

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the cause of motorcycle accidents, which were human factor, vehicular factor, roadway and environment factors, as well as the way in which the accident occurred. The sample consisted of 135 patients who had a motorcycle accident but still had good conscious and received treatment at Lamphun Hospital. The research instrument was a questionnaire constructed by the researcher. Data was collected by interviewing and was analysed by using descriptive statistics and the chi-square test.

The results were revealed that motorcycle riders who had an accident were 15 to 24 years old 46.7 percent. Mostly males 77 percent. The educational level was in secondary school 24.4 percent. The most common occupation was laborer 45.9 percent, and was followed by students 24.4 percent. The riding experience was 1 to 5 years 45.9 percent. Those who successfully passed the motorcycle drivers license test was 31.1 percent. Most of the sample rode a motorcycle everyday at 76.3 percent. Sixty percent was on their way home when the accident occurred and 80 percent were not wearing helmets.

The combination of the cause of accidents was found 68.9 percent, rider induced accidents was 12.6 percent, the primary contributor was alcoholic drinking. The second contributor was that the motorcycle was not being used by the owner but by someone else who may not have been familiar with it. The third contributor was not complying with the traffic laws. Concerning the knowledge of traffic, 65.9 percent was in the moderate level. Roadway and environment induced was 15.6 percent, the primary contributor was roads that were not straight at 45.2 percent. Curves were the most prevalent. Vehicle induced was 0.7 percent, the primary contributor was equipment malfunctions or were missing parts at 24.4 percent the same as the motorcycles were not inspected at least once a year. And other causes not identified accounted for 2.2 percent of the accidents. It was also found that both the knowledge of traffic laws and the cause of the accident showed statistically significant differences with respect to gender, education, and having drivers license.

The occurrence of accident was the motorcycle rider fell down without involving any other vehicle at 48.9 percent.