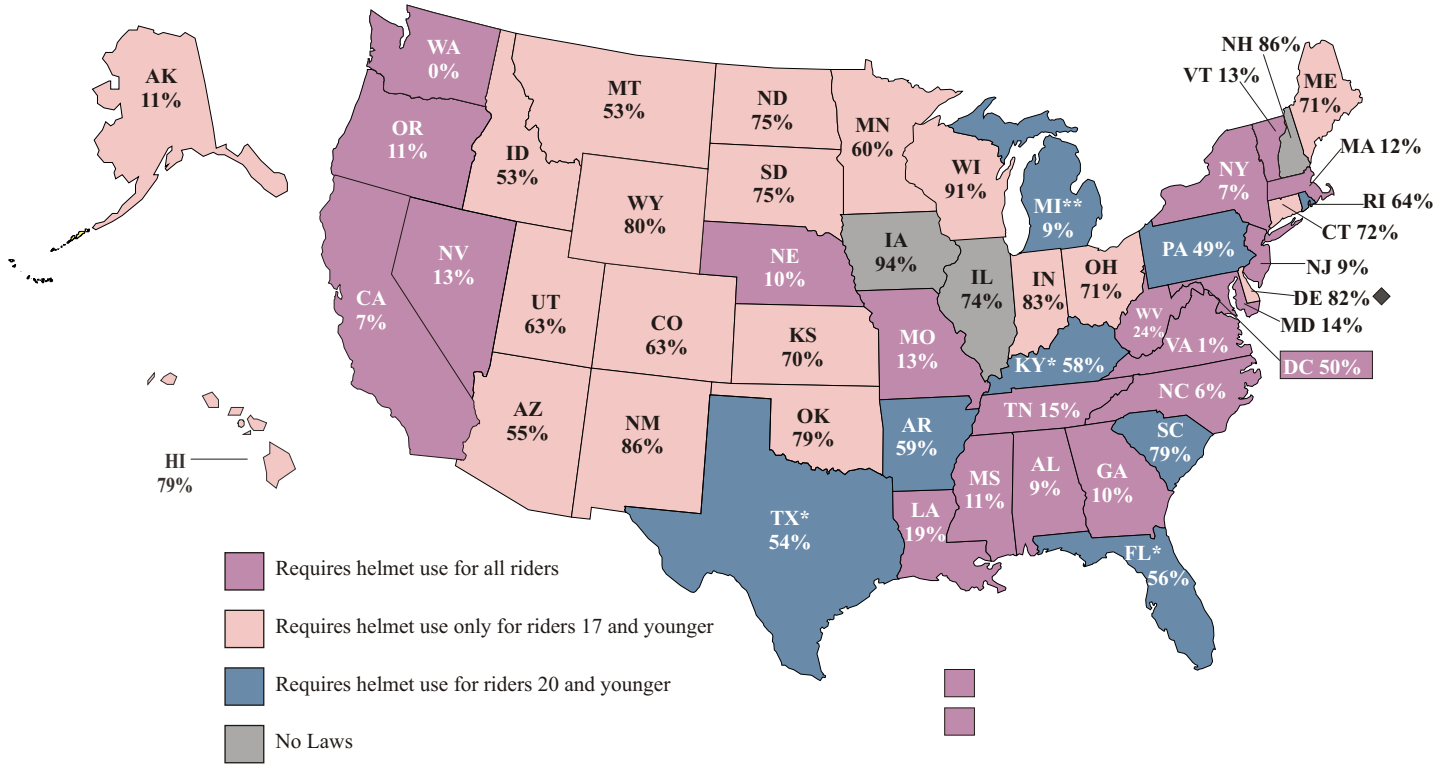


# Current State Motorcycle Helmet Laws and Fatality Rates

The percentage of people killed in motorcycle crashes in 2011 who were not wearing helmets is higher in states without a mandatory helmet law.



\*\* Previously Michigan had a universal helmet use requirement, the fatality rate shown here reflects the time period when all riders were required to wear a helmet.

♦ Delaware requires every motorcycle operator or rider age 19 and older to “have in their possession” a helmet.

\* Florida, Kentucky and Texas allow riders 21 years and older to ride without helmets if they carry medical insurance, and/or pass a motorcycle safety course.

Sources: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, National Conference of State Legislatures and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2014.



**National Conference of State Legislatures**

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## **Motorcycle Helmet Laws**

- More than 8 million motorcycles were registered in the United States in 2011, and nearly 500,000 motorcycles were sold in 2012.
- In 2011, 4,612 motorcyclists were killed in crashes and 81,000 were injured. Per miles travelled, motorcyclists are 30 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a crash.
- Wearing helmets and getting the proper licensing and training have been shown to reduce injuries and deaths from motorcycle crashes.
- Nineteen states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands currently require all riders to wear helmets.
- Illinois, Iowa and New Hampshire do not require anyone to wear a helmet, regardless of age.
- The remaining 28 states require riders of a specific age—usually those under age 18 or under age 21—to wear helmets.
- According to a 2012 National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS) Survey, conducted by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration;
  - In states with universal helmet laws, 89 percent of the motorcyclists observed were wearing helmets.
  - In states with partial helmet use requirements or no laws, 49 percent were observed wearing helmets.

**Source:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and  
National Conference of State Legislatures 2014.