



# New Mexico

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	521 (522)	695,825	39 (33)	36,294
2005	488	686,258	38 (43)	37,663
2006	484 (439)	699,312	43 (44)	43,495

The data in parentheses was provided by the State of New Mexico.

- In New Mexico, motorcycle fatalities represented 7 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 5 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 8 percent of fatalities but 5 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 9 percent of fatalities but 6 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

## GENERAL

- The New Mexico Highway Safety Office is the lead agency for motorcycle safety.
- New Mexico has an active motorcycle advisory committee. Members include representatives from: dealers, the New Mexico DOT Traffic Safety Bureau (NMDOT/TSB), the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD), law enforcement, ABATE, the MSF and rider coaches.
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in New Mexico.
- New Mexico has a motorcycle safety plan, and motorcycle safety is included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

## RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The HSO is responsible for rider training and education.
- The MSF's Basic and Experienced RiderCourses<sup>SM</sup> are offered in the state.
- Training capacity is not an issue in New Mexico.
- New Mexico has a *Sharing the Road* program. The program includes posters, bumper stickers and handouts educating the public on how to safely *Share the Road* with motorcyclists. Idaho's innovative motorcycle safety public service announcement *Think, look twice for motorcyclists* has been used in New Mexico. Idaho sent the spot to the NMDOT free of charge and NMDOT used the spot as part of its *100 Days and Nights of Summer* traffic safety campaign. The state plans to continue using the spot in future campaigns.
- Information on sharing the road with motorcyclists is included in the driver license manual and in the mandatory curriculum for novice drivers.
- Conspicuity information is included in the rider training classes offered in New Mexico.



**1 of 28**

states and Puerto Rico where the Highway Safety Office is the lead agency for motorcycle safety.

**1 of 17**

states without a training capacity problem.

**1 of 21**

states and Puerto Rico that includes motorcycles in highway engineering issues.



# New Mexico

## LICENSING

- Law enforcement stops, insurance requirements and educational efforts that increase awareness and interpretation of state and local laws are all used to encourage proper licensing.
- Dealers, NMDOT/TSB, MVD, law enforcement, ABATE and the MSF rider coaches all work together to encourage proper licensing.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- In New Mexico, riders under 18 are required to wear helmets.
- In 2006, 32 of the 43 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- Information on the benefits of helmet use is provided in the rider education programs offered in the state.

## IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- Information on the dangers of riding impaired is included in the state's rider training programs.
- New Mexico's SFST training coordinator provides NHTSA training materials to law enforcement officers to help them detect impaired motorcyclists. This NHTSA program provides training on the proper ways to conduct field sobriety testing and signs to look for with impaired drivers.
- The NMDOT/TSB has doubled the efforts of full time law enforcement in the counties with the highest drunk driving crash fatality rate and funded over 700 driving while intoxicated checkpoints. *You Drink. You Drive. You Lose.* has become a statewide slogan.

## HIGHWAY ENGINEERING

- Center-line rumble strips are not used in passing zones on New Mexico's highways. Lateral rumble strips are also rarely used in the state. In the City of Albuquerque, the DOT put gaps in lateral rumble strip areas in specific intersections to allow motorcyclists to navigate through without hitting the lateral strips.

## RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- Motorcycle registrations include a designated \$2.00 fee for motorcycle training programs.
- State funding is used to administer a quality motorcycle training program through a contract with the MSF.
- New Mexico received a 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant. The funds were used to: purchase training motorcycles and helmets, pay for professional development for rider educators and develop media/education materials.
- \$100,000 of federal funding was annually obligated to motorcycle safety in 2004, 2005 and 2006.