



State Performance in 2016

Best States

A state without a primary enforcement seat belt law covering passengers in all seating positions (front and rear) or that has repealed an existing all-rider motorcycle helmet law within the previous ten years is not eligible for a green rating, regardless of the number of other highway safety laws it has enacted. States must have 11 to 15 laws including both primary enforcement seat belt laws, or 9 or more laws including both primary enforcement seat belt laws and an all-rider helmet law, to achieve a green rating.

RHODE ISLAND ● 12 laws. Missing an all-rider motorcycle helmet law, nighttime restriction and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers.

DELAWARE ● 11 laws. Missing an all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, and open container law.

WASHINGTON ● 11 laws. Missing minimum age 16 for learner's permit, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ● 10 laws. Missing booster seat law, as well as supervised driving requirement, nighttime and cell phone restrictions, and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers.

LOUISIANA ● 9 laws. Missing booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, nighttime and passenger restrictions, and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, and an open container law.

OREGON ● 9 laws. Missing booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, supervised driving requirement, nighttime and passenger restriction, and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers.

Worst States

The red rating indicates that the following states are dangerously behind in the adoption of Advocates' optimal laws. States receive a red rating if they have fewer than 7 laws, without both primary enforcement front and rear seat belt laws.

SOUTH DAKOTA ● Only 2 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 6 of the 7 teen driving provisions, an ignition interlock law, a child endangerment law and an all-driver text messaging restriction.

WYOMING ● Only 3 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 6 of the 7 teen driving provisions, an ignition interlock law, and an open container law.

ARIZONA ● Only 4 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 6 of the 7 teen driving provisions, and an all-driver text messaging restriction.

MISSOURI ● Only 4 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, booster seat law, 6 of the 7 teen driving provisions, an open container law, and an all-driver text messaging restriction.

MONTANA ● Only 4 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 5 of the 7 teen driving provisions, an ignition interlock law, and an all-driver text messaging restriction.

FLORIDA ● Only 5 laws. Missing rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 5 of the 7 teen driving provisions, an ignition interlock law, and an all-driver text messaging restriction.

IOWA ● Only 5 laws. Missing rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 5 of the 7 teen driving provisions, an ignition interlock law, and an all-driver text messaging restriction.

NEBRASKA ● Only 5 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, booster seat law, 6 of the 7 teen driving provisions, and an all-driver text messaging restriction.

VIRGINIA ● Only 5 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, booster seat law, 6 of the 7 teen driving provisions, and an open container law.

IDAHO ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 4 of the 7 teen driving provisions, and an ignition interlock law.

MISSISSIPPI ● Only 6 laws. Missing rear primary enforcement seat belt law, booster seat law, 6 of the 7 teen driving provisions, and an open container law.

NEVADA ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, booster seat law, 5 of the 7 teen driving provisions, and an ignition interlock law.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 5 of the 7 teen driving provisions.

NORTH DAKOTA ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 4 of the 7 teen driving provisions and an ignition interlock law.

OHIO ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 3 of the 7 teen driving provisions, an ignition interlock law, and an all-driver text messaging restriction.

PENNSYLVANIA ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, booster seat law, 4 of the 7 teen driving provisions, and an ignition interlock law.

VERMONT ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt law, booster seat law, 5 of the 7 teen driving provisions, and a child endangerment law.