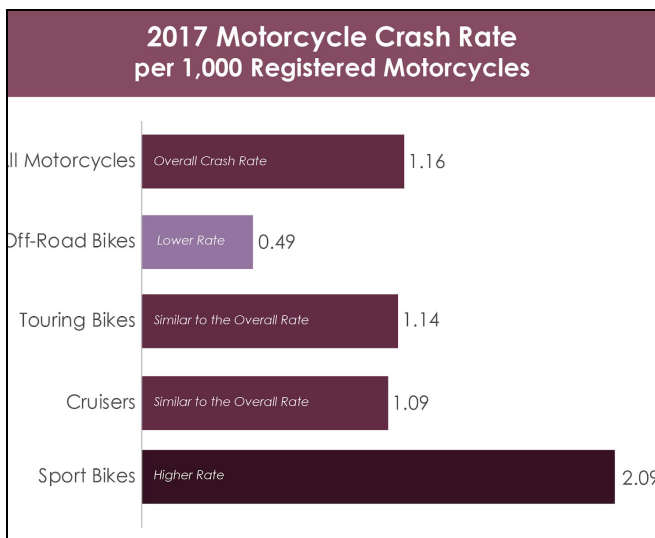




Washington State Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2019: Motorcyclists
Learn More - Page 140 of the Plan

Challenge: Motorcycles only comprise 3 percent of the vehicles registered in Washington State, but accounted for 14 percent of all fatalities and 19 percent of serious injuries in crashes in the last three years (2015–2017).

About one in five motorcycle crashes result in a fatality or serious injury and, on average, 75 riders die every year in crashes on Washington roads.



Of the motorcyclist fatalities from 2015-2017, 42 percent involved a crash with only the motorcyclist and no other vehicle. There has been no meaningful reduction in motorcycle fatalities for at least the last 15 years.

An internal review of motorcyclist-involved crash reports conducted by the Department of Licensing (DOL) revealed that in 75 percent of the motorcyclist-involved crashes, the rider is at fault.

Key issues for motorcyclists:

- Behavior and motorcycle types
- Endorsement and training
- Other high-risk behaviors

Strategies and Objectives for Positive Change:

Washington motorcycle riders want the freedom to ride, and Washington wants riders to have the freedom to ride safely. Both can be accomplished through trained and disciplined riding, with the support of an engaged community. Linking a safe riding culture with training and education, best practices, and community involvement creates an environment where riders can enjoy a lifelong, safe riding experience.

Specific areas of focus include:

- Improved training and endorsement
- Universal helmet laws and enforcement
- Developing a culture of rider safety in Washington



What You Can Do:

- Collaborate with dealers and manufacturers to promote motorcycle training and endorsement – see page 147
- Increase motorcyclist awareness of the risks of impaired motorcycle operation
- Promote rider visibility-enhancement methods and technology