Motorcycles in Georgia

In Georgia for 2003:

- There were 2,851 total motorcycle crashes, 2,123 motorcycle injury crashes, and 101 fatal motorcycle crashes.
- A total of 103 motorcycle riders were killed and an additional 2,246 injured.
- Motorcycle crashes accounted for 7% of traffic fatalities, but only about 1% of crashes.
- Of all motorcycle riders in crashes, 56% had at least visible or more severe injuries compared to 4% of passenger car occupants involved in a crash.
- Males represented 87% of the injuries and fatalities in motorcycles crashes.

License & Registration:

- Motorcycles made up 2% of all registered vehicles.
- Half of the motorcycle operators (50%) involved in fatal crashes did not have a valid Class M license or permit.

Age Distribution of Motorcycle Crash Riders, Operators and Passengers, GA 2003

- Twenty-eight percent of all motorcycle operators in crashes were 25 to 34 years of age and 23% of motorcycle passenger riders were aged 35 to 44.
- For fatally injured motorcycle riders, persons aged 35 to 44 accounted for the largest proportion (21%) and the highest death rate (2.3 per 100,000 population) among all age groups.

Helmet Use by Motorcycle Crash Riders, GA 2003

- Under Georgia law, all motorcycle riders (operators and passengers) must wear a helmet.
- At least 12% of motorcycle riders in Georgia involved in a crash were not wearing a helmet.
- Helmets are estimated to be 37% effective in preventing motorcycle fatalities and 67% effective in preventing brain injuries. (NHTSA)
- In 2003 helmets saved an estimated 53 lives in Georgia.

Motorcycle Fatality Rate: US and GA 1994-2003

- The national motorcycle fatality rate has steadily increased from 1997 to 2003. Georgia’s fatality rate has varied during 1994-2003, but has been consistently lower than the national rate (per 100,000 population).
- The number of motorcycle crashes increased in Georgia by 17% from 2002.

Motorcycles defined as Motorcycles, Scooters and Minibikes.

Data Sources: GA Accident Reporting Crash Data and Fatality Analysis Reporting System
Produced by Georgia CODES Project funded by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
Injury Prevention Section, 2 Peachtree St. NW, 15.412, Atlanta, GA 30303 Phone: (404) 657-6283 http://health.state.ga.us/programs/injuryprevention
In 2003,
- There were 652 motorcycle injury hospitalizations.
- The motorcycle injury hospitalization rate was 7.2 per 100,000, resulting in an average annual increase of 12% since 1999. This parallels the increasing trend in the motorcycle crash rate.
- Hospitalization charges totaled $24 million, with a median charge of $20,000.
- The majority (70%) of hospitalization charges were paid by private insurance.
- Total Length of Stay was about 4,000 days, with a median stay of 4 days for hospitalized riders.
- Motorcycle riders 25 to 34 years of age had the highest hospitalization rate.

Motorcycle Injury Hospitalization in Georgia

- The leading anatomic site for motorcyclist injuries resulting in hospitalization is lower limb fracture, which was the principal diagnosis in 34% of the total motorcyclist injury hospitalizations in 2003.
- Of all person hospitalized for motorcycle injuries, 14% had a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in 2003.
- Among those who died in hospitals, 77% had a TBI.
- The Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) preliminary analysis in Georgia for 2001 showed that motorcycle helmets were a preventive means for avoiding a TBI. Riders wearing helmets were 30% less likely to have a TBI than riders not wearing helmets.

Motorcycle Injury Hospitalization Charges by Primary Payor, GA 2003

- In 2003, the majority (70%) of hospitalization charges were paid by private insurance.

Body Area Injured and Helmet Use

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