

September 2009 Hot Topic

Subject: Motorcycles

At the end of July 2009 motorcycle deaths for the year were down 32% from 2008. Then the first part of August hit where we saw a motorcyclist death on eight of the first nine days. August finished with 10 motorcyclist deaths which brought the yearly total to 25, 11% down from 2008 and 4% up from the 5-year average (see chart on page 2). It is projected that there will be 30 motorcyclist deaths in 2009 which would be six deaths fewer than 2008. This is somewhat notable considering the number of registered motorcycles increased 22% from 2008 to 2009 and has tripled since the year 2000. This would decrease our rate of motorcyclists killed per registered motorcycles by 41% from 2008 to 2009 (see chart on page 3).

Who is being killed on motorcycles? The majority (76%) of motorcyclists killed in 2009 have been 45-66 years old, with an average age of 50 years old. This is higher than the average age of motorcyclist deaths which is usually around 39 years old (see chart on page 4). The age of motorcycle drivers in all crashes has also been increasing over the years from 33.3 years in 2004 to 35.9 years in 2007. It is estimated that the average age of motorcycle drivers in crashes in 2009 will be 37.5 years.

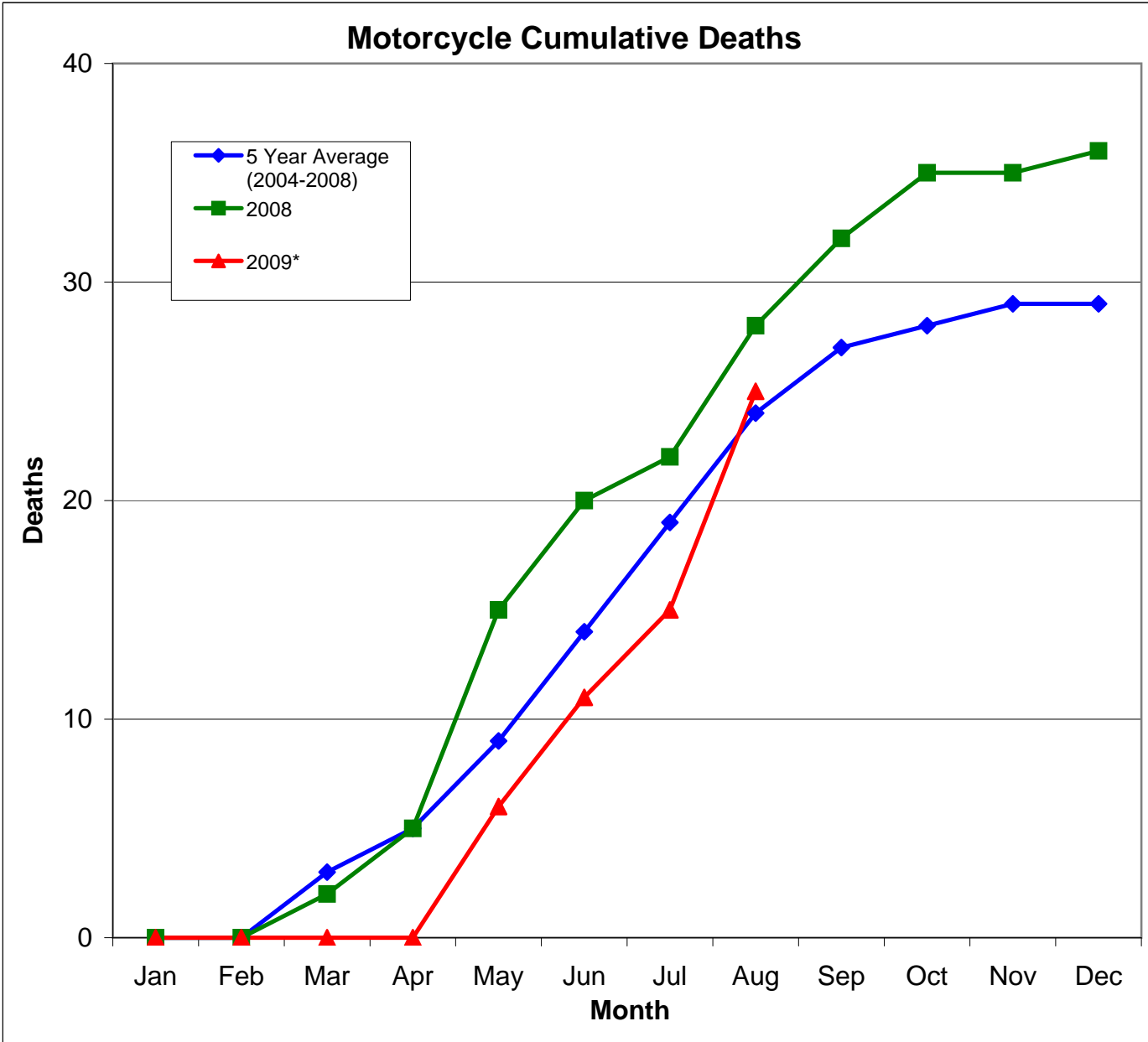
In 2008, 64% of motorcycle fatal crashes involved another vehicle. This year only 44% have involved another vehicle.

