

Title of Intervention: The 1992 California Motorcycle Helmet Use Law

Website: <http://www.saferoads.org/motorcycle-helmets>

Intervention Strategies: Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To decrease motorcycle-related fatalities

Population: General population

Setting: California; community-based

Partners: None mentioned

Intervention Description:

- Environments and Policies: Enactment of a state-wide unrestricted motorcycle helmet law

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Not mentioned
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Not mentioned
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Law enactment
- Evaluation: Police reports, crash data, death certificates, hospital records

Evaluation:

- Design: Evaluation
- Methods and Measures:
 - Police reports and death certificates were collected for motorcycle crash fatalities in California for the year prior to enactment of the law and the year following law implementation
 - Official counts of registered motorcycles provided a statewide basis for exposure to a motorcycle crash
 - Autopsy results were collected for fatalities
 - Hospital records were reviewed for nonfatal injuries
 - Police reports were linked to injury data for the riders

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: Motorcycle fatality rates were significantly reduced and head injuries decreased significantly among both fatally and non-fatally injured motorcyclists.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Enactment of an unrestricted helmet law significantly reduced the incidence of motorcycle crash fatalities and the number of severity of head injuries. Compliance with the helmet law is a critical issue.

Citation(s):

Kraus, J., Peek C, McArthur DL, Williams A (1994). "The effect of the 1992 California motorcycle helmet use law on motorcycle crash fatalities and injuries." JAMA 272(19): 1506-11.