

# APPENDIX - Return on Investment for Motorcycle Helmets

## Motorcycle Helmets Save Lives and Money

“Despite the overwhelming evidence, some motorcyclists refuse to wear helmets and oppose helmet use laws. Their argument is that helmet laws represent government interference and these laws thwart an individual’s freedom to take risks and to gamble against death and permanent injury.

Unfortunately, the families of the injured, as well as society as a whole must bear the tremendous economic, psychological, and social costs involved in deaths and injuries to un-helmeted cyclists.

In November 2002, NHTSA reported that 25 studies of the costs of injuries from motorcycle crashes ‘consistently found that helmet use reduced the fatality rate, probability and severity of head injuries, cost of medical treatment, length of hospital stay, necessity for special medical treatments, and probability of long-term disability.’

Hospitalization costs are higher for motorcycle crash victims who don’t wear helmets, compared to those who do. Numerous studies have compared hospital costs for helmeted and un-helmeted motorcyclists involved in traffic crashes. These studies revealed that un-helmeted riders involved in crashes are more likely to have higher hospital costs than helmeted riders involved in similar crashes and less likely to have health insurance. Only slightly more than half of motorcycle crash victims have private health insurance coverage. For patients without private insurance, a majority of medical costs are paid by the government. [Ultimately, paid by state tax players.]

NHTSA estimates that more than \$7.5 billion was saved from 1984 through 1995 because of the use of helmets. An additional \$6.8 billion would have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets. Helmet use laws, like safety belt use and many other traffic safety laws, make good sense for motorcyclists.”

Source:

<http://trafficsafety.org/safety/sharing/motorcycle/motor-safety-everyone/motorcycle-helmets-for-all-riders>