Helmet use is down from 64% of the deaths in 2008 to 50% of the deaths in 2009.

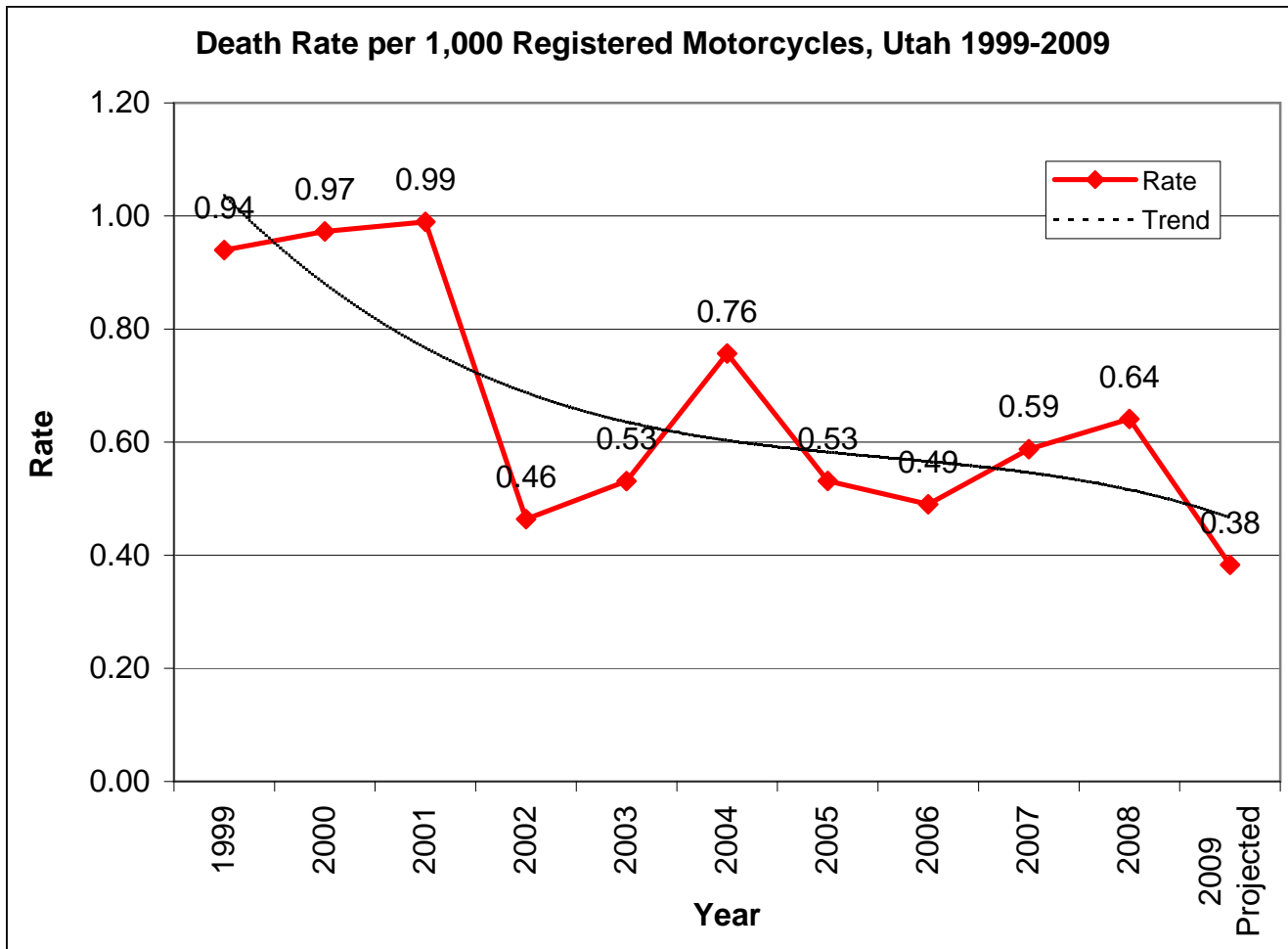
Motorcycle Cumulative Deaths

Year	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5 Year Average (2004-2008)	0	0	3	5	9	14	19	24	27	28	29	29
2008	0	0	2	5	15	20	22	28	32	35	35	36
2009*	0	0	0	0	6	11	15	25				

* Preliminary data



Motorcyclists Killed			
Year	Registered Motorcycles	#	Rate per 1,000 Rgstrd Mtrcycyls
1999	24,470	23	0.94
2000	24,674	24	0.97
2001	28,291	28	0.99
2002	38,787	18	0.46
2003	41,421	22	0.53
2004	40,964	31	0.76
2005	43,271	23	0.53
2006	48,949	24	0.49
2007	56,146	33	0.59
2008	64,376	36	0.64
2009 Projected	78,302	30	0.38
Total	489,651	292	0.60



Motorcyclists		
Year	Mean Age	
	Motorcycle Drivers In All Crashes	Motorcyclists Killed
2004	33.3	40.0
2005	34.2	38.0
2006	34.8	35.4
2007	35.9	42.9
2008		36.1
2009*		49.9
Average	34.6	40.4

* Preliminary data

