

Drivers Cause Most Crashes With Motorcycles, Research Shows

For motorcycle riders, people in "cages" bear a disproportionate share of the blame for the high number of motorcycle crashes, while car drivers feel careless motorcyclists careening in and out of traffic are putting their own lives at risk.

So who's mostly to blame when four-wheel and two-wheel vehicles collide? According to a recent Florida Department of Transportation study, bikers are right. Motorists driving cars and trucks are mostly at fault, often failing to yield the right of way to the smaller vehicles.

In analyzing 10 years of Florida motorcycle crashes, Chanyoung Lee, a senior researcher at the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research, found that 60% of the time motorists in other vehicles are at fault when they collide with motorcycles.

But the study uncovered more: When looking at all motorcycle crashes, motorcycle operators bear a lot of responsibility as well. They have a significantly higher number of single-vehicle crashes than other drivers. Some 34% of motorcycle crashes involve one vehicle, according to the study, compared to only 19% of car crashes involving one vehicle. When looking at really severe and fatal motorcycle crashes, 50% involve just the motorcycle and no other vehicle, but when multiple vehicles are involved, greater blame falls on four-wheeled drivers. And most motorcycle crashes involve other vehicles.

But it's also a matter of awareness, according to Lee, who is part of FDOT's Motorcycle Safety Coalition. In driver surveys, FDOT has asked people how often they see motorcycles. Those with motorcycle endorsements on their driver's licenses report seeing motorcycles all the time, while those without endorsements who live in the same area report occasionally seeing motorcycles.

Due to minimal levels of protection to their riders, approximately 80% of motorcycle crashes result in injury or fatality, according to the Network of Employees for Traffic Safety, while only 20% of passenger car crashes injure or

Congressional Motorcycle Caucus formed in U.S. House PICKERINGTON, Ohio -- U.S. Reps. Michael Burgess (R-Texas) and Tim Griffin (R-Ark.) are serving as co-chairmen of the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus for the new 113th Congress, the American Motorcyclist Association reports.

The bi-partisan caucus, which has existed for many years, was formally recognized by the House for the new Congress. Official caucuses must register and be recognized at the start of every two-year Congress.

The caucus is made up of members of Congress who are passionate about motorcycling and who work to promote the interests of motorcyclists.

"It's wonderful to have Reps. Burgess and Griffin leading the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus," said Wayne Allard, AMA vice president for government relations and a former U.S. senator and representative from Colorado. "The Congressional Motorcycle Caucus is made up of dedicated members of Congress who ensure that motorcyclists aren't forgotten on Capitol Hill. Reps. Burgess and Griffin have proven that they are true friends of motorcycling.

'We look forward to working with our old friends in the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus, as well as new members who join, to help protect and promote the motorcycling lifestyle," Allard said.

Burgess said that he was looking forward to working with Griffin on the Caucus.

'We welcome the registration of the Motorcycle Caucus for the 113th Congress," Burgess said. "Having previously served as the Caucus chair, I welcome Congressman Tim Griffin as co-chair. We, along with other congressional members, will once again provide a platform and a voice here in Washington for motorcycle enthusiasts and our safety."

"I look forward to growing the Motorcycle Caucus as the voice in Congress for America's more than 25 million motorcyclists," Griffin said. "As a rider, I recognize that there are many important issues affecting us, such as unreasonable limits on trail riding areas, the need for additional safety awareness, and ethanol mandates that harm motorcycle engines."

Caucus Member and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Vice Chairman John Duncan said, "Motorcycling is important to my district and to me personally. I look forward to continuing to work with the co-chairs and other members to highlight the need for motorcycle safety and to promote the use of motorcycles and scooters as fun, fuel efficient transportation options for many Americans."

The CMC includes members of Congress from both sides of the aisle who are committed to advancing motorcycling and improving the safety of motorcyclists.

At the start of each Congress, all caucuses must be reestablished and recognized formally by the House. This is the fourth consecutive congressional session that the CMC has been 3545 Hwy 175 Slinger WI 53086 Sheryl Seifert / Owner 262.644.1750 sherylsclub175@gmail.com **Ironwood, MI** Midwest's premier vista. Chair lift and elevator ride to the top of the Worlds largest ski jump. Open Wednesday thru Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT mid-June to Labor Day, weekends until mid-October. Closed Mondays and Tuesd More info at www.copperpeak.org or call 906-932-3500. sdays. **Cycle Service and Accessories Customer Motor Work** 715-453-2300 Mike Messinger - Owner





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