

### Motorcycle related injury facts for Alberta

#### In 2000

- There were 14 motorcycle-related deaths in Alberta<sup>1</sup>.
- The majority of casualty collisions involved male drivers<sup>1</sup>.
- Motorcycle drivers less than age 25 had the highest involvement rate per 1000 licensed drivers. In particular, motorcycle drivers between the ages of 16 and 17 had a rate of 71.2 per 1000 licensed drivers which is almost 5 times greater than that of the 20 – 24 year old motorcycle drivers<sup>1</sup>.
- The majority of casualty collisions involving motorcycles occurred on dry roads<sup>1</sup>.
- Motorcycle drivers were more likely to run off the road or pass improperly, however, they were less likely to follow too closely, make an unsafe left turn or disobey a traffic control device<sup>1</sup>.
- Based on motorcycle registrations, the involvement rate of motorcycles in fatal collisions increased during 2000. The involvement rate for non-fatal injury collisions decreased since 1999<sup>1</sup>.

#### Number of motorcycle-related deaths and injuries per year – 5-year comparison<sup>1</sup>

	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996
Fatalities	14	10	26	8	11
Non-Fatal Injuries	540	509	528	454	397

#### In 1997

- Among Albertans there were 293 inpatient hospitalizations associated with injuries sustained to motorcyclists or their passengers<sup>2</sup>.
  - The ages of these hospitalized patients ranged from age 7 to age 88.
  - Males accounted for more than 85% of the 293 motorcyclists or passengers hospitalized for their injuries.
  - Of the 293 patients, 17 were injured severely enough to require treatment in a special care unit (i.e. ICU) during their hospitalization.
  - Fractures were the most frequently recorded (55%) most responsible diagnosis for these patients. Serious head injuries were second at 12%. Of note, 2 patients had a most responsible diagnosis of spinal cord injury.

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- Between April 1, 1997 and March 31, 1998 there were nearly 1700 emergency department visits by Albertans for either drivers or passengers of motorcycles<sup>3</sup>.
  - The ages of these patients ranged from age 1 through age 89.
  - Of the patients treated in the emergency department, 94% were the drivers of the motorcycle.<sup>2</sup>
  - Males accounted for 88% of the patients treated in the emergency department.
  - The most common diagnoses of all motorcycle related emergency department visits were:
    - fractures (27%)
    - contusions (16.3%)
    - sprains and strains (13.7%)
    - open wounds (12.1%)
    - superficial injuries (10.7%)

1. Alberta Transportation & Utilities, Alberta Traffic Collision Statistics, 2000
2. Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research, 1997 Inpatient Database
3. Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research, 1997/1998 ED Database

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