

Florida Third in the Nation for Crash-related Death Costs

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According to a new report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Florida ranked No. 3 in the nation when it comes to costs incurred from fatal vehicle crashes.

In one year, Florida crash deaths resulted in **\$3.16 million** in medical and work loss costs.

To calculate that burden, the CDC totaled the costs for emergency medical care and added to it the estimated lifetime income and benefits lost when a person died in a crash.

In order to save lives and money, the CDC recommends that Florida adopt the following strategies:

- Primary enforcement seat belt law that covers all seating positions.
- Strong child passenger safety policies that require age- and size-appropriate child safety and booster seats.
- Comprehensive graduated drivers licensing (GDL) system to help young drivers gain experience under lower-risk conditions.
- Universal motorcycle helmet law that requires all riders to wear helmets.

As reported by the [Palm Beach Post](#), turning the CDC's recommendations into law will continue to be an uphill battle in Florida.

While Florida enacted a mandatory seat belt law in 2009, it only applies to front seat passengers and those under 18. In 2000, Florida repealed a decades-old helmet law allowing drivers and their passengers older than 21 to choose whether they wear a helmet.

Finally, although Florida requires children be in safety seats through age 3, it leaves booster seat use to a parent's discretion based on a child's weight and height. It is one of only three states that do not explicitly require a booster seat for older children.

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