



***2006 ENA National Scorecard on State Highway Laws: A Roadmap for Injury Prevention:***  
**FACT SHEET**

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Following are key findings from the 2006 ENA National Scorecard on State Highway Laws, compiled by the Emergency Nurses Association's (ENA) Injury Prevention Institute. The scorecard identifies states that have laws aimed at promoting highway safety and injury prevention. Each state was evaluated on a point system based on the following ENA criteria: primary seatbelt laws, child passenger safety laws, graduated driver licensing (GDL), universal motorcycle helmet laws and the existence of a statewide trauma system. The report also identifies states that are establishing statewide trauma systems to respond to major emergencies.

**Key Findings:**

Washington, D.C. and the state of Washington were the only locations to receive the best possible score of ten

Locations with the most highway safety and injury prevention laws in place meeting ENA criteria include Washington, D.C., Washington, California, Georgia, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon and Tennessee

States with the fewest highway safety and injury prevention laws in place meeting ENA criteria include Idaho, North Dakota, Ohio, Arkansas, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Arizona

Six states currently do not have the capacity to establish a statewide trauma system

**Additional Scorecard Information:**

The scorecard is designed to educate legislators and the general public about their state's strengths, weaknesses and level of risk at a time of increased travel during the holiday season.

Each U.S. state was evaluated based on the following ENA criteria, which were derived from federal definitions of relevant public policy issues related to highway laws.

- Does the state have a primary enforcement seatbelt law?
- Does the state have booster seat laws (and does it cover children up to age 8 years)?
- Does the state have child passenger safety laws covering all children up to age 16 years in all positions?
- Does the state have universal motorcycle helmet laws?
- Does the state have graduated driver licensing laws
  - With a six-month holding period provision at the learner's stage?
  - With 30-50 hours of supervised driving provision at the learner's stage?
  - With a nighttime restriction provision at the intermediate stage?
  - With a passenger restriction provision at the intermediate stage, limiting the driver from carrying more than one passenger under the age of 20 years?
- Does the state have enabling legislation that provides appropriate officials the authority to develop, maintain and evaluate a state trauma system and its components?

States were evaluated only on whether they have these laws, not on how well they implement or enforce them. Each state received one point for each criterion that was present in each state law. All data evaluated for the report come from the latest state and federal government sources and research journals.

### **About the Emergency Nurses Association**

The Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) is the only professional nursing association dedicated to defining the future of emergency nursing and emergency care through advocacy, expertise, innovation and leadership. Founded in 1970, ENA serves as the voice of more than 30,000 members and their patients through research, publications, professional development, injury prevention and patient education. Additional information is available at ENA's Web site, [www.ena.org](http://www.ena.org).

For more information on the scorecard, visit [www.ena.org](http://www.ena.org). Media wishing to arrange an interview with ENA president Nancy Bonalumi, RN, MS, CEN, should contact Tarsis Lopez at [lopezt@fleishman.com](mailto:lopezt@fleishman.com) or (312) 751-3617.