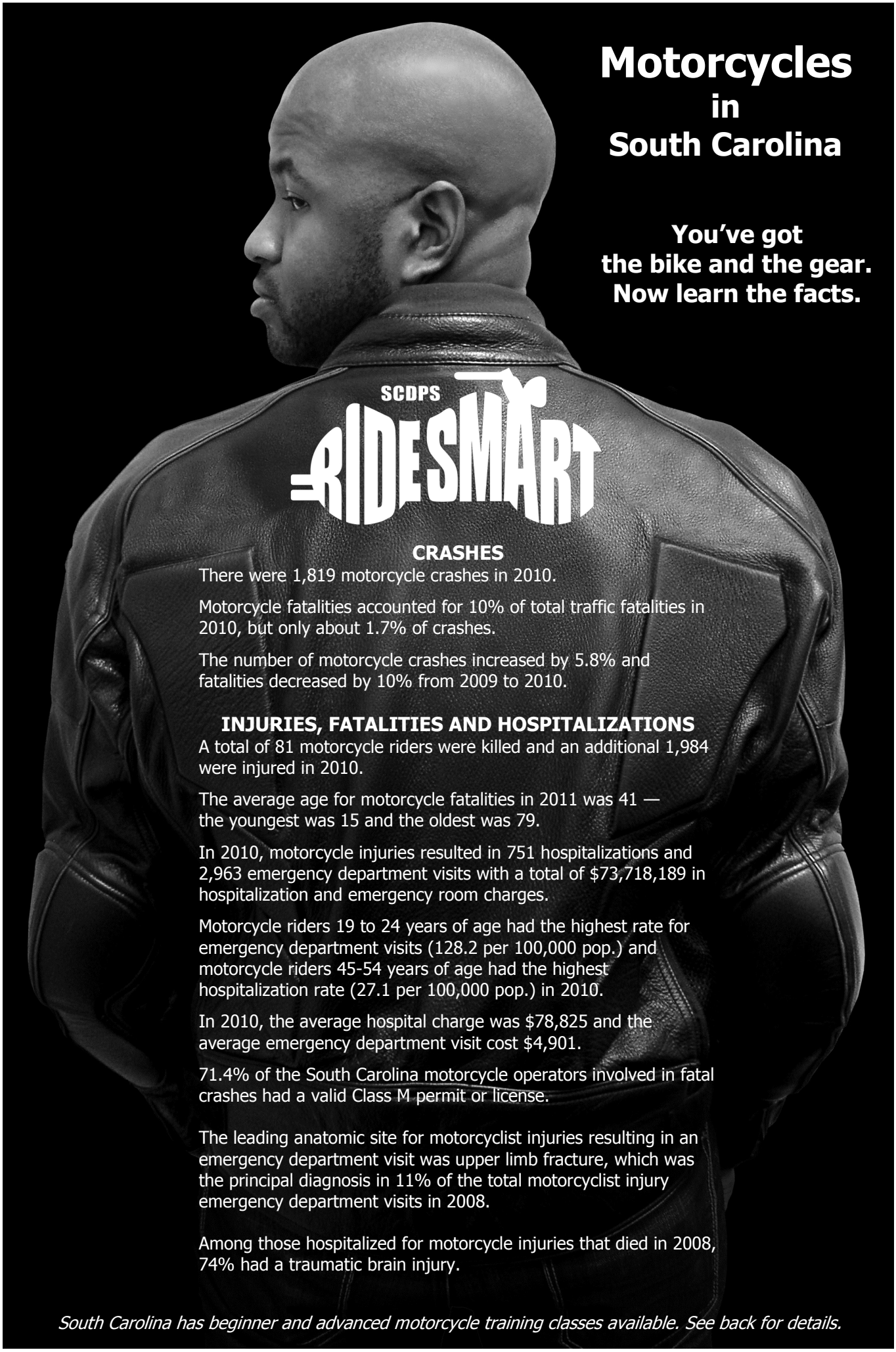


Motorcycles in South Carolina

You've got the bike and the gear. Now learn the facts.

SCDPS RIDESMART

CRASHES

There were 1,819 motorcycle crashes in 2010.

Motorcycle fatalities accounted for 10% of total traffic fatalities in 2010, but only about 1.7% of crashes.

The number of motorcycle crashes increased by 5.8% and fatalities decreased by 10% from 2009 to 2010.

INJURIES, FATALITIES AND HOSPITALIZATIONS

A total of 81 motorcycle riders were killed and an additional 1,984 were injured in 2010.

The average age for motorcycle fatalities in 2011 was 41 — the youngest was 15 and the oldest was 79.

In 2010, motorcycle injuries resulted in 751 hospitalizations and 2,963 emergency department visits with a total of $73,718,189 in hospitalization and emergency room charges.

Motorcycle riders 19 to 24 years of age had the highest rate for emergency department visits (128.2 per 100,000 pop.) and motorcycle riders 45-54 years of age had the highest hospitalization rate (27.1 per 100,000 pop.) in 2010.

In 2010, the average hospital charge was $78,825 and the average emergency department visit cost $4,901.

71.4% of the South Carolina motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes had a valid Class M permit or license.

The leading anatomic site for motorcyclist injuries resulting in an emergency department visit was upper limb fracture, which was the principal diagnosis in 11% of the total motorcyclist injury emergency department visits in 2008.

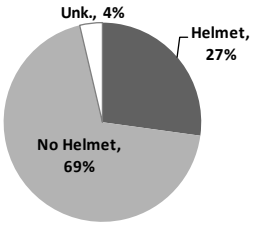
Among those hospitalized for motorcycle injuries that died in 2008, 74% had a traumatic brain injury.

