

“Almost half of the motorcycle operators who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2003 had BAC levels 0.08 g/dl or higher.”

“In 2003, a higher percentage of motorcycle operators in fatal crashes had BAC levels 0.08 g/dl or higher than any other type of driver.”

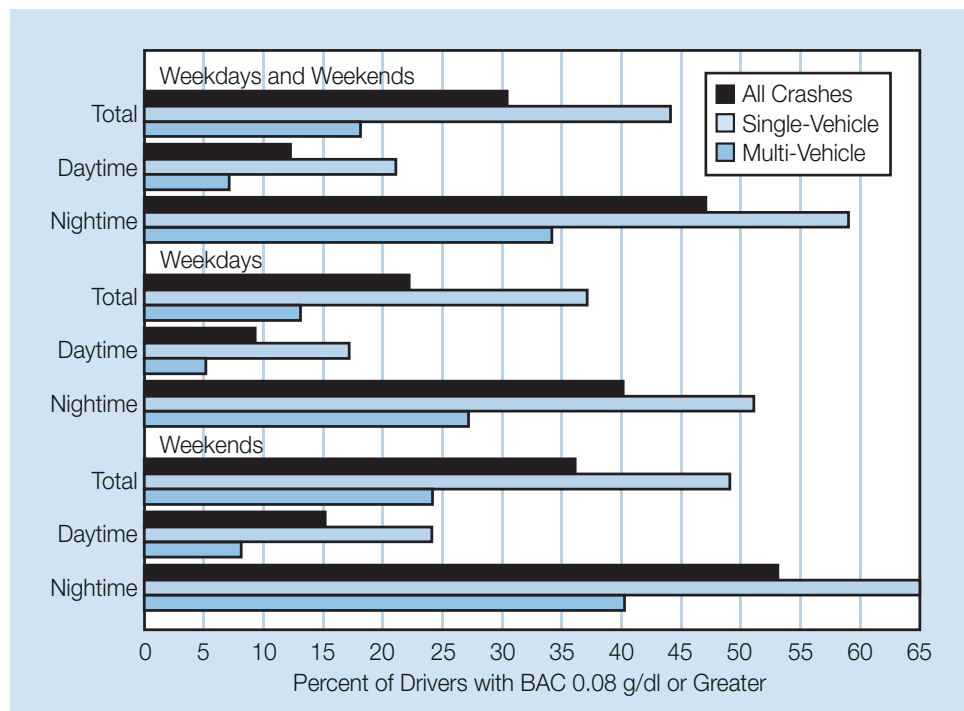
Alcohol

A higher percentage of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes in 2003 had blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of 0.08 grams per deciliter (g/dl) or higher than any other type of motor vehicle driver. The percentages for vehicle operators involved in fatal crashes were 29 percent for motorcycles, 22 percent for light trucks, 22 percent for passenger cars, and 1 percent for large trucks.

In 2003, 30 percent of all fatally injured motorcycle operators had BAC levels of 0.08 g/dl or higher. An additional 7 percent had lower alcohol levels (BAC 0.01 to 0.07 g/dl). The percentage with BAC 0.08 g/dl or above was highest for fatally injured operators between 40 and 44 years old (44 percent), followed by ages 35 to 39 (41 percent) and ages 45 to 49 (36 percent).

Almost half (44 percent) of the 1,501 motorcycle operators who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2003 had BAC levels of 0.08 g/dl or higher. Almost two-thirds (65 percent) of those killed in single-vehicle crashes on weekend nights had BAC 0.08 g/dl or higher.

Figure 2
Intoxication Rates for Motorcycle Operators Killed in Traffic Crashes, by Time of Day, 2003



Motorcycle operators killed in traffic crashes at night were 4 times as likely to have BAC levels 0.08 g/dl or higher as those killed during the day (47 percent and 12 percent, respectively).

The reported helmet use rate for motorcycle operators with BAC levels 0.08 g/dl or higher killed in traffic crashes was 41 percent, compared with 60 percent for those with no alcohol (BAC = 0.00 g/dl).

