



## Traffic Safety News

*From the Delaware Office of Highway Safety*

**June 2011**

Whether it is the warmer temperatures or elevated gas prices...motorcyclists have taken to the roads across Delaware. Today, our message is two-fold: Ride Smart and Share the Road.

### **What you need to know**

The Governors Highway Safety Association reports motorcycle deaths declined in 2010 by at least 2% nationwide. Delaware has seen this trend as well. In 2005, there were 21 motorcycle deaths, an all-time high for Delaware, but there has been great progress over the last five years and Delaware has achieved a 57% decrease in motorcycle fatalities. Here are the facts you need to know:

- In 2010, motorcycle fatalities accounted for 9% of all traffic fatalities (9 of 103)
- Helmet use in fatal motorcycle crashes increased to from 28% in 2009, to 67% in 2010 when 6 out of 9 motorcyclists were wearing a helmet.
- Speed and alcohol use were common contributing factors.
- The average age of the motorcyclist killed is over the age of 40.

### **What you can do**

- **If you are a motorist** – Share the road. Be alert for those riding motorcycles. Give them proper space and passing room.
- **If you are the motorcyclist** – Ride Safe by always wearing appropriate safety gear, never pass between vehicles or on the shoulder, and never ride side by side with another motorcyclist in the same lane. And always ride sober.

Riding safe and sharing the road is a responsibility that you owe to yourself and others. For more information on this and other traffic safety programs, go to [www.ohs.delaware.gov](http://www.ohs.delaware.gov).

**Ride Safe and Share the Road. Arrive Alive DE.**

*This message is being sent to you by the Delaware Office of Highway Safety, who asks you to drive safely at all times. For more information on this and other traffic safety programs, go to [www.ohs.delaware.gov](http://www.ohs.delaware.gov).*