WASHINGTON Traffic Safety COMMISSION

Brief No. 7
August 2020

Positive Motorcyclist Behaviors in Clark County

Motorcycle Safety patrols were conducted in Clark County by the Traffic Safety Task Force law enforcement agencies on city, county, and state roads. The patrols targeted motorcyclist safety for all drivers. Overlapping with these patrols was the State's *It's a Fine Line* motorcyclist safety campaign. During two patrols, July 18th and 25th from 2:00—10:00 p.m., officers observed positive motorcyclist behavior in addition to targeting all drivers to increase motorcycle safety. Of the 195 driver contacts made during these patrols 90% were drivers of other vehicles and 10% motorcyclists (law enforcement agencies condemns profiling). All observed motorcyclists used turn signals and travelled the posted speed limits. All observed motorcyclists were wearing helmets.

Did you know?

According to preliminary results from the Department of Licensing's **2020 Motorcyclist Beliefs and Perspectives** survey, in Clark County:

- ⇒ More than 90% of riders would still wear helmets even if not required by law.
- ⇒ More than half of riders wear all personal protective equipment every time they ride.
- ⇒ Four of every five riders report they practice riding skills separate from their regular riding activities. Fifteen percent of riders practice every week.
- ⇒ More than 80% never consume alcohol or drugs when they ride or plan to ride.

I care, because modeling good driving behavior is everyone's responsibility. A common misconception is that motorcyclists are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior and are chronic traffic safety violators. In reality, the vast majority of motorcyclists are safe drivers, as demonstrated by the 147 motorcyclists observed in Clark County.

During 42 hours of patrol observations, 147 motorcyclists were seen obeying all traffic laws.

Are you a motorcycle rider? Complete the survey!

2020 Motorcyclist Beliefs and Perspectives Survey

Or type in your browser https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5464938/a71414d32abc

For more information, *please contact Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Research and Data Division at (360) 725-9860.*

Sources:

Clark County Traffic Safety Task Force; Department of Licensing Research and Analysis Office

Photo Credit to Clark County Today "Target Zero takes motorcycle safety head on", July 17, 2020, https://www.clarkcountytoday.com/news/target-zero-takes-motorcycle-safety-head-on/

WASHINGTON Traffic Safety COMMISSION

Brief No. 7
August 2020

Create Your Own Motorcycle Safety

Motorcycle Riders can create safety by:

⇒ Enhancing skill through training and practice.

⇒ Riding within the limits of your ability. Ride sober.

⇒ Being visible and being protected. Always wear your helmet and personal protective gear.

Other Drivers can create safety by:

⇒ Giving enough space for motorcyclists.

⇒ Looking twice before turning left.

⇒ Sharing the road. Never try to impede the path of a motorcyclist to stop them from speeding or lane splitting.

EVERYONE can create safety by:

⇒ Following traffic laws and modeling safe road use behavior, whether driving or riding.

⇒ Offering patience and courtesy.

⇒ Intervening in unsafe driving behavior when we are vehicle or motorcycle passengers.

It's a Fine Line—Target Zero Motorcycle Safety

ItsAFineLine.com

* ***Motorcycle safety education, news, and videos!***
* ***Information about motorcycle endorsements!***
* ***Statewide motorcycle training directory!***

Motorcyclist Fatality Facts

⇒ In Clark County from 2015-2019, two-thirds of motorcyclist fatalities involved other vehicle drivers. Two-thirds of motorcyclist fatalities also occurred within Clark County city limits.

⇒ One-third of motorcyclist fatalities occurred on roads with posted speeds of 35 mph or less.

⇒ Among the motorcycle drivers killed in multi-vehicle fatal crashes in Clark County, more than half were considered to be mostly or fully at fault.

⇒ Three of these motorcyclist deaths may have been prevented had the riders been wearing helmets.

⇒ The most common motorcyclist factors involved in fatal crashes are impairment and speeding. The most common other vehicle driver factor is distraction.

Clark County Fatal and Serious Injury Motorcyclist Crashes, Jan-Jul 2020

Sources:

Washington Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) *- Washington Traffic Safety Commission*
Clark County Traffic Safety Task Force, Department of Licensing

Map: ***Crash Data Portal,*** *Washington State Department of Transportation*
https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/mapsdata/crash/crashdata.htm 08-03-2020