

Bicycle helmets laws, figures for helmet usage and age limits to childrens' cycling

Country	Helmet law for...	Enforcement	Promotion	Helmet wearing rate	Cycling age limit
Australia	All, since 1991-92	Police, 20 Euro fine	not any more	>90% (199x)	none
Austria	none		no	unknown	12 yr, 10 yr with license
Belgium	none		some, limited effect		none, children up to 9 can go on pavements
Canada	All in 3 states, children in another; none in the remaining states	Max fine 100 \$ CDN	some, less than before	25-30% in Quebec, probably max 50%	18 yr if unaccompanied on roads with speed limit over 50 km/h
Croatia	children up to 16 yr, since 2004	Police, 40 Euro fine	yes	almost all kids, 20-25% adults on road	16 yr alone, 9 yr with adults
Denmark	none		not much, maybe in 2005	Adults 3%, children 50%	6 yr
Estonia	law for children up to 15 yr in preparation	probably fine 15-35 Euro	some	maybe 10% adults, 30% children	16 yr, 10 yr with a license
Finland	all, since 2003	none	some, law well known	adults 25%	none, but many schools set limit 9-10
France	only competitive cyclists since 2002		yes	sport 80%, other 10%	none
Germany	none		yes, well known	6%, children 38% (2003)	under 8 yr only on pavements
Hungary	none		yes, moderate effect	children 50-60%, adults 15-20%	12 yr on main roads
Iceland	children under 15 yr, since Oct 1999	unknown	yes, well known	60-90%	none (but even adults don't ride on streets)
Ireland	none, but attempts for children	fine /penalty points	yes		none, 12 yr proposed
Italy	only competitive cyclists, since some years		no	Children 30%, adults rarely except racing	children must be accompanied by adults
Japan	none		yes	very small	none
Latvia	none		no	small	12 yr with a license
Lithuania	none		some	6%	12 yr, 10 yr with a license
Luxembourg	no		some	some, but unknown	10 yr
Malta	no		some		
The Netherlands	competitive cyclists, since 2004	disclosurement from match/tour	some, but minor	children maybe 5%, adults 0%	none
Norway	none		yes, well known	children 70%, adults < 30%	none, 10 yr recommended
Poland	none		a little	cities 5%, countryside nil	10 yr alone, permit required up to 17 yr.
Portugal	none		not much	unknown	none (but discussed)
Romania	none, but law recommends use		yes	children < .2%, adults < .1%	14 yr at roads with intense traffic
Russia	competitive cyclists and at rallies, since long	disclosurement from match/tour	no	varying	14 yr
Serbia and Montenegro	none, but law in preparation				12 yr on motorways and regional roads. 9 yr on local roads if educated. 7 yr only with adults.
Slovakia	none			children ~ 50%, adults <1%	
Slovenia	kids up to 14 yr since 2000	only admonishment	yes, well known		14 yr unless cycling exam or attended, 6 yr on sidewalks
Spain	everybody outside urban areas, professional cyclists exempted, since 2004	Police, fine 91 up to Euro. Not a priority!	yes, but not well known	19% (2003 study)	none
Sweden	children up to 14 yr, from 2005	No punishment possible	yes, intensively	10-15% overall, over 50% in Stockholm	none
Switzerland	none, but considerations	a fine is expected, in case	yes	27%	school age (6-7 yr)
Turkey	none		no	1%	
United Kingdom	none (children up to 15 proposed)		yes, moderate effect	Adults 11-26%, children 7-15%	none
USA	Several states, usually children under 16 yr, most laws 1993-2001	enforcement is rare	yes, well known	varying - 85% in BC	none