

GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2020

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 2020...

Motorcycle operators represented **21%** of all **driver fatalities**, but only **6%** of all **licensed drivers**.

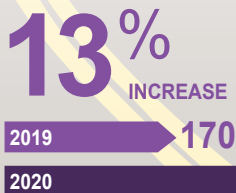


Helmet use among motorcyclists involved in a motor vehicle crash **saved** an estimated **103 lives**.

Nearly half (**46%**) of motorcycle operators involved in crashes were riding without a valid motorcycle designation (Class M or MP) on their driver's license.



\$230.5 million total motorcycle-related hospitalization and emergency room charges in Georgia.



of motorcyclists fatally injured in a motor vehicle crash

REDUCE YOUR RISK



WEAR YOUR HELMET & FULL BODY GEAR



RIDE ALERT STAY FOCUSED



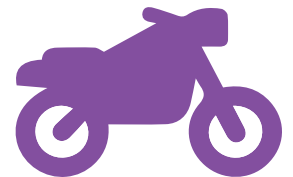
RIDE UNIMPAIRED
(By Alcohol, Drugs, or Drowsiness)



HAVE PROPER LICENSE AND RIDER EDUCATION

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 highly visible protective riding gear.
- Never ride impaired or distracted.
- Position yourself in the lane where you are most visible to other drivers. Avoid lane sharing.
- 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.



2020 QUICK FACTS

Motorcycle Riders

In crashes, **92%** of motorcycle **operators** were **male** and for motorcycle **passengers** **74%** were **female**.

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.

Motorcycle Injuries

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

Motorcycle Fatalities

The rate of motorcycle **fatalities** **increased by 11%**, from 83.6 to 92.8 motorcycle fatalities per 100,000 motorcycle registrations.

The **192 motorcyclist fatalities** represented **12%** of all traffic fatalities and is the **highest number** of motorcyclist fatalities experienced **in the past decade**.

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

Choose the Right Motorcycle Helmet

informs tips for choosing your motorcycle helmet.

www.nhtsa.gov/motorcycle-safety/choose-right-motorcycle-helmet

Motorcycle Legal Foundation

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



For more information and resources related to motorcycle safety:
<https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/georgia-traffic-safety-facts/>