



Iowa

1 of **16** states that mandates rider education for riders under a certain age.

1 of **3** states without a helmet law.

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	388	1,882,364	36	140,000
2005	450	1,841,522	45 (46)	146,362
2006	439	1,744,519	57	161,133

The data in parentheses was provided by the State of Iowa.

- In Iowa, motorcycle fatalities represented 9 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 7 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 10 percent of fatalities but 8 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 13 percent of fatalities but 9 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

GENERAL

- The Iowa DOT is the lead agency for motorcycle safety in Iowa.
- Iowa has a statewide motorcycle advisory committee.
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in Iowa.
- Iowa has a motorcycle safety plan, and motorcycle safety is an element of Iowa's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The Iowa DOT is responsible for motorcycle training and education.
- Basic and advanced rider training programs are offered in the state.
- Rider education is mandatory for people under 18.
- Training capacity is not an issue in Iowa.
- Iowa's motorcycle task force developed a conspicuity brochure entitled *Stay Alert - Stay Alive*. The brochure provides tips for motorcyclists on being more visible and reminders to motorists to look for motorcycles. The brochure is distributed through the state's rider and driver training courses, senior driver presentations and motorcycle groups. Last year, 50,000 brochures were distributed. This year, the state plans to distribute another 60,000 brochures.
- Information on sharing the road is included in the state's driving manual and the curriculum for novice drivers.



LICENSING

- The minimum age to apply for a motorcycle permit in Iowa is 14. The minimum age for a motorcycle license or endorsement is 16.
- Vision, knowledge and skill tests are required; however, the skills test may be waived for successful completion of a rider education course.
- Rider groups, dealers and law enforcement agencies work together to ensure proper licensing in Iowa.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Iowa is one of three states without a helmet law.
- In 2006, 49 of the 57 of the riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- Information about the benefits of helmet use is included in the state's rider education programs.

IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- Rider associations throughout the state educate motorcyclists about the dangers of driving impaired.
- Iowa recently sponsored a motorcycle safety forum to bring together various groups in the state interested in motorcycle safety. More than 325 people attended the forum and 15 vendors exhibited at the forum. Participants included motorcyclists, insurance representatives, emergency medical providers, share the road presenters, motorcycle dealers, state law enforcement, Rider Coaches, Rider Coach Trainers, DOT representatives, DOE representatives and neighboring state representatives. Discussion focused around the dangers and consequences of impaired riding. Participants were able to ride motorcycle simulators while wearing various levels of impairment goggles. Law enforcement personnel also provided sobriety field testing demonstrations. Evaluations of the forum were extremely positive with a high percentage of folks indicating they would return for future forums.
- All of the state's impaired driving mobilization campaigns include motorcyclists.

RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- The motorcycle safety program is supported by motorcycle license fees. The safety program receives \$1.00 per year of validity of each license issued with the motorcycle endorsement.
- Iowa received a 2010 Motorcycle Safety Grant. Grant money supported a statewide motorcycle safety forum and the development and distribution of 60,000 brochures.
- \$70,000 of federal funding was obligated to motorcycle safety in 2007.