

Rhode Island



Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	83	531,872	10	26,506
2005	87	516,728	14	28,644
2006	81	508,389	16	31,131

- In Rhode Island, motorcycle fatalities represented 12 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 5 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 16 percent of fatalities but 6 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 20 percent of fatalities but 6 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

GENERAL

- The Rhode Island Department of Transportation's (RIDOT) Office of Highway Safety (OHS) is responsible for motorcycle safety.
- Rhode Island is in the process of forming a motorcycle advisory committee. The first meeting is planned for May 2008 as part of Motorcycle Awareness Month. This committee will include representatives from: the Rhode Island Office of Highway Safety, the Rhode Island State Police, the Department of Health, the DMV, the Rhode Island Motorcycle Association, the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), local motorcycle clubs, retail and repair shops and the Rhode Island Hospitality Association.
- Rhode Island has a motorcycle safety plan, and motorcycle safety is included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The Governor's Board of Higher Education is responsible for rider training and education. Their designee is the CCRI.
- The MSF's Basic, Advanced and Experienced RiderCoursesSM are offered in Rhode Island.
- All riders are required to complete rider education courses.
- Training capacity is not an issue in Rhode Island.
- Rhode Island has a Sharing the Road program. Rhode Island's efforts began with the development of a media campaign geared toward the general motoring public. The purpose of the campaign was to educate drivers that motorcyclists are normal people, both male and female, that come from all walks of life and a variety of professions.
- The OHS bought media during the last week of April and into the middle of May to promote Motorcycle Awareness Month. The newly developed public service announcement was aired over 140 times during the three week period. This message was also carried through the summer of 2007 on RIDOT variable message signs throughout the state. *Motorcycles Are Everywhere* was the message carried every weekend, beginning Friday at noon and ending Sunday at midnight. The state analyzed five years worth

1 of 28

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

1 of 3

states that mandates rider education for all riders.

1 of 2

states that doesn't offer rider education waivers.

1 of 17

states without a training capacity problem.

1 of 21

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



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of crash data and identified weekends as heightened motorcycle crash periods. The state has made a concerted effort to meet with organized motorcycle groups and the state's largest motorcycle lobby to discuss common issues to make progress towards the common goal of motorcycle safety and awareness.

- Rhode Island developed a postcard campaign for motorcyclists that will be distributed by the Rhode Island DMV to all licensed riders. The postcard will have tips for a safe riding season, including a *Don't Drink and Ride* message.
- Information on sharing the road with motorcycles is included in the state's driving manual and in the curriculum for novice drivers.
- Conspicuity information is provided in the rider training courses offered in the state.

LICENSING

- The minimum age to receive a motorcycle license/endorsement in Rhode Island is 16 (with parental consent).
- Vision, knowledge, skills/road and road sign tests are required of all applicants.
- No waivers are offered for successful completion of rider education courses.
- Rider groups, dealers, law enforcement and others all work together to encourage proper licensing.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Helmets are required for all riders under 21. Helmets are required for all riders during the first year of licensure, regardless of age. All motorcycle passengers are also required to wear helmets.
- In 2006, 11 of the 16 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- Information on the benefits of helmet use and other protective equipment is provided in the state's training programs.

IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- Rhode Island is developing an anti-drunk driving media campaign with a special message to motorcyclists to not drink and ride.
- The state has also done outreach to groups and asked that they promote events that do not emphasize or include alcohol.
- Private groups are encouraged to conduct drug and alcohol free riding events.
- All of the state's impaired driving mobilization campaigns include motorcyclists.

HIGHWAY ENGINEERING

- Work Zone signs warn motorcyclists of impending changes in grade that wouldn't necessarily affect other motor vehicles.

RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- Motorcycle registration fees are used to fund the motorcycle education program.
- Rhode Island received a 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant. The funds were used for a paid media campaign promoting motorcycle awareness. They will be used in the future to: support the motorcycle advisory committee; update training equipment; conduct outreach to motorcyclists through the DMV; and implement a paid media campaign emphasizing driver awareness, anti-impaired riding and safety equipment messages.