



Washington

1 of 20
states, the District of Columbia
and Puerto Rico that has a
universal helmet law.

1 of 9
states and Puerto Rico
with a program to help law
enforcement identify
non-compliant helmets.

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

1 of 17
states without a training
capacity problem.

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	567	3,034,253	73	160,227
2005	649	3,061,330	74	172,200
2006	630	3,087,818	80	194,263

- In Washington, motorcycle fatalities represented 13 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 5 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 11 percent of fatalities but 6 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 13 percent of fatalities but 6 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

GENERAL

- The Washington State Patrol's Department of Licensing (DOL) and the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) are the lead agencies for motorcycle safety.
- Washington has an active motorcycle advisory committee. Members include representatives from: the Washington DOL, the Washington State Patrol and numerous members of organized motorcycle rider groups and motorcycle dealerships. WTSC is an ad-hoc member.
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in Washington.
- Washington has a motorcycle safety plan, and motorcycle crashes are included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- In 2002, NHTSA conducted an assessment of Washington's motorcycle safety program.

RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The Washington DOL is responsible for rider education and training.
- A rider skills course is offered in Washington.
- Training capacity is not an issue in Washington; however, the state has approved funds to increase educational opportunities ensure that it does not become an issue in the future.
- Washington has a *Sharing the Road* program.
- This past year, the WTSC used federal funds to develop a new media campaign called *Endorse Your Sport*. This multi media campaign (radio, television and Internet advertisements) targeted the unendorsed rider.
- Information on sharing the road with motorcycles is included in the state's driving manual but not in the curriculum for novice drivers.



LICENSING

- The minimum age to receive a motorcycle license/endorsement is 16 in Washington.
- Since July 2007, a law has been in place that allows law enforcement officers to immediately impound vehicles if the operator is not properly licensed and/or endorsed.
- In 2007, the legislature also increased the motorcycle endorsement fee and dedicated the increase to expanding the state's training program.
- Rider groups, dealers, the Washington State Patrol and all local law enforcement agencies work together to encourage proper licensing.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Washington has a universal helmet law.
- In 2006, six of the 80 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- Information on the benefits of helmet use is included in the training programs offered in the state.
- Training is provided to law enforcement officers to help them identify non-compliant helmets.

IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- Information on the dangers of impaired motorcycling is included in the state's rider training courses and public education campaigns in the state.
- Washington encourages private organizations to conduct alcohol and drug free motorcycling events.
- In 2006, an impaired riding video was jointly developed by the Washington State Patrol and the WTSC. This video was presented at WTSC conferences and presented to all law enforcement agencies in the state.
- All of the state's impaired driving mobilization campaigns include motorcyclists.

HIGHWAY ENGINEERING

- State law requires that all road construction sites be marked as hazardous road conditions for approaching motorcycles.

RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- Motorcycle endorsement fees support the rider education program.
- Washington received a 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant. The funds were used to finance a statewide motorcycle campaign called *Endorse your Sport*.
- Federal funds have also been used to support law enforcement crash investigation classes, printed materials and limited overtime enforcement for individual community events
- \$75,000, \$75,000 and \$112,000 of federal funds were obligated to motorcycle safety in 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively.

1 of 27

states and Puerto Rico with anti-impaired riding education efforts for motorcycle riders.

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.

1 of 18

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