



Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 2-5: Helmet Use Laws: 2006¹

[Excel](#) | [CSV](#)

State	Motorcycle riders covered by helmet law	Bicycle riders covered by helmet law
Alabama	All riders	Younger than 16
Alaska	Younger than 18 ²	No law
Arizona	Younger than 18	No law
Arkansas	Younger than 21	No law
California	All riders	Younger than 18
Colorado	No law	No law
Connecticut	Younger than 18	Younger than 16
Delaware	Younger than 19	Younger than 16
District of Columbia	All riders	Younger than 16
Florida	Younger than 21 ³	Younger than 16
Georgia	All riders	Younger than 16
Hawaii	Younger than 18	Younger than 16
Idaho	Younger than 18	No law
Illinois	No law	No law
Indiana	Younger than 18	No law
Iowa	No law	No law
Kansas	Younger than 18	No law
Kentucky	Younger than 21 ^{3,4}	No law
Louisiana	All riders	Younger than 12
Maine	Younger than 15 ⁵	Younger than 16
Maryland	All riders	Younger than 16
Massachusetts	All riders	Younger than 17 ¹⁰
Michigan	All riders	No law
Minnesota	Younger than 18 ⁴	No law
Mississippi	All riders	No law
Missouri	All riders	No law
Montana	Younger than 18	No law

Nebraska	All riders	No law
Nevada	All riders	No law
New Hampshire	No law	Younger than 16
New Jersey	All riders	Younger than 17
New Mexico	Younger than 18	No law
New York	All riders	Younger than 14 ¹⁰
North Carolina	All riders	Younger than 16
North Dakota	Younger than 18 ⁶	No law
Ohio	Younger than 18 ⁷	No law
Oklahoma	Younger than 18	No law
Oregon	All riders	Younger than 16
Pennsylvania	Younger than 21 ⁸	Younger than 12
Rhode Island	Younger than 21 ⁹	Younger than 16
South Carolina	Younger than 21	No law
South Dakota	Younger than 18	No law
Tennessee	All riders	Younger than 16
Texas	Younger than 21 ³	No law
Utah	Younger than 18	No law
Vermont	All riders	No law
Virginia	All riders	No law
Washington	All riders	No law
West Virginia	All riders	Younger than 15
Wisconsin	Younger than 18 ⁴	No law
Wyoming	Younger than 19	No law

¹Laws in effect as of June 2006; ²Alaska's motorcycle helmet use law covers passengers of all ages, drivers younger than 18, and drivers with instructional permits; ³Florida, Kentucky, and Texas provide exceptions for riders over a certain age. In Florida and Kentucky, the law requires that all riders younger than 21 years wear helmets, without exception. In Florida, those 21 years and older may ride without helmets only if they can show proof that they are covered by a medical insurance policy. Texas exempts riders 21 years and older if they can prove they either have successfully completed a motorcycle operator training and safety course or if they can show proof of having a medical insurance policy;

⁴Motorcycle helmet laws in Kentucky, Minnesota, and Wisconsin also cover drivers with instructional or learner's permits; ⁵Maine's motorcycle helmet use law covers passengers 14 years and younger, drivers with learner's permits, and passengers if their drivers are required to wear a helmet; ⁶North Dakota's motorcycle helmet use law covers all passengers travelling with drivers who are covered by the law;

⁷Ohio's motorcycle helmet use law covers all drivers during the first year of licensure and all passengers; ⁸Pennsylvania's motorcycle helmet use law covers all drivers during the first two years of licensure unless the driver has completed the safety course approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation; ⁹Rhode Island's motorcycle helmet use law covers all drivers during the first year of licensure and all passengers; ¹⁰Bicycle helmet use laws in Massachusetts and New York prohibit people from transporting passengers younger than 1 year old.

SOURCE: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety-Highway Loss Data Institute, *Helmet Use Laws*, available at http://www.iihs.org/laws/state_laws/helmet_current.html as of Oct. 10, 2006.

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http://www.bts.gov/publications/state_transportation_statistics/state_transportation_statistics_2006/html/table_02_05.html