To Reduce Fatal Motorcycle Crashes, First Understand How They Happen

U.S. MOTORCYCLES ACCOUNT FOR
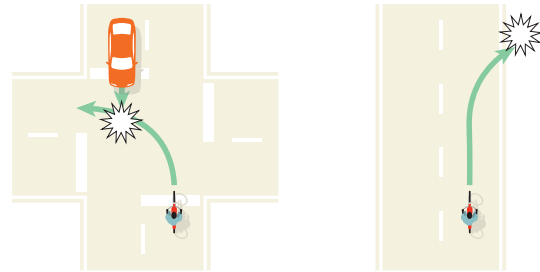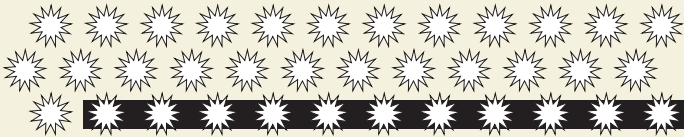
0.63% of all VEHICLE-MILES TRAVELED

3.2% of all REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES

14% of annual FATAL CRASHES

The **U.S. DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** and the **Volpe Center** worked together to better understand the motorcycle crash problem, a critical first step toward improving the safety of motorcycle operators and other road users.

Volpe's team evaluated five years of motorcycle crash data. They identified over **507,000** motorcycle crashes—including **23,245** fatal crashes.

These crashes were classified using complex criteria to generate **36 possible pre-crash scenarios.**

Volpe experts identified **11 motorcycle pre-crash scenarios** that account for **70 percent of motorcycle crashes** and **81 percent of fatal motorcycle crashes.**

By identifying predominant pre-crash scenarios, researchers, technology developers, and vehicle manufacturers can focus on mitigation efforts and innovative technology applications to reduce fatal motorcycle crashes.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Volpe Center