



GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2019

MOTORCYCLISTS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Motorcycle riders (operators and passengers) are **vulnerable** road users and **overrepresented** in fatal traffic crashes on Georgia roadways. The number of fatalities and injuries can be reduced with **safe riding practices and cooperation** from all road users. By **raising awareness** of both riders and drivers, all road users will be safer **sharing the road**.

THE NUMBERS

In 2019...

Motorcycle operators represented **21%** of all **driver fatalities**, but only **1%** of all **crashes in Georgia**.



Helmet use among motorcyclists involved in a motor vehicle crash **saved** an estimated **91 lives**.

Ambulance transports, ER visits, and hospitalizations were more common among motorcyclists aged **25 to 34 years**.



\$221 million total medical charges were incurred by Georgia motorcyclists who were seen or admitted to a hospital with a traffic motor vehicle injury.

12%
INCREASE

of motorcyclists fatally injured in a motor vehicle crash

2015 **152**

2019 **170**

REDUCE YOUR RISK



**WEAR YOUR
HELMET &
FULL BODY
GEAR**



**RIDE ALERT
STAY FOCUSED**



**RIDE
UNIMPAIRED**
(Alcohol, Drugs,
or Drowsy)



SLOW DOWN

FACTORS THAT LEAD TO CRASHES AMONG MOTORCYCLISTS

- Driver lost control
- Following too close
- Speeding
- Improper lane change
- Under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs



PREVENTION

- ☒ Obey all traffic laws, be properly licensed, and always use hand and turn signals.
- ☒ Wear a DOT-compliant helmet and other protective riding gear.
- ☒ Never ride impaired or distracted.
- ☒ Position yourself in the lane where you are most visible to other drivers.
- ☒ Weaving in between cars is dangerous and should be avoided.
- ☒ Avoid riding in poor weather conditions.
- ☒ Complete rider education courses, whether you are a first-time or an experienced rider.



2019 QUICK FACTS

Motorcycle Riders

88% of motorcycle operators in crashes were male. In crashes with motorcycle passengers, 77% were female.

Valid Motorcycle Designation

More than half (51%) of motorcycle operators involved in crashes were riding without a valid motorcycle designation (Class M or MP) on their driver's license at the time of the crash.

Location

The **majority** of motorcycle crashes occur in rural north Georgia, near the Georgia-Tennessee border. There is also a high occurrence of crashes in metro-Atlanta.

GEORGIA LAW

- ALL motorcyclists must wear a DOT-certified helmet when riding or operating a motorcycle.
- It is illegal for a motorcycle to "lane split" -- sharing the same lane with another vehicle or driving between two vehicles to pass them.
- Motorcyclists must have a Class M or MP designation on their license and carry auto insurance that meets the state minimum coverage.
- All motorcycles are entitled to full use of a lane.
- No more than two motorcycles can share a single lane side by side.
- Motorcycles are considered vehicles and must have a valid registration with the Georgia Department of Revenue.

RESOURCES

Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program

(GMSP) is a part of the Georgia Department of Driver Services. In addition to regulating rider education programs, the GMSP also promotes motorist awareness programs, share the road campaigns, and is focused on highway safety issues affecting Georgia motorcyclists.

dds.georgia.gov/gmsp-riders

HelmetCheck.org is your one-stop resource for motorcycle helmet information. Does your helmet pass the safety test?

helmetcheck.org

Motorcycle Legal Foundation

provides motorcycle accident legal information, in addition to safety and gear guides.

www.motorcyclelegalfoundation.com

Statewide Registration

There were approximately **1,940 motorcycle crashes** for every 100,000 motorcycle registrations statewide.

Manner of Collision

63% of all motorcycle crashes involved more than one vehicle. Nearly all vehicles involved in crashes with a motorcycle were passenger vehicles.



For more information and resources related to motorcycle safety:
<https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/shsp/task-team/motorcycles>