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**Motorcycle Fatalities Increase in Washington**

**Motorcycle Traffic Deaths Increasing**

* Only 3% of all registered vehicles in Washington are motorcycles. But motorcyclists were 15% of total traffic deaths (2016-2020).
* The number of motorcyclist traffic deaths has recently been increasing. In both 2019 and 2020 there were more than 90 motorcyclist traffic deaths, compared to closer to 80 in the three previous years. And there was less traffic on the road in 2020 due to COVID.

**Rider Error Causes Crashes**

* Motorcycle rider error is the cause of 75% of these fatalities, contrary to common belief that the cause is other motorists.
* Alcohol and drug impairment was a factor in more than half of the fatalities, with marijuana becoming a larger contributing factor in recent years.
* Speeding and lane departure were the contributing factors in half the fatalities involving motorcyclists.

**Summer Riding Months are the Deadliest**

* Fatal motorcycle crashes tend to occur in July, August and September.
* In the past five years, an average of 40 motorcyclists died on Washington roads during those summer months.

**Working Together to Save Lives**

Whether operating a motorcycle or car or truck we can all work together on the road to save lives.

Motorcyclists:

* Riders must create their own safety. This includes wearing helmets and other protective gear.
* Always ride sober, operate with safe speeds, be aware of your surroundings.
* Take advantage of training to improve your skills.

Motorists:

* Watch for motorcycles and leave extra space between your vehicle and them.
* Protect yourself and those around you by driving sober, wearing a seatbelt, putting your phone away and respecting the speed limit.

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