



## **LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION NEWS RELEASE** **April 30, 2026**

### **May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month: Motorcyclists among Louisiana's most vulnerable road users**

While their two-wheeled machines can generate a big growl on the road, motorcyclists are among the most vulnerable road users in Louisiana, and all motor vehicle drivers should keep an eye out for them as more motorcycles hit the open road in May.

During Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, the [Louisiana Highway Safety Commission](#) reminds motor vehicle drivers that motorcycles are more difficult to see on the road than other vehicles, making it easier to overlook them while switching lanes or turning at an intersection.

“Motorcycles have the same right to the road as cars, SUVs, and pickups, but they’re not always treated equally as other vehicles,” LHSC Director Lisa Freeman said. “Their low-profile makes them harder to see, and when they do get in a crash, they don’t give the driver the same protection other vehicles do.”

In 2024 in Louisiana, 68 motorcycle drivers and passengers were killed in crashes on Louisiana roads, according to data from the Center for Analytics and Research in Transportation Safety at LSU. From 2020-2024, 421 motorcycle drivers and passengers died in Louisiana crashes.

Across the country, 6,228 motorcyclists were killed in 2024. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the 2024 fatality rate for motorcyclists was 27 times higher than the passenger car occupant fatality rate.

Motor vehicle drivers should scan the entire road for all vehicles before making a turn. Drivers should wait until they have an unobstructed view of traffic before turning or changing lanes.

“If you’re following a motorcycle, give it extra space so it can maneuver, change speed, or stop,” Freeman said. “That extra space can make a big difference in an emergency.”

Motor vehicle drivers should always follow the speed limit, use turn signals and never drive impaired or distracted.

“Driving a vehicle is not the time to catch up on phone calls,” Freeman said. “Keep your hands on the wheel and your attention on the road.”

Louisiana law requires drivers to always wear a DOT-compliant helmet. A NHTSA study showed that helmets saved the lives of 1,872 motorcyclists in 2017, and another 749 lives could have been saved if motorcyclists had worn helmets.

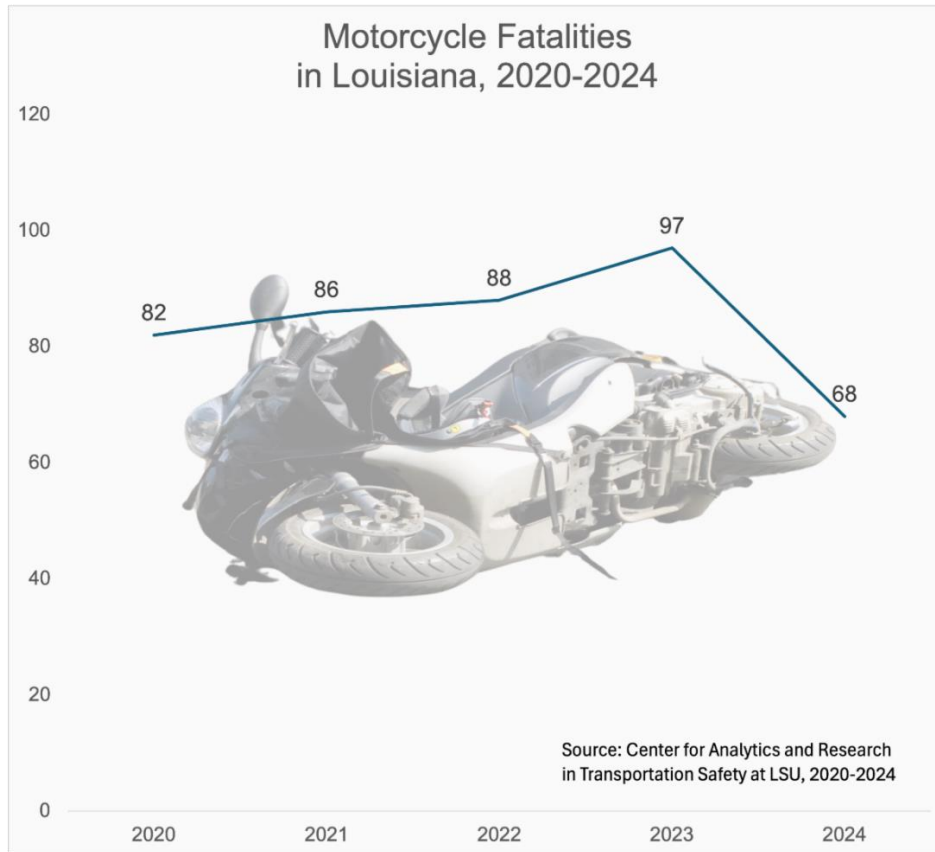


Figure 1: Louisiana Motorcycle Fatalities 2020-2024, 68 people died in 2024 according to CARTS.

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