

# Ohio's Safety Plan

## 2009 Update

### Emphasis Area 4 Special Vehicles: Motorcycles



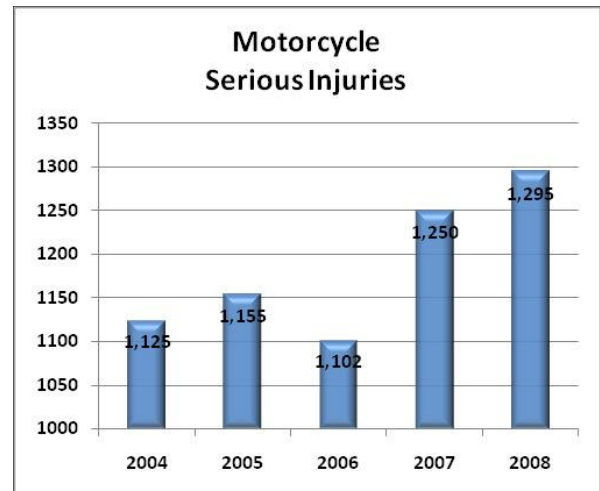
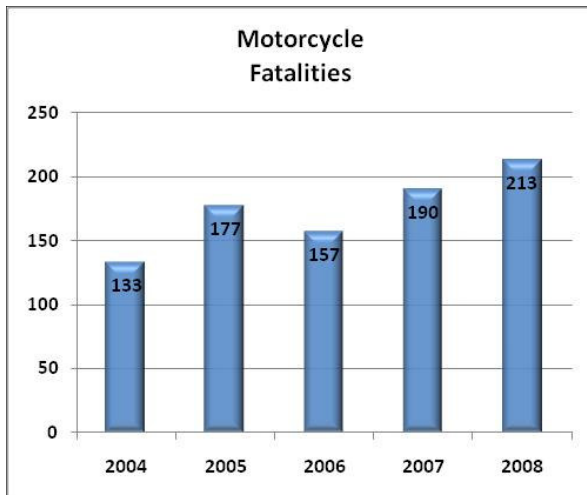
In 2008, 213 people died and 1,295 people were seriously injured in crashes involving motorcycles. Motorcycles represented about 3 percent of registered vehicles in Ohio but 18 percent of all fatalities and 13 percent of all serious injuries in 2008.

Over the past decade, motorcycle fatalities and serious injuries throughout Ohio have been rising. Since 2004, fatalities have grown by about 60 percent and serious injuries have grown by about 15 percent.

Of the 213 fatalities in 2008, about 69 percent involved riders without helmets. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that helmets are 37 percent effective in preventing fatal injuries to riders. This means for every 100 motorcycle riders killed in a crash while not wearing a helmet, 37 riders could have been saved.

Many fatal crashes involving motorcycles also involved alcohol and speed. About half of the motorcycle fatalities in Ohio each year involve single-vehicle crashes where the motorcycle rider was at fault.

Motorcycle crashes were most prevalent in urbanized counties. However, rural counties with scenic, two-lane roads also have a high number of motorcycle fatalities.



#### Driving Tips for Riders:

- Get properly trained and licensed.
- Always wear protective gear, including a DOT recommended helmet.
- Ride unimpaired by alcohol or drugs.
- Ride within your skill limits.

- Be a life-long learner by taking periodic refresher courses on riding.

#### Driving Tips for Motorists:

- Take an extra moment to look for motorcycles, especially when changing lanes or turning.
- Allow more stopping distance between you and the bike.

## State and local governments are also using various strategies to increase seat belt use.

Those strategies include:

Target top motorcycle fatal crash counties for education and enforcement efforts.

ODPS provides grants to support Safe Communities coalitions so they can conduct motorcycle education programs. These coalitions work with law enforcement agencies within their county to encourage safe riding through enforcement of state laws.

Continue campaigns to educate the general public and riders about motorcycle safety.

ODPS kicked off a comprehensive campaign to help make motorcyclist more aware of safety issues associated with riding. The “Ride SMART” campaign kicked off on April 16, 2009. The campaign emphasizes riding ... Sober, Motorcycle endorsed, Alert, Right Gear and Trained.

ODPS worked with state and local partners, including the American Motorcycle Association and American Bikers Aimed Toward Education, to get the message out to riders and motorists alike. The campaign included paid and earned media throughout the riding season on motorcycle awareness.

Messages were posted on freeway message signs in April and May. In 2010, the “Ride SMART” campaign will focus on the importance of riding “Alert.”

Target top motorcycle fatal crash counties for engineering improvements.

ODOT identifies a list of top motorcycle crash locations each year for district offices to review.

Improve bike detection at traffic signals statewide.

ODOT has setup an e-mail address and phone contact to report problems in detecting motorcycles at any traffic signals statewide. Reports will be tracked in a database so motorcycle fines can be waived by courts as needed. ODOT has also developed guidance for staff and local governments to use in adjusting detection for existing signals. New design standards were published this year that will require bike friendly detection on all new traffic signals.

Increase the use of warning signs to alert motorcyclists when roadway surface conditions are changing significantly (metal bridge gratings, bumps, rain grooves, grating of roadway surface, etc.).

ODOT is working with the American Motorcycle Association to train highway maintenance and construction crews on roadway issues affecting riders. The training will result in greater awareness of materials and techniques that will improve motorcycle safety on Ohio roads.

Support efforts to enforce state laws on safe riding.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety is teaming with the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy to develop online courses regarding motorcycles, young drivers (GDL laws) and older drivers.