

South Carolina



Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	1,046	1,922,964 (3,541,043)	88	60,029 (87,539)
2005	1,094	1,933,281 (3,585,879)	106	63,022 (87,603)
2006	1,037	1,964,994 (3,704,689)	109	87,774 (88,021)

The data in parentheses was provided by the State of South Carolina.

- In South Carolina, motorcycle fatalities represented 8 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 3 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 9 percent of fatalities but 3 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 11 percent of fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

GENERAL

- The South Carolina Department of Public Safety's Office of Highway Safety (OHS) is the lead agency for motorcycle safety.
- South Carolina has an active motorcycle safety task force. Members include representatives from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (including the Highway Patrol and the Office of Highway Safety), the South Carolina DOT, the DMV, the South Carolina Motorcycle Dealers Association, ABATE, the South Carolina Rider Education Program and the South Carolina Technical College System.
- In 2007, NHTSA conducted an assessment of South Carolina's motorcycle safety program. The motorcycle safety task force is currently reviewing recommendations made as a result of the assessment. Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in South Carolina.
- Motorcycle crashes are included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The South Carolina Technical College System, working in conjunction with the South Carolina's Motorcycle Dealers Association, is responsible for rider training and education.
- The MSF's Basic, Intermediate and Advanced RiderCoursesSM are offered in South Carolina.
- Training capacity is not an issue in South Carolina.
- South Carolina does not have a *Sharing the Road* program.
- Information on sharing the road with motorcycles is not included in the state's driving manual or curriculum for new drivers.
- Conspicuity information is provided in the training programs offered in the state and in the driver manual.

1 of **28**

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

1 of **18**

states that had a NHTSA assessment of its motorcycle safety program.

1 of **17**

states without a training capacity problem.

1 of **6**

states, the District of Columbia and Guam without a Sharing the Road Program.



South Carolina

1 of 2

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

The mandatory curriculum for novice drivers doesn't include sharing the road information.

1 of 17

states and Puerto Rico with anti-impaired riding enforcement efforts.

1 of 21

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

LICENSING

- The minimum age for a motorcycle license/endorsement is 15.
- Vision, knowledge and skills tests are required; however, the skills test is waived for successful completion of a rider training course.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Riders under 21 are required to wear helmets.
- In 2006, 81 of the 109 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- Information on the benefits of helmet use is provided in the training manuals offered in the state and driver manual.

IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- South Carolina reaches motor vehicles operators, including motorcyclists, with strong anti-DUI messages and enhanced enforcement through its sustained DUI enforcement campaign. This campaign features two enforcement mobilization crackdowns, Christmas/New Year's holidays and Labor Day (coinciding with the national DUI enforcement mobilization crackdown), and monthly specialized DUI enforcement by participating law enforcement agencies throughout the state, including the State Highway Patrol, the State Transport Police and more than 130 local law enforcement agencies. The campaign also utilizes paid and earned media to get the anti-DUI message of the campaign out to the general public. For the past four years, the state has conducted motorcycle safety campaigns during the months of May and September at designated locations, particularly Horry County. These months feature major motorcycle rallies in Horry County in May and a Harley Davidson rally in September that moves from county to county throughout the state. The safety campaigns are largely educational in nature, featuring paid media (television, radio and billboards) and distribution of educational materials. In 2007, the campaign focused on the dangers of impaired riding.
- The state implemented anti-impaired riding campaigns for the major motorcycle rallies conducted in the state during the months of May (Myrtle Beach), September (Spartanburg) and October (Myrtle Beach). The campaigns included the posting of billboards, print ads in motorcycle rally guides and information posted on Chamber of Commerce websites.
- The South Carolina OHS is currently working on getting literature to all law enforcement in the state to assist them in detecting impaired motorcyclists. The South Carolina OHS conducted an additional motorcycle safety initiative during 2007 by reprinting a NHTSA's *Detection of Driving While Intoxicated Motorcyclists* brochure. This informational brochure, designed to help law enforcement officers detect impaired riders, was distributed to all traffic enforcement officers in South Carolina.

HIGHWAY ENGINEERING

- The state DOT considers motorcycle issues in its construction projects.

RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- Federal 402 funds were used to initiate the motorcycle rider training program. The rider training program is currently being supported by the South Carolina Technical College System.
- \$139,566, \$119,997 and \$62,650 of federal funds were obligated to motorcycle safety in 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively.