



Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	197	395,975 (847,285)	26	41,602 (41,579)
2005	186	384,673 (846,191)	22	46,409 (46,383)
2006	191	375,760 (888,908)	22	53,481 (53,451)

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

- In South Dakota, motorcycle fatalities represented 13 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 11 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 12 percent of fatalities and 12 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 11 percent of fatalities and 14 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

**GENERAL**

- The South Dakota HSO is the lead agency for motorcycle safety. As the lead agency, the South Dakota HSO manages federal and state motorcycle safety grants and coordinates statewide motorcycle safety activities and promotion.
- South Dakota has an active motorcycle advisory committee. The committee includes representatives from: the South Dakota Safety Council, ABATE, local police departments, local sheriff's offices, state highway patrol, American Indian tribes, the South Dakota DOT, the South Dakota Office of Accident Records, South Dakota Emergency Medical Services, FHWA and other highway safety grantees.
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in South Dakota.
- South Dakota has a comprehensive motorcycle safety plan to reduce motorcycle crashes, fatalities and injuries. The strategies include the following:
  - Encouraging motorcycle safety training for all motorcycle licensees.
  - Working with insurance companies to encourage premium reductions for safety course graduates.
  - Evaluating crash statistics.
  - Working with the DOT to provide early identification of road hazards.
  - Enhancing motorcyclist awareness of safety equipment such as protective clothing, helmets, etc.
  - Motorcycle safety is included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

**RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- The South Dakota HSO partners with the South Dakota Safety Council (Safety Council) to provide motorcycle training across the state.

**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 17**  
states with an education effort to increase helmet use.

**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.



# South Dakota

- The Safety Council offers the MSF's Basic and Advanced RiderCourses<sup>SM</sup> in South Dakota.
- South Dakota has a *Sharing the Road* program. Using NHTSA's, *Share the Road* program as a guide, South Dakota provides public education on *Sharing the Road* with motorcycles through TV and radio ads, typically running from May-August each year.
- Information on sharing the road with motorcycles is included in the state's driver and the motorcycle manual.
- Conspicuity information is included in the rider training programs offered in the state.

## LICENSING

- The minimum age for a motorcycle instruction or restricted permit is 14.
- A motorcycle instruction permit requires a vision and knowledge test. After holding the instruction permit for 180 days, riders may upgrade to a restricted permit, or if they've successfully completed an approved drivers education course, they only have to hold the instruction permit for 90 days before upgrading to a restricted permit. If the person has passed both the drivers education and a motorcycle safety course, they only need to hold the instruction permit for 30 days before upgrading.
- To obtain a restricted motorcycle permit, the person must be 14; pass the vision, knowledge and motorcycle driving test; complete the instruction permit requirements; and not have had a traffic violation for six months prior.
- To obtain a motorcycle operator's license, a person must be 16 and pass the vision, knowledge and motorcycle driving test. If under 18 years of age but at least 16, they must have completed the instruction permit requirements.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Riders under 18 are required to wear helmets.
- In 2006, 17 of the 22 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- Promotion of safety equipment, including helmets, is provided through the basic and experienced motorcycle driving courses, in public education ads on TV and radio and in print resource materials. Extensive information on helmets is provided in the motorcycle driving manual.

## IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- South Dakota provides public education on impaired motorcycle riding in motorcycle safety courses, in the motorcycle driving manual, and through television advertisements.
- Identification of impaired motorcycle driving, including standard field sobriety testing, is part of law enforcement training.

## HIGHWAY ENGINEERING

- The South Dakota DOT is involved in motorcycle issues particularly in the Sturgis area. Every year approximately 500,000 motorcycle enthusiasts travel to South Dakota for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. The Rally only lasts for 10 days, but there is a significant increase in motorcyclists in the Black Hills area for a month or more each summer. Motorcycle safety is a significant part of the engineering of the roads, construction and traffic signals in the Black

Hills area and other roads in the state that lead to the Black Hills. The South Dakota DOT works to provide road design that accommodates a large volume of motorcycle traffic and provides signage with drawings of exits and roads to make navigation as easy as possible.

- The HSO provides support for a Black Hills riding difficulty map. Through a project agreement with the HSO, the state's ABATE association creates and distributes an area map for motorcyclists that rates the riding difficulty of roads in the Black Hills. Nearly 50,000 maps are printed and distributed each year across the state at no charge to the general public.
- The HSO operates a year-round road hazard hotline with coordination from South Dakota ABATE. Motorcyclists can call the toll-free line to report road hazardous road conditions. After a designated ABATE member confirms the hazard, the hazard information is relayed to the South Dakota DOT that then corrects the hazard.

#### **RESOURCES AND FUNDING**

- Motorcycle registration fees are used to support motorcycle safety programs in the state.
- South Dakota received a 2010 Motorcycle Safety Grant. 2010 funds are used to promote motorcycle rider courses, provide public educational materials and support public education media expenses.
- Federal 402 funds are used in conjunction with 2010 funds for motorcycle safety projects.
- \$60,000, \$54,304 and \$102,300 of federal funds (402 and 2010) were expended for motorcycle safety projects in 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively.