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## **Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Fact Sheet**

*Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety*

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Motorcycle riding is at an all-time high in Minnesota with more than 180,000 registered bikes.

As of August 1, 2006, 38 riders have died in Minnesota, compared to 24 at this time last year. Alcohol use while riding continues to be a problem for motorcyclists.

- In 2005, 59 (10.6 percent) of 559 traffic fatalities were motorcyclists. Motorcycles represent only 3.9 percent of all registered vehicles.
- The 59 rider fatalities in 2005 were a 25 percent increase compared to 2000–2004 annual average of 47 deaths.

### ***Rider Age***

- Riders aged 15-34 accounted for 19 percent of registered motorcycles and 22 percent of fatal crashes in 2005. Ten years ago in 1996, that group accounted for 55 percent of the fatal crashes.
- Riders aged 35-54 accounted for 58 percent of registered motorcycles and 59 percent of fatal crashes in 2005. In 1996, that age group only accounted for 33 percent of fatal crashes.
- The age group 45-49 had the most fatal crashes (14) of any five-year age group in 2005. Those riders make up 18 percent of the registered bikes, but comprise about 25 percent of the fatal crashes over the last two years.

### ***Alcohol***

- Riders were impaired by alcohol in 45 percent of the fatal crashes last year, a 22 percent increase compared to the 2000-2004 average of 37 percent.
- The age group 15-34 had only four alcohol-involved motorcycle fatalities in 2005, compared to 10 in 1996.
- Riders 35-54 had 16 alcohol-involved fatalities last year, and only three in 1996.

### ***Training***

- More than half (58 percent) of all motorcycle crashes are single-vehicle events, which underscores the need for safety training.
- Fewer than half (48 percent) of registered motorcycle owners have taken a basic or advanced safety course.