

The role of motorcyclist and other driver behaviour in two types of serious accident in the UK.

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Abstract

Motorcycle accidents have somewhat different characteristics from accidents involving other classes of road user. They include in particular 'right of way' accidents, and accidents involving loss of control on curves or bends. A sample of 1790 accident cases was considered, including 1003 in detail, from UK midland police forces, involving motorcyclists of all ages, and covering the years 1997-2002 inclusive. Significant differences were discovered in the sample with respect to types of accidents involving motorcyclists (and their blameworthiness). There seems to be a particular problem surrounding other road users' perception of motorcycles, particularly at junctions. Such accidents often seem to involve older drivers with relatively high levels of driving experience who nonetheless seem to have problems detecting approaching motorcycles. Motorcyclists themselves seem to have far more problems with other types of accident, such as those on bends or curves. The implications of these findings are discussed.