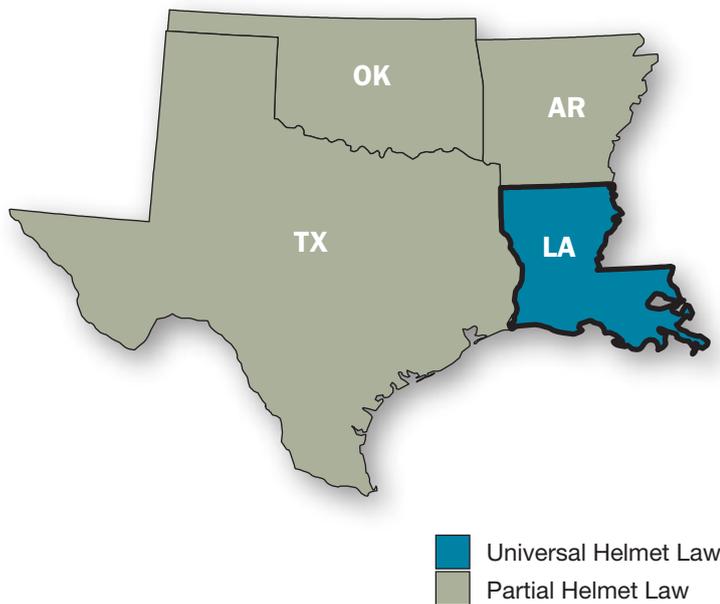


# LOUISIANA SAVE LIVES, SAVE MONEY

## HOW DOES YOUR STATE MEASURE UP?



When Louisiana re-enacted its universal helmet law in 2004, helmet use increased from 60% to 99%. As a result, Louisiana saw decreases in motorcycle rider death rates.<sup>1</sup> Louisiana ranks #4 in the nation for lives saved and economic costs saved due to helmet use.

## REGIONAL COMPARISON OF HELMET LAW IMPACT

State	Type of Law/ Year Enacted	Lives saved by helmet use per 100,000 registered motorcycles, 2010 <sup>2,3</sup>	Economic costs saved by helmet use per 100,000 registered motorcycles, 2010 <sup>2,3</sup>
Arkansas	■ /1997	7	\$14M
<b>Louisiana</b>	<span style="color: blue;">■</span> / <b>2004</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>\$108M</b>
Oklahoma	■ /1976	6	\$12M
Texas	■ /1997	24	\$48M

## A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

	Lives saved by helmet use per 100,000 registered motorcycles, 2010 <sup>2,3</sup>		Economic costs saved by helmet use per 100,000 registered motorcycles, 2010 <sup>2,3</sup>
Average number of lives saved for states with a <b>Universal Law</b>	36	Average money saved for states with a <b>Universal Law</b>	\$73 million
Average number of lives saved for states with a <b>Partial Law</b>	10	Average money saved for states with a <b>Partial Law</b>	\$21 million
Average number of lives saved for states with <b>no law</b>	4	Average money saved for states with <b>no law</b>	\$9 million

## WHAT CAN LOUISIANA DO?

- ✓ **Protect your universal helmet law.** Keep in mind that your law saves the lives of many Louisiana residents, protects your families and communities from preventable tragedy, and frees up money for your other priorities.

1. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *Traffic safety facts: Evaluation of the reinstatement of the motorcycle helmet law in Louisiana*. Washington (DC): National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; 2008.  
 2. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *Lives and costs saved by motorcycle helmets, 2010*. Washington (DC): National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; 2012. Unpublished data.  
 3. Federal Highway Administration. *Highway statistics 2010: State motor-vehicle registrations (Table MV-1)*. Washington (DC): Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; 2011.

# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

## QUICK FACTS

- The single most effective way for states to save lives and save money is a universal helmet law.
- Helmets reduce the risk of death by 37%.
- Helmets reduce the risk of head injury by 69%.
- The United States saved \$3 billion due to helmet use in 2010.
- The United States could have saved an additional \$1.4 billion in 2010 if all motorcyclists had worn helmets.
- Helmets do not reduce visibility or impair hearing.

## FAQs

### **Do helmet laws interfere with a person's freedom to choose whether to wear a helmet?**

Yes. Many laws restrict people's freedom to perform behaviors judged contrary to the public good. These include drunk driving laws, cellphone use laws, and infectious disease quarantine laws, to name a few. Courts usually uphold such laws as important to the nation's well-being.

### **Don't helmets make it harder for riders to see or hear?**

No. Helmets that meet the DOT standard do not reduce visibility or impair hearing. By protecting people's heads in crashes, helmets only make riding safer.

### **If a motorcyclist chooses not to wear a helmet, does it only affect him?**

No, not if the rider crashes. Unhelmeted riders injured in a crash have substantially higher healthcare costs than helmeted riders. When the rider is insured, these costs are passed on to others in the form of higher health insurance premiums. Unhelmeted riders are more likely to be uninsured than other riders. When the rider is uninsured, their medical expenses may be paid for using taxpayers' funds.

### **Can motorcycle safety education substitute for helmet laws?**

No. The benefits of motorcycle safety education are unclear. A universal helmet law is the most effective way to reduce the number of people who are seriously injured or killed from motorcycle crashes.

### **Are universal helmet laws really that much better than partial helmet laws?**

Yes. There is strong, substantial, and clear evidence that universal helmet laws save lives and save money. This is not true for partial laws. When a universal helmet law is enacted, helmet use dramatically increases, and states see an across-the-board decrease in deaths. If states repeal the law, they see an increase in deaths.

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National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention

