



Motorcyclists in 2008 Crashes

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Fatalities & Injuries*

In Oklahoma in 2008, there were 1,978 motorcycle operators and passengers involved in crashes. Eighty-seven motorcyclists were killed and 1,576 motorcyclists were injured. Motorcyclist fatalities increased 17.6% from 74 in 2007 to 87 in 2008 and injuries increased 21.4% from 1,298 in 2007 to 1,576 in 2008.

Registration & Licenses

In 2008, there were 115,381 registered motorcycles according to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. This is a 14.3% increase over the 100,974 registered motorcycles in 2007.

Some 7.7% (191,789 of 2,481,472) of the licensed drivers in Oklahoma in 2008 had a motorcycle endorsement on their driver license. Motorcycle endorsements increased 5.7% from 181,488 in 2007 to 191,789 in 2008.

Fatalities & Helmets

Of the 87 motorcycle operators and passengers killed in 2008 crashes, 58.6% (51 of 87) were not wearing helmets. Helmet use for another 13.8% (12 of 87) of those killed was unknown. Of the 47 motorcycle operators killed and unhelmeted, 97.9% (46 of 47) were male. All five of the unhelmeted passenger fatalities were female.

Age & Gender

Some 22.2% of the motorcycle operators and passengers involved in crashes were age 46-55, 21.4% were age 16-25 and another 21.4% were age 36-45. Of the 87 motorcyclists killed, 25.3% were age 46-55, 23.0% were age 16-25, 16.1% were age 26-35 and another 16.1% were age 56-65. Some 84.3% of the motorcycle operators and passengers involved in crashes were male and 90.8% of the fatalities were male.

Motorcycle Operators & Passengers in 2008 Crashes Person Sex & Age				
Age	Unknown	Female	Male	Total
Unknown	27	1	4	32
Under 16		11	32	43
16 thru 25		43	381	424
26 thru 35		56	321	377
36 thru 45		67	357	424
46 thru 55		73	367	440
56 thru 65		29	165	194
66 thru 75		3	33	36
76+		1	7	8
Total	27	284	1667	1978

Motorcycle Operators & Passengers Killed in 2008 Crashes Person Sex & Age			
Operator Age	Female	Male	Total
Unknown			
Under 16		1	1
16 thru 25		20	20
26 thru 35	1	13	14
36 thru 45	2	10	12
46 thru 55	3	19	22
56 thru 65	2	12	14
66 thru 75		3	3
76+		1	1
Total	8	79	87

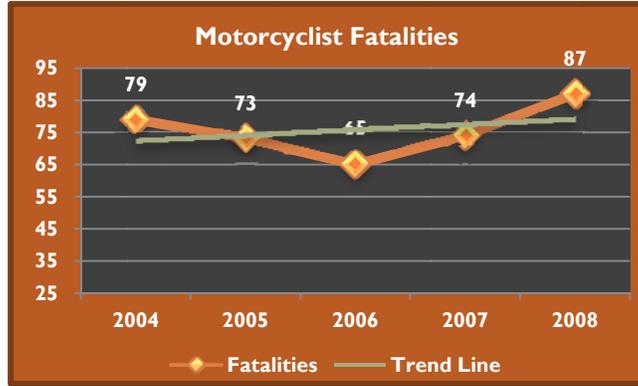
Alcohol-Related Driver Condition

Some 10.4% of the 1,767 motorcycle operators involved in crashes in 2008 had an Alcohol-Related Driver Condition and 27.2% of the 81 operators killed had an Alcohol-Related Driver Condition.

Fatality Trend

Motorcyclist fatalities decreased each year from 79 in 2004 to 65 in 2006. However, fatalities rose from 65 in 2006 to 87 in 2008. The year 2008 had the highest number of motorcyclist fatalities since 1981 when there were 92 fatalities.

*Injury includes incapacitating, non-incapacitating and possible injuries.



Contributing Factors

Unsafe Speed was the primary contributing factor by 23.5% of the motorcycle operators involved in crashes, followed by Other Improper Act/Movement (9.2%) and Inattention (5.1%). Of the operators with a contributing factor of Unsafe Speed, 41.9% were Unsafe Speed-Curve/Turn, 19.8% were Unsafe Speed-Exceeding Legal Limit and 10.4% were Unsafe Speed-for Traffic Conditions.

Time & Day

Crashes involving motorcycles occurred primarily in the afternoon and early evening hours. Saturday had the highest incidence of crashes involving motorcycles with 23.3% of the total motorcycle crashes in 2008.

