



NHTSA

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Motorcycle Safety Program 2021 “What The Data Says.”

Texas Motorcycle Safety Forum

Virtual Event

Saturday, May 1st, 2021



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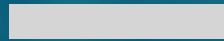




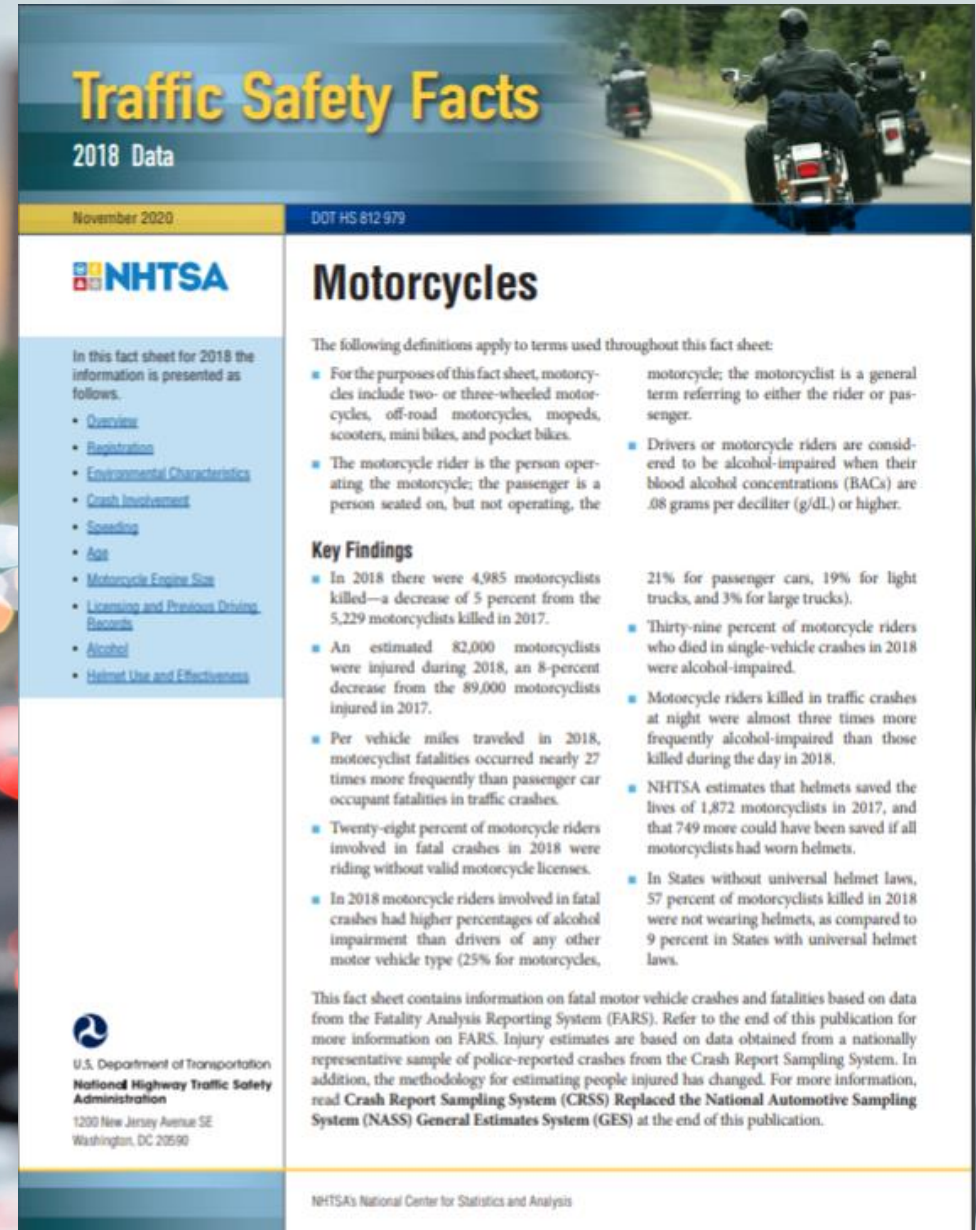
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“What The Data Says.” Source



<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812979>



Traffic Safety Facts
2018 Data

November 2020 DOT HS 812 979

NHTSA

In this fact sheet for 2018 the information is presented as follows.

