



# Maine

**1 of 16**

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

**1 of 12**

states, the District of Columbia and Guam without a motorcycle safety plan.

**1 of 2**

states whose driving manual doesn't include information about sharing the road with motorcyclists.

**1 of 3**

states that mandates rider education for all riders.

**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.

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	194 (161)	608,700	22	38,712
2005	169 (141)	588,851	15	40,477
2006	188 (150)	581,797	23	45,488

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

- In Maine, motorcycle fatalities represented 11 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 6 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 7 percent of fatalities but 3 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 12 percent of fatalities but 8 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

#### GENERAL

- The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety is the lead agency for all behavioral highway safety programs. The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety (BHS) and the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) share an interest in motorcycle safety and have partnered on various educational and awareness campaigns through media campaigns and distribution of educational pamphlets on topics such as sharing the road with motorcycles and riding straight.
- Maine does not have an official statewide motorcycle advisory committee.
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in Maine.
- The Maine BHS has helped the BMV obtain new training motorcycles and send additional people to the advanced instructor trainer course.
- Motorcycle safety is an element in Maine's Highway Safety Plan and Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

#### RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The Maine BMV is solely responsible for training and education. Rider education is offered privately by rider education schools and instructors who are licensed and regulated by BMV and trained by both the BMV and the MSF.
- All applicants must complete a rider education course of some form to obtain a motorcycle license or endorsement.
- Three training classes are offered in Maine, two of which target new riders. The first is an eight hour classroom-only course titled the Maine Motorcycle Safety Education Course (MMSEC). This course was developed in conjunction with MSF and uses information contained in the classroom portion of MSF's Basic RiderCourse<sup>SM</sup> (BRC) with additional information specific to the State of Maine. This course is required to obtain a motorcycle instruction permit.



- The second course is MSF's BRC, a five hour classroom and a 10 hour hands-on training course on a closed range. The course is designed to provide necessary safety skills on a motorcycle. At the successful completion of this course, if a student is at least 16 years old and has any type of license, they would be eligible for a road test waiver for addition of the endorsement.
- The third course is MSF's Experienced RiderCourse<sup>SM</sup> that is designed for licensed riders with at least three months of riding experience. This course reinforces and builds on beginning skills but is not a required course.
- Training capacity for hands-on training is an issue in Maine, but the BMV is using federal funds to actively recruit and support more providers and rider coaches. Federal funding is also used to reimburse BRC rider coaches who successfully complete MSF's RiderCoach Preparation Course.
- Maine has a *Sharing the Road* program. In 2007, the Maine HSO, the Office of the Secretary of State and various motorcycle organizations partnered for the first time on a public awareness campaign designed to educate the public about the causes of motorcycle/motor vehicle crashes. Two educational and awareness radio spots were created and played from May through Labor Day. These spots focused on educating motorists to look for motorcyclists. Maine also borrowed a television public service announcement from Idaho that was customized for Maine. The public service announcement ran from May to September.
- The sharing the road section of Maine's driving manual does not include information about sharing the road with motorcycles.
- Information on sharing the road with motorcycles is a required component of Maine's novice driver curriculum.
- Rider training programs in the state contain sections that specifically address being visible to other roadway users through: lane positioning; use of lights and signals; and wearing bright, reflective personal safety equipment.
- The Maine BHS has produced a State of Maine motorcycle safety map. It depicts eight scenic motorcycle routes in the state and provides motorcycle safety messages. The maps are distributed to motorcycle clubs, BMV offices, tourism centers and dealerships throughout the state.

#### LICENSING

- The minimum age to receive a motorcycle license or endorsement in Maine is 16.
- Vision, knowledge and skills/road tests are required of applicants; however, the knowledge and road test may be waived for riders who successfully complete the BRC and hold a valid license of some form. The waiver does not apply to graduates of the MMSEC.
- The state works with rider groups, dealers and rider education providers to encourage proper licensing.

#### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Riders of all ages are required to wear helmets during the first year of licensure. Passengers under 15 are also required to wear helmets.
- In 2006, 16 of the 23 fatally injured riders in Maine were not wearing helmets.
- Information on the benefits of helmet use is included in the state's training programs.



# Maine

## **IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING**

- All of the state's impaired driving mobilization campaigns include motorcyclists.
- Media outreach and a motorcycle map are used to educate motorcyclists about the dangers of driving impaired.
- The state also makes an anti-impaired riding program developed by the MSF called *Ride Straight* available upon request.
- Maine's SFST program includes impaired motorcyclist detection tools. This NHTSA program provides training on the proper ways to conduct field sobriety testing and signs to look for with impaired drivers.

## **HIGHWAY ENGINEERING**

- The Maine DOT is meeting with various motorcycle groups on roadway design and hazards such as rumble strips and how those affect motorcycle riders. They are also working to address concerns such as hard to see signs and sign placement.

## **RESOURCES AND FUNDING**

- State highway funds and federal grant money are used to fund the rider education program.
- Maine received a 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant in 2006 and 2007. The funds have been spent on: Rider Coach recruitment and retention, training equipment, technology for program monitoring, motorcycle safety-related programs geared towards new car drivers and motorcyclists and television and radio spots encouraging drivers to look for motorcycles.
- \$100,000 of federal funding was obligated to motorcycle safety in 2006 and used in 2007.