



# Massachusetts

**1 of 16**

states, the District of Columbia and Guam without a motorcycle advisory committee.

**1 of 20**

states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico that has a universal helmet law.

**1 of 17**

states with an education effort to increase helmet use.

**1 of 9**

states and Puerto Rico with a program to help law enforcement identify non-compliant helmets.

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	476	3,504,943	60	136,887
2005	441	3,367,754	56 (54)	139,796
2006	430	3,310,725	50 (49)	143,853

The data in parentheses was provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- In Massachusetts, motorcycle fatalities represented 13 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 13 percent of fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 12 percent of fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

#### GENERAL

- The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is the lead agency for motorcycle safety in Massachusetts.
- Massachusetts does not have an active statewide motorcycle advisory committee. However, an advisory panel is currently being considered as a possibility.
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in Massachusetts.
- Massachusetts has a motorcycle safety plan, and motorcycle safety is a component of the state's strategic safety plan.
- Several key objectives of the fiscal year 2007 Strategic Highway Safety Plan relate to motorcycle safety, including: expanding and evaluating rider training programs with a special emphasis on increasing first-time participation by older riders; expanding and evaluating *Sharing the Road* efforts; and expanding and evaluating education efforts on the dangers of impaired riding, proper gear use and licensing requirements.
- The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's FFY 2008 Highway Safety Performance Plan funded paid media placements and a direct mail initiative. Radio ads with a message of *Check Twice, Save a Life - Motorcycles Are Everywhere* will be designed to be placed and aired during commuting drive times, when most fatalities caused by passenger cars occur. A letter to those who have a registered motorcycle but no license will be mailed in order to encourage licensure.

#### RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The Massachusetts RMV is responsible for rider training and education.
- The MSF's Basic, Intermediate and Experienced RiderCourses<sup>SM</sup> are offered in the state.
- Rider education classes are required for riders under 18 and those individuals who fail the RMV's skills test twice.



- Training capacity is not an issue in Massachusetts.
- Massachusetts has a *Sharing the Road* program. In fiscal year 2005, the Massachusetts RMV used federal funds to create and run a sharing the road television ad. State funds were used to place ads on subway trains to promote its motorcycle safety training courses.
- The Massachusetts Rider Education Program (REP) also printed 16,000 *Check Twice, Save a Life - Motorcycles Are Everywhere* bumper stickers and gave several thousand copies to the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association to distribute. These stickers were also placed on Massachusetts Highway Department vehicles. The REP played its Emmy-winning Blindspot commercial on cable TV, focusing on Massachusetts counties that had the highest crash rates, in order to alert drivers about the dangers of turning left in front of motorcycles.
- In another initiative, the Massachusetts REP put the *Check Twice* message in variable message signs along major Massachusetts roadways to New Hampshire during the Laconia Bike Week to alert drivers of the high volume of motorcycles at this time. Additionally, the Massachusetts RMV included a *Check Twice* message on its renewal notices for motor vehicle registrations.
- In 2007, the Massachusetts RMV added a section on sharing the road with motorcycles and commercial vehicles to the new driver education curriculum. Information on sharing the road with motorcyclists is included in the state's driving manual.
- Massachusetts has a conspicuity education program.

#### LICENSING

- The minimum age for a motorcycle license/endorsement is 16 years and six months in Massachusetts.
- For a motorcycle permit, a vision test and knowledge test are required. A RMV motorcycle license road test or MSF training course is required to obtain the motorcycle license.
- In Massachusetts, the road test and fee are waived for riders who take a motorcycle safety course. This waiver applies to riders under 18.
- Motorcycle schools, the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association, Motorcycle Expo staff, motorcycle dealerships and state agencies, including law enforcement agencies, all work together to encourage proper licensing.

#### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Massachusetts has a universal helmet law.
- In 2006, five of the 50 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- The state provides information at motorcycle expos, safety days at motorcycle dealerships and at motorcycle safety schools to encourage proper helmet use.
- Training on identifying non-compliant helmets is addressed during recruit training at law enforcement academies.

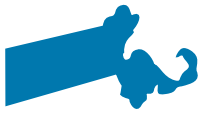
#### IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- Massachusetts has an alcohol public service announcement to educate riders about the dangers of riding impaired. The state also encourages the use of Fatal Vision® goggles at motorcycle expos, safety days at motorcycle dealerships, State Police Motorcycle Safety Days and motorcycle safety schools.

**1** of **17**  
states without a training  
capacity problem.

**1** of **27**  
states and Puerto Rico  
with anti-impaired riding  
education efforts for  
motorcycle riders.

**1** of **21**  
states and Puerto Rico  
that includes motorcycles  
in highway engineering  
issues.



# Massachusetts

## HIGHWAY ENGINEERING

- The Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) considers motorcycle issues in its construction projects by using message boards. If MHD is resurfacing roads, staff put up signs stating *Motorcycles Use Caution*. Motorcycle safety issues are not addressed in training for maintenance or construction personnel.

## RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- \$2.00 from each motorcycle registration supports the motorcycle rider education program.
- In FFY 2008, Massachusetts is projected to spend \$108,810 through the Massachusetts REP on share the road radio ads and a motorcycle license education direct mail piece.
- In FFY 2007, Massachusetts received a 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant in the amount of \$108,810 and FFY 2006 rollover money was added to it. A total of \$102,566 was expended in FFY 2007.
- In FFY 2007, \$35,994.42 of federal 402 funding was obligated and \$0 expended.
- In FFY 2006, \$111,845 of federal funding was obligated to motorcycle safety (Section 2010) but not spent. The money was rolled forward to FFY 2007.
- \$35,000 obligated and \$4,005 expended in FFY 2006 (402 funding).
- In FFY 2004, \$60,000 of federal funding (402 funding) was obligated to motorcycle safety but not spent. However, \$61,883 of federal 402 funding was spent in FFY 2005 to develop a *Ride Straight* TV ad and a share the road TV ad.