# Ride Safe Summer Key Messages

**Freedom to Ride Doesn’t Need to Come at a Price**

* Most motorcycle riders practice safety, but a small number account for a large share of all fatal crashes in Washington.
* While motorcycles make up only 3% of registered Washington vehicles, they have accounted for 15% of all traffic fatalities over the last five years.
* For the past three years, we’ve lost more than 90 motorcycle riders each year, the most fatal crashes in Washington since 1982.
* Motorcycle crashes are preventable. Some riders have a misperception that most crashes are caused by another car driver. Yet 70% of fatal motorcycle crashes in 2021 were the result of rider behavior or rider error.

**Riders Must Create Their Own Safety**

* Riders should always wear U.S. Department of Transportation approved helmets and other protective gear.
* Riders must always ride sober, within safe speeds, and be aware of their surroundings.
* Riders should complete beginner and advanced rider training to have the skills to help keep themselves safe.
* A motorcycle license endorsement is required legally ride in Washington State. Endorsed riders are less likely to be involved in fatal collisions when compared to unendorsed riders.

**High Visibility Enforcement to Reinforce Safe Riding this Summer**

* High visibility enforcement (HVE) campaigns will encourage motorcyclists to ride safe this summer.
* HVE campaigns will also encourage other motorists to watch out for motorcycles and operate safely around motorcycles.
* HVE campaigns are planned for King, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark, Yakima, and Spokane counties.
* A recent NHTSA study has demonstrated that these HVE campaigns are a deterrent to risky driving behavior, and are shown to reduce crashes.