



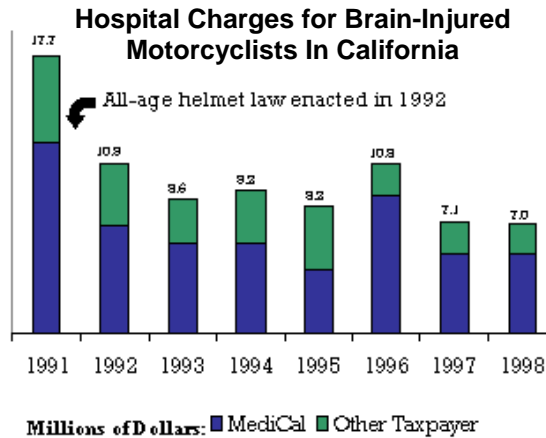
ALL-RIDER MOTORCYCLE HELMET LAWS SAVE LIVES AND TAX DOLLARS

A Rider's Personal Choice Stops Being Personal When It Ends Up Costing Us All

Almost 50 percent of motorcycle crash victims have no private health insurance and their medical bills are paid from Medicaid or other public assisted health care funds. As states have repealed their helmet laws, helmet use has declined from 71 percent to 58 percent nationally, with deaths and traumatic brain injuries on the rise.

Motorcycle deaths have increased for six years in a row, from 2,116 in 1997 to 3,592 in 2003.

In 1998, hospital charges for hospitalized brain-injured motorcyclists was 60% lower than before the law. (Trauma Foundation, 2002)



Repealing The All-Rider Helmet Law Is Bad Fiscal Policy

In 2004, Maryland estimated that a repeal of its all-rider helmet law would increase Medicaid expenditures by \$750,000 in the first year and annually up to a *million dollars* within four years.

The average treatment cost for a motorcycle accident-related head injury is \$43,000.
The annual cost of serving one brain-injured individual in an inpatient setting is \$100,000.

Traumatic Brain Injuries Are Costly... For A Lifetime

- Permanent disability and impairment
- Long-term nursing care
- Physical therapy and rehabilitation
- Costs to welfare and other social services

**When Everyone Has To Pay,
It's No Longer About Personal Freedoms**

For more information on motorcycle helmet safety, contact Advocates For Highway And Auto Safety at 202-408-1711 or visit our website at www.saferoads.org

Sources: Maryland Fiscal Note regarding SB611, February 7, 2004, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Motorcycle Helmet Use Laws fact sheet, April 2004, Fatality Analysis Reporting System's preliminary data for 2003.