

Helmet Laws Seen Lowering Deaths In Cycle Mishaps

Medical Tribune Report

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Laws requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets are reducing fatalities in motorcycle crashes, according to a study conducted by Leon Robertson, senior behavioral scientist for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The study compared fatal crash involvement rates in eight states (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland and Minnesota) which adopted helmet laws, with similar states (California, New Mexico, Montana, Iowa, Virginia, Mississippi, West Virginia and Iowa) that had no such laws during a comparable period.

The "average fatal involvement rate for the eight states that enacted helmet use laws declined from more than 10 per 10,000 registered motorcycles the year before the laws' enactments to about seven per 10,000 registered motorcycles, both in the years of enactments and the following years," Mr. Robertson reported. "In contrast, the average fatal involvement rate in the eight matched states that enacted no helmet laws at the time that their comparison state did so remained at about 10 per 10,000 registered motorcycles throughout the period studied."

