

Motorcycles in Georgia



Motorcycle Crashes

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.

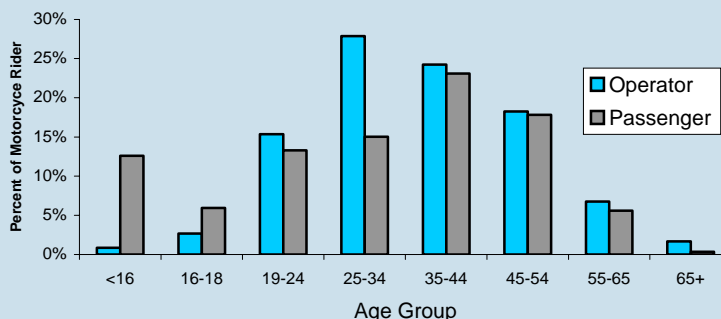
License & Registration:

- 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.
(GA DMVS Crash Analysis, Statistics & Information (CASI) Notebook 1996-2003)

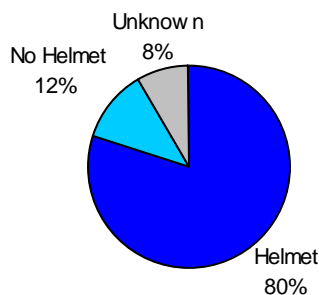
Age of Motorcycle Rider

- 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.

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

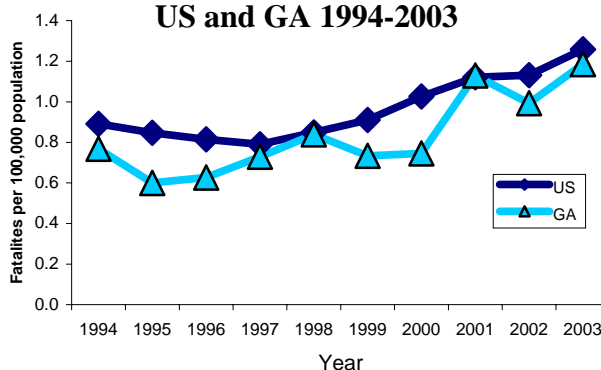


Helmet Use by Motorcycle Crash Riders, GA 2003



- 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.

Leading Contributing Factors Involved in Motorcycle Crashes, Georgia 2003

All Motorcycle Crashes

1. Driver Lost Control (26%)
2. No Contributing Factor (26%)
3. Following Too Closely (7%)
4. Too Fast for Conditions (6%)
5. Hit Object or Animal (5%)
6. DUI (4%)

Fatal Motorcycle Crashes

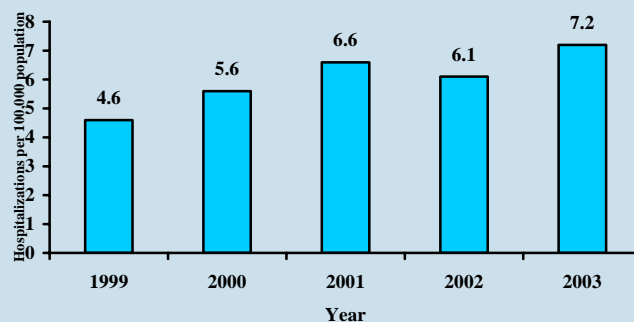
1. Driver Lost Control (28%)
2. Exceeding Speed Limit (11%)
3. Too Fast for Conditions (11%)
4. DUI (10%)
5. No Contributing Factor (10%)
6. Wrong Side of Road (7%)

Motorcycle Injury Hospitalization in Georgia

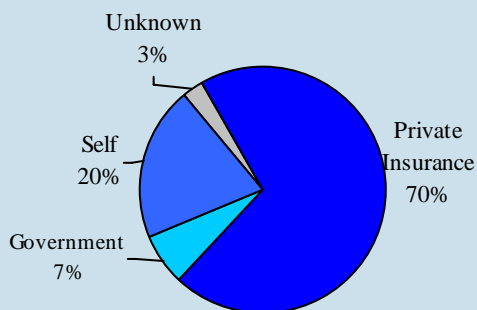
In 2003,

- 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.

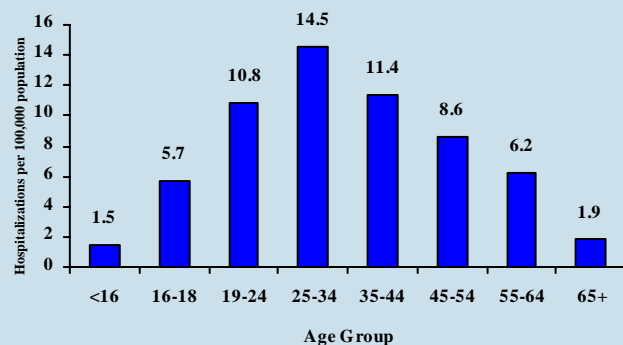
Age-adjusted Motorcycle Injury Hospitalization Rate, GA, 1999-2003



Motorcycle Injury Hospitalization Charges by Primary Payor, GA 2003



Age-specific Motorcycle Injury Hospitalization Rate, GA 2003



Body Area Injured and Helmet Use

- 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.