



2007 FORR FACTS ON HELMET USE

- **The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services statistics on traumatic brain injuries from 2002-2005.**

Fall/Jump: 20,621

Car/Truck/etc Occupant: 13,267

Motorcyclist: 889

Pedestrian: 739

Bicyclists: 240

- **There is no helmet on the market today that prevents brain injury.** While there have been advancements in helmet technology, current helmets only reduce skull injury which in turn reduces the likelihood of a skull penetration injury **Motorcyclists accept risk every time they straddle a bike. Yet they measure that risk in their decision making.**
- According to the **Missouri Division of Medical Services**; here are Medicaid paid claims for motorcycle injuries /claims that also included a head injury, versus Medicaid outlay for all other vehicle injuries /with head injuries;
Head Injury Claims

<u>Motorcycle injuries</u>	<u>All other vehicle injuries</u>
FY 03: \$52,225.15 / \$3,710.28	\$1,397,325.19 / \$192,842.82
FY 04: \$63,725.79 / \$8,353.48	\$1,296,918.72 / \$84,386.49
FY 05: \$114,329.86 / \$9,425.80	\$2,117,322.79 / \$254,312.51
FY 06: \$121,469.09 / \$14,110.05	NA
- **DOT or NHTSA does not "approve" motorcycle helmets, thus, there is no list of "approved" helmets.** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has the statutory authority to issue Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) applicable to motor vehicles and items of motor vehicle equipment, including motorcycle helmets. The law establishes a self-certification process in which the motorcycle helmet manufacturers certify their products are in compliance with FMVSS No. 218, which establishes minimum performance requirements that the products must meet.
- **Helmet manufactures attach labels declaring compliance with FMVSS No. 218 yet include disclaimer statements to the effect of not having any legal liability if wearer is involved in an accident.** *"Some reasonably foreseeable impacts may exceed this helmet's capability to protect against injury. Helmet affords no protection from neck injury. No helmet can protect the user from all foreseeable impacts."*
- **The State of Missouri statute requires a helmet that is in compliance with FMVSS No. 218 yet also has no list of "approved" helmets.**
- **If a helmet can withstand a static impact of roughly 13 mph, it passes government standards.** NHTSA enforces the standard by randomly selecting and purchasing motorcycle helmets from the marketplace and testing to the requirements of the standard at independent test labs.
- **30 states of this fine country allow "Adult Motorcyclist's" the Freedom of Choice regarding the wearing of helmets.**