South Carolina has beginner and advanced motorcycle training classes available. See back for details.

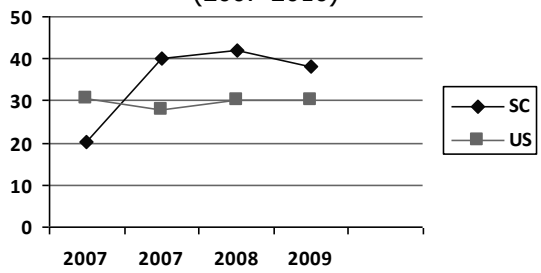
Wearing a helmet and riding sober saves lives

- 69% of all South Carolina motorcycle riders killed in crashes in 2010 were not wearing a helmet.
- The South Carolina Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System analysis for 2008 showed that riders wearing helmets are 71% less likely to incur a traumatic brain injury than riders not wearing helmets.
- Motorcycle helmets reduce the risk of dying in a motorcycle crash by 37%.
- 38% of all fatally injured motorcycle riders in 2009 had blood alcohol content levels at the legal limit (.08 g/dL) or higher.
- The most common contributing factor in fatal motorcycle crashes in 2011 was riding while intoxicated.
- Operating a motorcycle while intoxicated increases the likelihood of a fatal crash.

Fatalities and Helmet Use
(2010)



Fatalities and Blood Alcohol Content
(2007-2010)



SOUTH CAROLINA MOTORCYCLE RIDER TRAINING CLASSES*

GREENVILLE COUNTY
Greenville Technical College
216 South Pleasantburg Drive
Greenville, SC 29607
(864) 250-8800
www.gvltec.edu

SPARTANBURG COUNTY
Spartanburg Community College
P.O. Box 4386
Spartanburg, SC 29305
(864) 592-4900
www.sccsc.edu

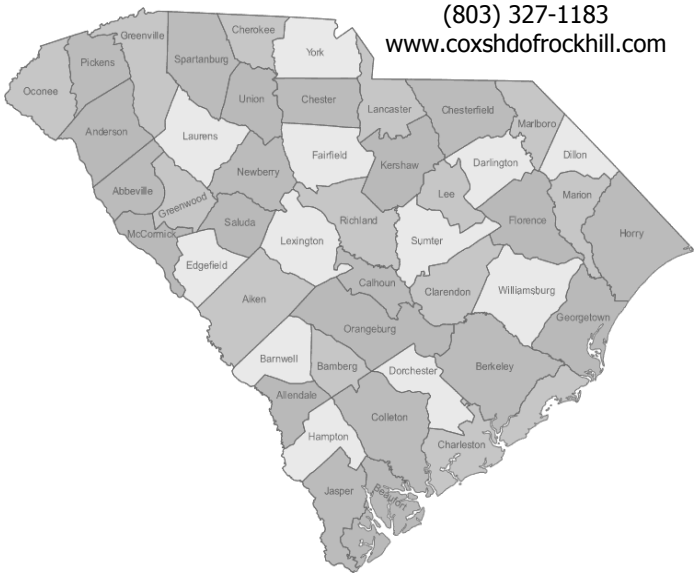
CHESTER COUNTY
York Technical College
127 Saluda Street
Chester, SC 29706
(803) 385-5884
www.yorktech.edu

Cox's Harley-Davidson
1178 Galleria Boulevard
Rock Hill, SC 29730
(803) 327-1183
www.coxshdofrockhill.com

RICHLAND COUNTY
Midlands Technical College
P.O. Box 2408
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 732-0432
www.midlandstech.edu

Thunder Tower Harley-Davidson
190 Pontiac Business Center Drive
Elgin, SC 29045
(803) 461-1121
www.thundertowerharley.com

ANDERSON COUNTY
Tri-County Technical College
P.O Box 587
Pendleton, SC 29670
(864) 646-1700
www.tctc.edu



GREENWOOD COUNTY
Piedmont Technical College
620 N. Emerald Rd.
Greenwood, SC 29648
(864) 941-8400
www.ptc.edu

FLORENCE COUNTY
Florence-Darlington Technical College
P.O. Box 100548
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 413-2715
www.fdtc.edu

AIKEN COUNTY
Aiken Technical College
2276 Jefferson Davis Highway
Graniteville, SC 29829
(803) 593-9231 ext. 1230
www.atc.edu

HORRY COUNTY
Horry-Georgetown Technical College
P.O. Box 1966
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 477-0808
www.hgtc.edu

ORANGEBURG COUNTY
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
3250 St. Matthews Road
Orangeburg, SC 29118
(803) 535-1236
www.octech.edu

BEAUFORT COUNTY
Technical College of the Lowcountry
921 Ribaut Road
Beaufort, SC 29901
(843) 525-8205

CHARLESTON COUNTY
Trident Technical College
P.O. Box 18067
Charleston, SC 29423
(843) 574-6152
www.tridenttech.edu

*South Carolina classes are approved by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF).

Data Sources: South Carolina Office of Highway Safety, Statistical Unit; South Carolina Budget & Control Board, Office of Research & Statistics, Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) Project; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Motorcycle Fact Sheet produced by the South Carolina Office of Highway Safety in cooperation with the South Carolina CODES Project and South Carolina Motorcycle Task Force. Thanks to the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Georgia CODES Board and their program staff for providing assistance in the development of this fact sheet. Made possible by funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information, contact the South Carolina Office of Highway Safety, Office of Highway Safety, 10311 Wilson Boulevard, P.O. Box 1993, Building D, 2nd Floor, Blythewood, SC 29016-1993. Phone (803) 896-9965 Fax (803) 896-9978