



SHARING THE ROAD: CYCLISTS & MOTORCYCLISTS

Traffic Injury Research Foundation & Toronto Police Service

April 2018



Spring weather and warmer temperatures mean that road users can expect more cyclists and motorcyclists on the road.

In Toronto:

There were 20 cyclists and 29 motorcyclists killed in Toronto in road collisions between 2011 and 2015. An estimated 2 out of 5 cyclist fatalities and 1 out of 6 motorcyclist fatalities involved distraction by either the rider or the driver of the other vehicle involved in the collision.



- > Almost 1 in 3 cyclists died in crashes that occurred between 3 pm and 6 pm when visibility is generally good.
- > 1 in 3 cyclist fatalities occurred on a Friday.
- > 1 in 4 cyclist fatalities occurred in November when daylight hours are declining and motorists may not expect to see cyclists.
- > 1 in 5 motorcyclists were killed in crashes that occurred between 9 pm and midnight when it is dark.
- > Wednesdays and Fridays each accounted for 1 in 4 motorcyclist fatalities.
- > Almost 1 in 3 motorcyclists died in crashes which occurred in September.

Source: TIRF National Fatality Database 2018

In Ontario:

- > Cyclists represented 3.4% of road fatalities in 2015 and 2016.
- > Motorcyclists accounted for 11.4% of fatalities during the same period.

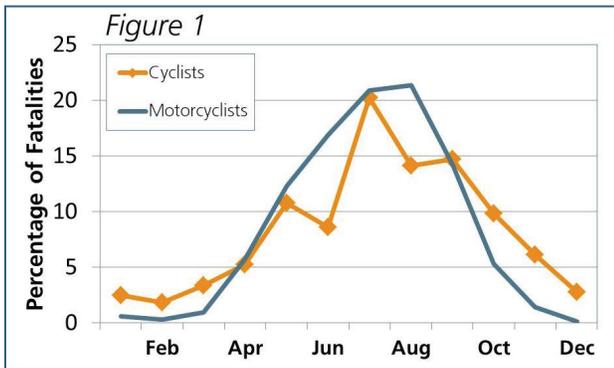
Source: Preliminary Ontario Road Safety Annual Report, Ministry of Transportation (MTO) <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/publications/pdfs/preliminary-2016-orsarselected-statistics.pdf>



In Canada:

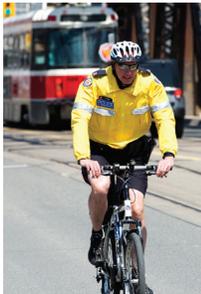
Among both cyclists and motorcyclists, 5% of fatalities occurred in April. In July, 20.2% of cyclists were killed while among motorcyclists, 21.4% were killed in August (see Figure 1: Percentage of fatally injured

cyclists and motorcyclists by month: Canada, 2011-2015).



Data suggest that risk-taking among cyclists and motorcyclists appears to be more prevalent during periods of decreased visibility. Nationally:

- > 1 in 3 cyclists killed in a collision were struck by a vehicle at night.
- > 1 in 5 cyclists killed in a collision were struck by a heavy truck or tractor trailer.
- > Almost 2 in 3 motorcyclists killed in a collision had committed a traffic infraction prior to the crash.
- > Almost 2 in 5 fatally injured motorcyclists had been speeding prior to the crash.



Source: Transport Canada <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/motorvehiclesafety/tp-tp15145-1201.htm#s38>

Characteristics of cyclist and motorcyclist traffic fatalities include:

- > 1 in 3 cyclists that died in a crash were struck by a light truck or SUV.
- > 1 in 3 cyclist fatalities were over the age of 55 compared to 1 in 6 cyclist fatalities that were aged 19 years or younger.
- > 2 in 5 motorcyclists that died in a single-vehicle crash struck a fixed object.
- > 1 in 4 motorcyclist fatalities were over the age of 55 years compared to only 2.9% that were aged 19 years or younger.

Source: TIRF National Fatality Database 2018

Strategies to share the road

As Spring arrives many cyclists and motorcyclists take to the road. Although motorcyclists and bicyclists are smaller and more vulnerable than other

drivers, all road users need to be aware of each other. These tips can help you and others stay safe:

Bicyclists can improve road safety by:

- > following the rules of the road, using hand signals before turning, and travelling with traffic;
- > being seen and heard by wearing bright or reflective clothing and using a bike light and bell;
- > wearing a helmet that fits properly and is worn correctly.

Motorcyclists can improve road safety by:

- > staying out of a driver's blind spot, and ensuring that they are not crowded by other road users;
- > making eye contact with other road users and not assuming that other drivers have seen them;
- > approaching intersections slowly, watching for turning traffic;
- > wearing a helmet and bright coloured clothing. SEE AND BE SEEN.

Other road users can improve road safety by:

- > looking out for cyclists and motorcyclists at intersections or when pulling out of side streets;
- > providing at least one metre of space between their vehicle and any bicycles or motorcycles;
- > checking for passing cyclists or motorcyclists before opening the door of their vehicle.

Traffic Injury Research Foundation

TIRF is a national, independent, charitable road safety research institute that studies road user behaviours. Visit www.tirf.ca or call (877) 238-5235
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