



JustAnotherCyclist.com

September 2010 Bicycle Helmet Survey

Overview

The Bicycle Helmet Survey was designed to help gauge the usage patterns of, and opinions on, bicycle helmets. It was divided into two sections. The first section was composed entirely of direct questions where the only possible answer was one of 'yes,' 'no' or 'undecided'. The second section posed two lists that were comprised of statements or situations where the survey taker was asked to select any from the list that they felt were applicable to them.

All questions were optional, and survey takers could chose to skip any questions they wanted while still being able to answer later questions.

The survey was conducted online (using the Survey Monkey service) and some or all of the questions were answered by 47 different survey takers.

The data is provided below without interpretation. See the article on JustAnotherCyclist.com titled "[Use your head while riding](#)" for a subjective interpretation of this data.

Section 1 Raw Results

Question: Do you feel that bicycle helmets make it safer for you to ride your bike?

Results (of 47 responses):

- Yes – 42 / 89.4%
- No – 5 / 10.6%
- Undecided – 0 (zero)

Question: Do you believe that a bike helmet will protect you from injuries in the event of a crash?

Results (of 47 responses):

- Yes – 38 / 80.9%
- No – 2 / 4.3%
- Undecided – 7 / 14.9%

Question: Do you believe children should be required by law to wear helmets when riding a bike?

Results (of 47 responses):

- Yes – 34 / 72.3%
- No – 10 / 21.3%
- Undecided – 3 / 6.4%
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Question: Do you believe adults should be required by law to wear helmets when riding a bike?

Results (of 47 responses):

- Yes – 12 / 25.5%
- No – 29 / 61.7%
- Undecided – 6 / 12.8%

Section 2 Raw Results

Survey takers were free to select any items they chose from the list in response to the following questions. Percentages indicated are the total percentage of respondents that select *any* of the available answers for that question.

Question: Please select any and all statements below that match your bike helmet usage.

Results (of 45 respondents that selected at least one item):

- Always – 36 / 80.0%
- Usually – 7 / 15.6%
- Sometimes – 1 / 2.2%
- Seldom – 0 (zero)
- Never – 1 / 2.2%
- When I ride in traffic (automobiles) – 8 / 17.8%
- When I ride with others – 4 / 8.9%
- When I ride with others that are wearing helmets – 5 / 11.1%
- When I feel my ride might be dangerous – 7 / 15.6%
- When I feel there is a significant chance of risk – 8 / 17.8%
- When the event I'm riding in (century, race, whatever) requires it – 8 / 17.8%
- When I'm riding with children – 5 / 11.1%
- When I'm riding where children might see me children – 3 / 6.7%
- Short trips (coffee, grocery store) – 4 / 8.9%
- Long trips (weekend rides, centuries, etc.) – 5 / 11.1%
- Night (dark riding conditions) – 9 / 20.0%

- Daylight – 4 / 8.9%
- Rainy weather – 9 / 20.0%
- Downhills – 5 / 11.1%
- On public roads – 6 / 13.3%
- On mixed-use trails off public roads – 3 / 6.7%
- On dirt trails – 2 / 4.4%
- In the mountains / single track – 6 / 13.3%
- If I remember – 0 (zero)
- Never when it is too hot – 0 (zero)

Question: Please select any and all statements below that match your bike helmet usage.

Results (of 39 respondents that selected at least one item):

- Helmets should always be worn on the bike – 25 / 64.1%
- I change my riding (slower, different routes) if I don't have my helmet – 7 / 17.9%
- I get nervous when I see others not riding with helmets – 12 / 30.8%
- I refuse to join group rides if there are others without helmets that show up – 1 / 2.6%
- I refuse to take part in any events that require helmets – 0 (zero)
- I think it should be the law that everyone wear a helmet on a bike – 7 / 17.9%
- I demand that my kids wear their helmets – 21 / 53.8%
- I'd go out without a helmet, even if the law required that I wear one – 1 / 2.6%
- I don't like the hassle of carrying a helmet around – 3 / 7.7%
- I don't ride fast enough for a helmet to matter – 0 (zero)
- I don't like helmets because they look silly, dorky, dumb, ridiculous, etc. – 1 / 2.6%
- I won't wear a helmet because it messes up my hair – 0 (zero)
- Helmets won't do any good if I crash anyhow – 1 / 2.6%
- Helmets are too expensive – 1 / 2.6%
- I can't afford a helmet – 1 / 2.6%
- When I'm in my car, I give more room to cyclists that don't have a helmet on – 0 (zero)
- When I'm on my bike, I give more room to cyclists that don't have a helmet on – 1 / 2.6%
- I think it is irresponsible for parents to let their children ride without a helmet on – 27 / 69.2%
- I get angry when I see kids riding without a helmet – 10 / 48.7%

- I get angry when I see anyone riding without a helmet – 7 / 17.9%
- Helmets clearly protect you in a crash – 22 / 56.4%
- There is no evidence that helmets will protect you in a crash – 1 / 2.6%
- Helmets provide no protection in a crash – 1 / 2.6%