

Iowa CODES Data Enhancement Project

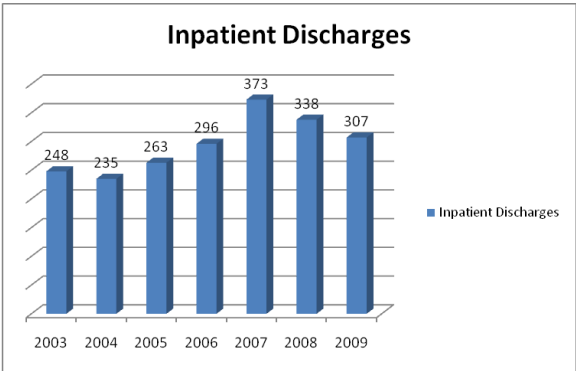
2009 Motorcycle Injuries

In 2009, 59 Iowa riders died in motorcycle crashes. 56 people died in 49 fatal motorcycle crashes that were reported in Iowa. More than 1,100 motorcycle riders were injured in crashes. The direct medical charges for these injuries, including emergency department (ED) visits or outpatient care, and hospitalizations, have reached almost \$19 million, a 36% increase from 2006.

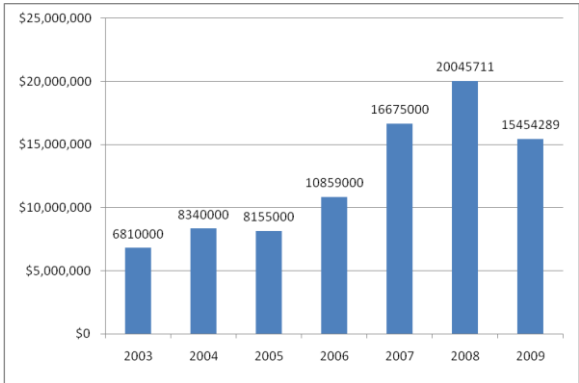
307 persons were hospitalized related to motorcycle crashes in Iowa in 2009, a number less than in 2008 (338 motorcycle injuries).

- 90% of them were drivers
- 82% were males
- 44% were between 35 and 54 years old
- 72% were unhelmeted
- \$15.5 million total hospital charges
- \$50,300 per person
- 3.4% average annual increase in the number of inpatient visits since 2003
- 18.1% average annual increase in the total charges since 2003

Iowa Motorcycle Hospitalizations¹



Inpatient Hospital Charges in Iowa¹



1. Source: Outpatient discharge data from Iowa Hospital Association (IHA).

2. Source: Inpatient discharge data from IHA.

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Helmet Saved Lives and Medical costs

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a leading cause of death in motorcycle crashes. TBI accounted for 23.7% of all crash-related, motorcycle riders deaths. Nineteen percent of the hospitalized motorcycle riders sustained TBI.

Although the numbers are too small to produce reliable data in Iowa, nationwide motorcyclists without helmets are significantly more likely to die by suffering head injury (2.2 times higher) than helmeted riders. In Iowa, 69.2% of hospitalized motorcyclists were not helmeted. Among them:

- 40.5% suffered TBI vs. 18.2% of the helmeted • riders.
- Average inpatient charges were 34% higher than **helmeted riders**.

Hospitalized Motorcycle Riders by Helmet Use in Iowa³

TBI	Unhelmeted	Helmeted	Total
Inpatient Avg. Charges	\$56,468	\$42,125	\$52,179

There were not large enough numbers from the linkage to break data down by injury severity.

3. Based on 2009 motorcycle crash/inpatient motorcycle study data. Also, percent totals will not equal 100%, due to the omission of decimal numbers.

Impaired and Speeding Motorcyclists

- 18% of hospitalized motorcyclists • were impaired either under the influence or using alcohol or drugs.
- 10.4% of hospitalized motorcyclists were speeding when the crash happened.

Selected Characteristics of Motorcycle Injuries

Variables	%
Unhelmeted Riders	69.2%
Impaired Drivers	17.8%
Speeding	10.4%

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