# SAFETY OFFICER

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# Tallahassee HOG GROUP RIDING (Part 3)

This is 3rd and final installment of group riding with the Tallahassee Harley Owners Group. This month we will focus on the most recent national and Florida accident and fatality statistics for the years 2022-2025 as compiled and posted on 08/14/26 Caruso Law Offices, P.C.and 01/20/26 by Jack Bernstein, Injury Attorney.

**DEADLIEST STATES FOR MOTORCYCLIST:**

Overall, fatalities have remained persistently high rather than continuing to rise sharply nationwide. However, state-level trends varied considerably, with some states experiencing substantial increases or decreases over the three- year period. The data also continues to highlight helmet use, speeding, alcohol impairment, and seasonal riding patterns as important factors in fatal motorcycle crashes.

- Between 2022 and 2024, there were 18,853 motorcycle fatalities in the U.S., averaging approximately 6,284 deaths per year. National motorcycle fatalities remained relatively stable over the period, decreasing by approximately 0.5% from 6,256 deaths in 2022 to 6,227 in 2024.

- Florida, California, and Texas recorded the highest total numbers of motorcycle fatalities during this three-year period. Florida recorded 1,978 fatalities, followed by California with 1,770 and Texas with 1,745.

**STATES WITH THE LARGEST DECREASE AND DECREASE IN FATALITIES:**

- South Dakota experienced the largest percentage increase in motorcycle fatalities, rising approximately 154% between 2022 and 2024.
- Vermont experienced the largest percentage decrease, with fatalities falling approximately 50%.
- August was the deadliest month overall, with 2,267 motorcycle fatalities recorded across the three-year period.

**FLORIDA STATISTICS:**

**Florida's statistics for the year 2025 shows that there were 8,696 total crashes with 7,506 injuries and 549 fatalities.**

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**HELMET AND ALCOHOL USE IN FATALITIES:**

- Approximately 63% of motorcycle fatalities involved riders wearing helmets, while 33% involved riders who were not wearing helmets.
- Approximately 17% of fatally injured motorcycle drivers had a recorded BAC of 0.08 or higher.
- Among the major motorcycle makes analyzed, Harley-Davidson riders had the highest percentage of non-helmet use, while Kawasaki riders had the highest percentage of speeding or racing involvement.
- Harley-Davidson riders were the least likely to wear a helmet across different motorcycle makes, with 48% of those in fatal crashes not wearing one. But, their drivers were least likely to be speeding or racing, with only 9% doing so.

**SINGLE MOST DANGEROUS SITUATION FOR MOTORCYCLES:**

The single most dangerous situation for motorcyclists is a head-on collision. More fatal accidents occur because of a head-on crash than any other cause. A head-on collision often occurs when a motorcyclist or a driver of a passenger vehicle deviates from their lane of travel onto the opposite lane of travel. In rural areas, head-on collisions can also occur with roadway hazards, deer, and other wildlife that are on the roadway.

- A vehicle disobeying the rules of the road for the right of way and hits a motorcyclist as a result
- When a motorcycle driver is inexperienced and does not know how to maneuver their vehicle when a hazard appears
- Accidents where a motorcyclist is hit by a car because the passenger vehicle driver is driving drunk, impaired, or distracted and strikes a motorcyclist
- Motorcyclists are lane splitting. This is when a motorcyclist drives in the middle of two lanes going in the same direction or when they share a lane with another driver.
- Motorcyclists driving in the blind spot of passenger vehicle drivers.
- When motorcylists are the victims of hit-and-run collisions.

**BE SAFE!**