

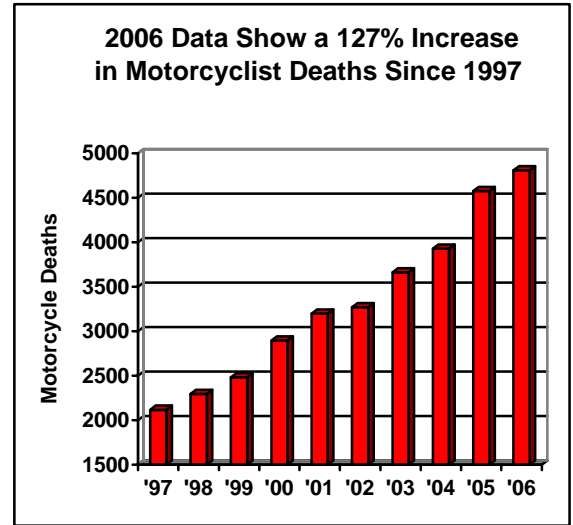
FACT SHEET

MOTORCYCLE HELMETS

According to 2006 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 4,810 motorcyclists were killed on our nation's roads last year, a 5% increase from 2005 (a 127% increase from 1997.) Motorcycle helmets have been shown to save the lives of motorcyclists and prevent serious brain injuries. Twenty states (AL, CA, GA, LA, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, NE, NV, NJ, NY, NC, OR, TN, VT, VA, WA, WV) and the D.C. require helmet use by all motorcycle drivers and their passengers. Twenty-six states have laws only covering some riders, especially those younger than 18. Four states (CO, IL, IA, NH) have no helmet requirements at all. All-rider helmet laws increase motorcycle helmet use, decrease deaths and injuries and save taxpayer dollars.

Helmets Save Lives & Reduce Health Care Costs

- Motorcycles make up less than 2% of all registered vehicles and only 0.4% of all vehicle miles traveled, but motorcyclists account for almost 9% of total traffic fatalities. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, or NHTSA, 2003)
- By an overwhelming majority (80%), Americans favor state laws requiring all motorcyclists to wear helmets. (Lou Harris, for Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, 2004)
- An estimated \$13.2 billion was saved from 1984 through 1999 because of motorcycle helmet use. An additional \$11.1 billion could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets. (NHTSA, 2000)



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2007

- Studies that examined the impact of safety helmets or helmet laws consistently found that helmet use reduced the fatality rate, the probability and severity of head injuries, the cost of medical treatment, the length of hospital stay, the necessity for special medical treatments, and the probability of long-term disability. (Costs of Injuries Resulting from Motorcycle Crashes: A Literature Review, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, 2002)
- Only slightly more than half of motorcycle crash victims have private health insurance coverage. Consequently, a significant portion of medical costs stemming from motorcycle-related head injuries are borne by Maryland hospitals' uncompensated care fund, Medicare and Medicaid. (Dept. of Legislative Services, Maryland General Assembly)
- Surveys have shown that helmet use is essentially 100% in states with all-rider motorcycle helmet laws compared to 34 to 54% with no helmet laws or with age-specific helmet laws. (NHTSA, 2000)
- No motorcycle education program will eliminate crashes. When crashes occur, motorcyclists need adequate head protection to prevent the most likely cause of death and disability -- head injuries.