

Rider Education: A continuing Awareness
Booze

It isn't a popular subject to discuss at motorcycle rallies or biker bars, but too many motorcyclists have a serious problem with alcohol. I'm not just talking an innocently sober rider getting squished by a drunk driver I'm talking about a motorcyclist riding while under the influence and crashing into something.

For comparison, let's consider the alcohol and drug involvement of riders who survive accidents:

Rider Alcohol and drug Involvement	Survivors
NONE	86.0 Percent
Alcohol or drug use	11.0 Percent
Unknown	03.0 Percent

There seems to be a direct link between alcohol or drug consumption and fatal motorcycle accidents. Roughly half of all motorcycle fatalities involve a rider under the influence of alcohol or drugs, mostly alcohol. One big reason for motorcycle accident fatalities is crash speed. The greater the speed, the greater the injuries when the crash happens. And riders who have alcohol in the brain are much more likely to ride faster than their sober speed, even if they are not legally intoxicated. In the Hurt Report, 41% of riders who didn't survive crashes had some alcohol or drug involvement.

What's the message here? Well, the bottom line is that around 10% of motorcyclists involved in accidents have been drinking, but drinking riders represent over 40% of all motorcycle fatalities. If you allow yourself to ride a motorcycle after you've been drinking, even after just a few beers, you're really hanging it out.

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State Rider Ed

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