



Posted by Carol Thurn

North Dakota Department of Transportation

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Self-Assessment - Personal Protective Equipment questions

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Hello:

Our Motorcycle Advisory Committee is working on a self-assessment and they had questions under the Personal Protective Equipment.

1. How do you measure helmet and other protective equipment usage rates?
2. How do you focus on "All the Gear All the Time" and not just helmet use?
3. How do you get data on "All the Gear All the Time" and not just helmets?

Thanks for helping.

Carol Thurn

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CONNECTICUT

Carol,

CT uses surveys to find out use rates for PPE including helmet use, as NHTSA does not allow any funds to be used for observational studies of helmet use.

Sincerely,

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Motorcycle Safety/CONREP
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Telephone (860) 594-2369
Email Nicholas.Just@ct.gov
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FLORIDA

Florida does same as CT

Edith Peters
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MICHIGAN

Up until about two years ago, we/Michigan did do helmet and gear use observation surveys with NHTSA federal funds. You are correct, NHTSA won't allow it any more.

It's a shame because it really gave you a pretty good "use rate" of GEAR (PPE), not just helmet. I honestly do not see how "observation surveys/studies" like these are considered "targeting" of motorcyclist. We "target" car and CDL drivers all day long for seat belt use and other violations. But can't "observe" motorcyclists to determine PPE use rates.

Makes no sense!

Chad Teachout
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NHTSA

Carol, several states have, in the past, done stand-alone roadside observation surveys. By standalone, I mean they are in addition to roadside seatbelt use surveys - many states just add a column for helmet use to their seatbelt surveys. While NHTSA does not discourage combining helmet use with seatbelt use into one survey, we do encourage states to conduct standalone surveys for motorcyclist PPE use for several reasons:

- * The locations that are determined for seat belt use surveys are based on motor vehicle traffic volumes. As I'm sure you're aware, motorcyclists tend to want to stay off heavily trafficked roads
- * The timing of the seat belt use surveys are also based off of motor vehicle traffic volumes (high traffic commute times, etc.). Since motorcycling in the US is typically a recreational activity, most motorcycle traffic is done on the weekends.
- * Adding a singular column for helmet use to a seat belt survey doesn't allow for collection of data relating to bike type, jacket use, type of helmet, group vs solo riding, and many other important data elements.

While current statutory language within the FAST Act does not currently allow use of NHTSA funding for roadside observational surveys (which we are working to get that language modified), states can use their own funds to conduct these surveys.

While several states have done these types of surveys, I always recommend looking at Florida's motorcycle surveys. They've been doing them the longest, their methodology is transparent, and from

what I've seen, they collect the most amount of variables. Here's a link to one of them:
<https://www.cutr.usf.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/5-FL-Observational-Survey-of-Motorcyclist-Behaviors-2013-Final-Report.pdf>

I also encourage anyone thinking of doing one to contact Chanyoung Lee at CUTR cylee@cutr.usf.edu

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/>

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MARYLAND

Hi Carol,

See below for my comments. Glad to help.

See you in Sacramento? I will be able to get a pic of the sign at the western end of route 50 that reads: Ocean City MD 3073.

1. How do you measure helmet and other protective equipment usage rates?

In the past we have done observation studies. We'd camp out at an intersection and observe riders. Our ability to do this now is very limited as observation studies, especially those that involve helmet use can't be done using Federal grant monies.

2. How do you focus on "All the Gear All the Time" and not just helmet use?

ATGATT. You can sell the use of riding gear based on that it will protect you in crash as most riders don't think they will crash. We emphasize that proper gear will keep you comfortable. For example, the Styrofoam shock absorbing liner of a helmet is the same material used in coolers to keep cold things cold and hot things hot.

3. How do you get data on "All the Gear All the Time" and not just helmets?

You mean to show students the benefits? Lead by Example.

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opportunities".

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