



## Motorcycle Crash Injury

### Each Year:

- Approximately 720 persons are injured.
- Approximately 30 persons die.
- Approximately 78% of persons killed are not wearing helmets.
- Approximately 70% of non-helmeted persons die from head injuries, compared to 36% for helmeted persons.



***A study of motorcycle crash injuries conducted in Oklahoma in 1994 found helmets were 60-75% effective in reducing moderate, severe and fatal head injuries.***

- Non-helmeted riders compared to helmeted riders were:
  - 2½-5 times more likely to suffer a fatal head injury.
  - 1½ times more likely to require hospitalization and associated medical costs were higher.
  - Two times more likely to suffer a nonfatal head injury.
- Spinal cord injuries did not differ by helmet status; neck injuries were somewhat lower among helmeted persons vs non-helmeted persons (7% vs 10%, respectively).
- Acute hospital charges in 1994 were more than \$4.5 million.
  - Non-helmeted persons accounted for 72% of those costs.
  - Insurance paid for 40% of medical costs; the majority of the remaining two-thirds was paid by government or left unpaid.
- The total societal costs, including medical and emergency costs, productivity losses, insurance expenses, legal and court costs, etc., in 1994 were estimated at \$48 million (using 1994 dollars).
  - The economic savings of a universal motorcycle helmet law in Oklahoma were estimated at more than \$6 million a year.