



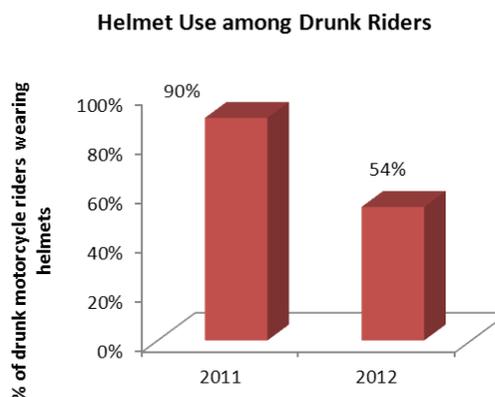
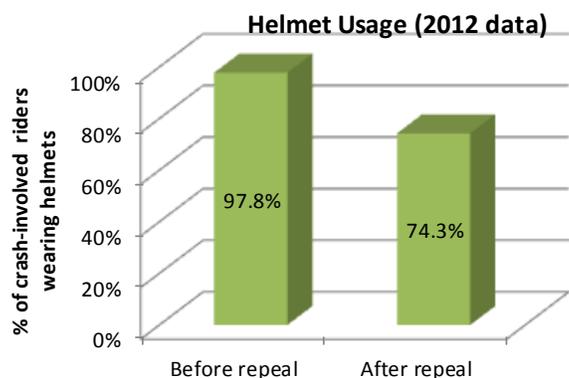
Effect of Michigan's Helmet Law Repeal

Michigan's universal helmet law was repealed in Spring 2012. In a recent study of motorcycle crash data, the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) estimated that if all riders had worn helmets in 2012, an estimated 26 fewer deaths and 49 fewer serious injuries would have occurred. Helmet use rates for crash-involved riders after the helmet law modification in 2012 dropped from 98% to 74% overall.

Introduction

Bill SB 291 allowed riders 21 years and older to ride without wearing a helmet as long as they carried first-party medical insurance of \$20,000 or more and passed a motorcycle safety course or held a motorcycle endorsement for at least two years.

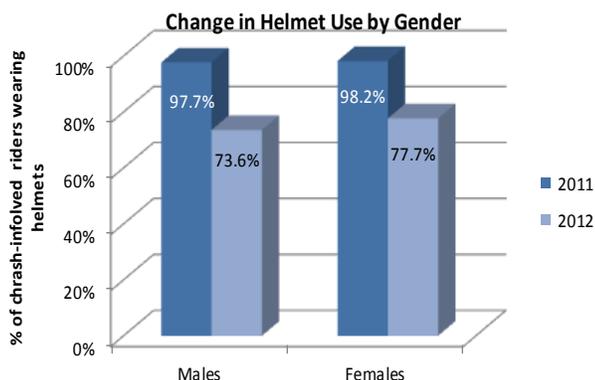
- Helmet use patterns decreased across both genders – male crash-involved riders wearing helmets decreased from **97.7% in 2011 to 73.6% in 2012**, and female crash-involved riders, from **98.2% in 2011 to 77.7% in 2012**.
- Helmet use among drunk riders involved in motorcycle crashes decreased from **90% to 54%** from 2011 to 2012.



Impact of the repeal on helmet usage

UMTRI's analysis of crash data estimated that:

- Helmet use among crash-involved riders decreased from **97.8% to 74.3%**



Impact of the repeal on fatalities and incapacitating injuries

An analysis of motorcycle crash data from 2008 to 2012 demonstrated the following:

- Alcohol involvement quadrupled the risk of fatality in 2012, and drunk riders were far less likely to wear a helmet following the repeal.
- Not wearing a helmet doubled the risk of fatality and increased the risk of injury by 60% after accounting for other risk-taking behaviors (e.g., alcohol, speed).
- An estimated **26 lives** and **49 serious injuries** are attributed to helmet non-use after the repeal.

