



West Virginia

1 of 28

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

1 of 8

states, the District of Columbia and Guam that hasn't identified motorcycle crashes as a priority crash problem.

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.

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	410 (408)	740,834	27 (28)	19,534
2005	374 (408)	699,765	34 (33)	17,702
2006	410	734,599	38	40,730

The data in parentheses was provided by the State of West Virginia.

- In West Virginia, motorcycle fatalities represented 7 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 9 percent of fatalities but 6 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

GENERAL

- The West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is the lead agency for motorcycle safety.
- West Virginia has an active statewide motorcycle advisory committee. Members include: the West Virginia State Police, the West Virginia Health and Human Resources, a state tourism representative, ABATE, motorcycle dealers and a valid motorcycle rider.
- Motorcycle crashes are not a priority crash problem in West Virginia.
- West Virginia has a motorcycle safety plan, and motorcycle crashes are included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- In 1999, NHTSA conducted an assessment of West Virginia's motorcycle safety program.

RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The West Virginia GHSP is responsible for rider education and training.
- The MSF's Basic and Experienced RiderCoursesSM are offered in West Virginia. Harley Davidson's Riders Edge[®] program is also offered in the state.
- There are no requirements or mandates for a rider to receive motorcycle training or education; it is all up to the individual, although part of the training is paid for by the state.
- West Virginia has adequate training capacity. The average wait time is three to four weeks in both the spring and fall. By the end of 2008, West Virginia hopes to offer a class at each of the three mobile training units across the state.
- West Virginia has a *Sharing the Road* program. The West Virginia Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program recently purchased one hundred thirty copies of the MSF's *Common Road* kits and provided one to each driver education teacher in the state. The instructors were asked to incorporate the modules into their program in an effort to reduce motorcycle accidents.



- Information on sharing the road with motorcycles is included in the driver manual and curriculum for novice drivers.
- Conspicuity information is provided in the state's rider training courses.

LICENSING

- The minimum age to receive a motorcycle license/endorsement is 16 in West Virginia.
- Vision, knowledge and skill tests are required of all applicants.
- The state uses public service announcements, literature and billboard advertising to encourage proper licensing. In 2007, the state created and placed billboard advertisements on 20 billboards across the state reminding motorcyclists of the state's licensing requirements. The state also distributed tip cards and gave away posters at motorcycle rallies reminding riders of the state's licensing requirements.
- The West Virginia DMV, the West Virginia State Board of Education and the West Virginia State Police all work together to encourage proper licensing.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- West Virginia has a universal helmet law.
- In 2006, nine of the 38 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- Information on the benefits on helmet use is provided in talks and presentations given by motorcycle program staff.
- The state provides training for state and local law enforcement to help them identify non-compliant helmets.

IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- In 2006, advertisements highlighting the dangers of impaired riding and the change in the implementation of the .08 law were placed in all the state's DMV offices. Posters and pins were also produced and made available to the general public and motorcycle organizations for rallies and motorcycle functions.
- In 2006, the state implemented the *Ride Straight* campaign designed by the AMA and NHTSA. In 2007, the state created and placed billboard advertisements with the *Ride Straight* message in multiple locations across the state near major intersection and high traffic areas.
- West Virginia encourages private organizations to conduct alcohol and drug-free motorcycling events.
- West Virginia has State Police in-service training programs. Uniform police officers in West Virginia are required to attend yearly in-service training. The State Police program has a three hour block of training dedicated to detecting non-compliant helmets and impaired riders.

RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- The rider education program is funded by the state's motorcycle safety fund. A percentage of the receipts from motorcycle license and registration fees are placed in the fund.
- West Virginia received a 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant. The money was used to purchase a mobile training unit.
- In 2006, \$100,000 in federal funding was obligated to motorcycle safety.

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 **17**
states and Puerto Rico
with anti-impaired riding
enforcement efforts.

1 of **18**
states that had a
NHTSA assessment of
its motorcycle safety
program.