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 21—to wear helmets.


- 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.


Repealing Missouri’s all-rider motorcycle helmet law will increase deaths, brain injuries and costs to tax payers. In 2018, 107 motorcyclists were killed and more than 1,850 were injured on Missouri roads.