Iowa Motorcyclists are six times more likely to be injured than other motorists involved in crashes – based on miles driven.

An average of more than 50 motorcyclists die from motorcycle crashes in Iowa each year.

Nine of 10 Iowa motorcycle fatality victims were not wearing a safety helmet.

Motorcyclist crash involvement is highest in Iowa riders aged 45 and older.

In Iowa, 60 percent of riders killed were aged 45 and older.

Only one of two fatal motorcycle crashes involves another vehicle . . . the motorcyclist usually fails to maintain control of the motorcycle.

More than 50 percent of motorcycle-vehicle crashes occurred because a driver did not see the motorcycle.
Motorcycles and other vehicles sharing the road
Motorists have trouble noticing and reacting to motorcycles. Motorists usually look for larger vehicles, not motorcycles. Motorists often miss seeing or misjudge speeds of approaching motorcycles because of their size.

Motorcycle operators have little crash protection. Motorcycles are small, less stable, and maneuver differently than other motor vehicles. Motorcyclists can be at greater risk because of their inexperience, age or high risk behaviors, such as impaired driving and speeding.

Motorcyclists are more at risk if they are not wearing proper riding gear. This includes safety helmet, eye protection, long sleeves, gloves, long pants and boots.

Make yourself visible – be seen
Use a modulating headlamp. Choose riding gear that increases your visibility in traffic and provides protection in a crash. Use bright colors and retroreflective strips or decals, especially at night.

Motorcycle Tips
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Ride Bright
Ride Bright
Motorist Tips
Motorist Tips
Drive Safe
Drive Safe

Look for motorcycles
Modulating motorcycle headlamps are legal and help make motorcycles more visible. Watch out at intersections and when making left turns. Motorcycles are everywhere... look twice and save a life.

Respect the motorcyclist
Motorcycles are vehicles with the same privileges as any vehicle on the roadway. Give the motorcyclist a full lane of travel.

Left turns
The most common crash type that occurs between a car/truck and motorcycle is the one that happens at an intersection as the motorist is making a left turn in front of the motorcycle.

Related
Factors

Factors affecting motorcycle riders
Left-turning motorists and drivers at stop signs often “misjudge speed” or “don’t see” an approaching motorcycle.
Speed is reported as a contributing factor in more than one-third of Iowa’s fatal motorcycle crashes.
Motorcycle operators in fatal crashes had higher intoxication rates than any other type of driver.
Over one-third of motorcycle operators in fatal crashes tested positive for alcohol or drugs.

Seven in 10 of Iowa’s licensed riders are aged 45 or older, compared to only 3 in 10 just 10 years ago.
Motorcyclists die in deer-related crashes nearly every year.

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