

**Whitney M. Eure**

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LSU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana

Dr. Alison Smith, MD, PhD

LSU Health Sciences Center, Department of Surgery

**“A Retrospective Analysis of the Effectiveness of Helmets in Minimizing Serious Injury and Death Following ATV, Dirt-bike, and Motorcycle Crashes”**

**BACKGROUND:** In 2004 Louisiana instated a universal helmet law, still in place today, requiring helmet usage for motorcyclists and their passengers. There is no current law requiring Louisiana ATV and dirt-bike riders to wear helmets. The risk to motorcyclists is apparent; compared to someone riding in a car, a motorcyclist is 37x's more at risk of death in a crash. Studies have shown that there is a significant association between helmet laws and decreased fatalities following a crash. Literature shows a similar story with ATV riders who get in crashes. One study shows that traumatic brain injuries (TBI) were significantly more likely in patients who were un-helmeted at the time of the crash, compared to those who wore helmets. In addition, their fatality rates in hospital were much higher. There is a concerning trend of pediatric patients who sustain serious injuries and death due to ATV crashes. A report released by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission found that, of the 104,900 injuries that were sustained from 2015-2019 due to Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs), 27% of them were of children below sixteen, with half of that number being represented by children under twelve. More specifically, these children also made up a disproportionately high 16% of the ATV related fatalities during this period. When compared with children involved in car accidents, children in crashes while riding ATVs require hospitalization at a rate twice as high.

**OBJECTIVES:** In this study, we aim (1) to determine if helmet usage decreases the incidence of severe injury and death following ATV and dirt-bike crashes (2) to determine if helmeted motorcyclists have better post-motorcycle crash outcomes than those without helmets (3) to determine if Louisiana's universal helmet law had an impact on motorcyclist helmet usage in Louisiana and (4) to estimate the cost incurred by the state due to un-helmeted crashes.

**METHODS:** A retrospective chart review from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, will be performed on patients found in the UMCNO Trauma Registry who presented with injuries sustained during a motorcycle, ATV, or dirt-bike crash to University Medical Center New Orleans (UMC). NOPD Crash Reports written from the scene of motorcycle, ATV, and dirt-bike crashes will be obtained to gather information on the helmet status of the drivers and passengers. Additional information needed that is not recorded in the trauma registry will be obtained from the EMR. The Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), a nationwide census providing yearly data regarding fatal injuries suffered in motor vehicle crashes, will be used to obtain data on the number of helmeted and un-helmeted motorcycle fatalities by year from 1975 to 2022.

**RESULTS:** Awaiting results

**CONCLUSIONS:** Awaiting conclusion