- [Overview](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Environmental Characteristics](#)
- [Crash Involvement](#)
- [Speeding](#)
- [Age](#)
- [Motorcycle Engine Size](#)
- [Licensing and Previous Driving Records](#)
- [Alcohol](#)
- [Helmet Use and Effectiveness](#)

Motorcycles

The following definitions apply to terms used throughout this fact sheet:

- For the purposes of this fact sheet, motorcycles include two- or three-wheeled motorcycles, off-road motorcycles, mopeds, scooters, mini bikes, and pocket bikes.
- The motorcycle rider is the person operating the motorcycle; the passenger is a person seated on, but not operating, the motorcycle; the motorcyclist is a general term referring to either the rider or passenger.
- Drivers or motorcycle riders are considered to be alcohol-impaired when their blood alcohol concentrations (BACs) are .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher.

Key Findings

- In 2018 there were 4,985 motorcyclists killed—a decrease of 5 percent from the 5,229 motorcyclists killed in 2017.
- An estimated 82,000 motorcyclists were injured during 2018, an 8-percent decrease from the 89,000 motorcyclists injured in 2017.
- Per vehicle miles traveled in 2018, motorcyclist fatalities occurred nearly 27 times more frequently than passenger car occupant fatalities in traffic crashes.
- Twenty-eight percent of motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes in 2018 were riding without valid motorcycle licenses.
- In 2018 motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes had higher percentages of alcohol impairment than drivers of any other motor vehicle type (25% for motorcycles, 21% for passenger cars, 19% for light trucks, and 3% for large trucks).
- Thirty-nine percent of motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2018 were alcohol-impaired.
- Motorcycle riders killed in traffic crashes at night were almost three times more frequently alcohol-impaired than those killed during the day in 2018.
- NHTSA estimates that helmets saved the lives of 1,872 motorcyclists in 2017, and that 749 more could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets.
- In States without universal helmet laws, 57 percent of motorcyclists killed in 2018 were not wearing helmets, as compared to 9 percent in States with universal helmet laws.

This fact sheet contains information on fatal motor vehicle crashes and fatalities based on data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Refer to the end of this publication for more information on FARS. Injury estimates are based on data obtained from a nationally representative sample of police-reported crashes from the Crash Report Sampling System. In addition, the methodology for estimating people injured has changed. For more information, read **Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS) Replaced the National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) General Estimates System (GES)** at the end of this publication.

U.S. Department of Transportation
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NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis



“Go-to” Motorcycle Safety Links

- Traffic Safety Marketing- <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/motorcycle-safety>
- Main Page- <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/motorcycle-safety>
- NCSA Tools, Publications, and Data- <https://cdan.nhtsa.gov/> search using key word “motorcycle”

Recent Data- Fatalities

In 2018 there were 4,985 motorcyclists killed—a decrease of 5 percent from the 5,229 motorcyclists killed in 2017.



Recent Data- Injuries

An estimated 82,000 motorcyclists were injured during 2018, an 8-percent decrease from the 89,000 motorcyclists injured in 2017.



Recent Data- Vehicle Mile Traveled (VMT)

Per vehicle miles traveled in 2018, motorcyclist fatalities occurred nearly 27 times more frequently than passenger car occupant fatalities in traffic crashes.



Recent Data- No Valid Endorsement

28% percent of motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes in 2018 were riding without valid motorcycle licenses.



Recent Data- Alcohol Impairment

In 2018 motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes had higher percentages of alcohol impairment than drivers of any other motor vehicle type

(25% for motorcycles, 21% for passenger cars, 19% for light trucks, and 3% for large trucks).



Recent Data- Alcohol Impairment

39% percent of motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2018 were alcohol-impaired.



Recent Data- Alcohol Impairment

Motorcycle riders killed in traffic crashes at night were almost three times more frequently alcohol-impaired than those killed during the day in 2018.



Recent Data- Helmet Usage Estimate

NHTSA estimates that helmets saved the lives of 1,872 motorcyclists in 2017, and that 749 more could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets.



Recent Data- Helmet Laws

In States without universal helmet laws, 57% of motorcyclists killed in 2018 were not wearing helmets, as compared to 9% in States with universal helmet laws.



“The Data Says...”

- *Decrease in injuries and fatalities*
- *Still much work to be done*
- *Impairment*
- *Personal Protective Equipment*
- *Speeding*



How To Engage and Collaborate with NHTSA

- *Know the data*
- *Share the data*
- *Use the data*
- *Collaborate with us*



Thank you!



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