

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2008

Motorcycles*

An evaluation of motor vehicle incidents involving motorcycles is important since motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable and motorcyclist fatalities contribute substantially to the number of traffic fatalities in Illinois.

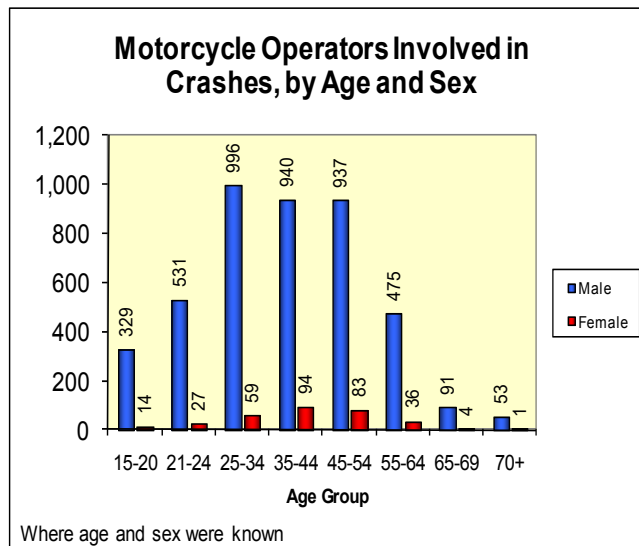
	All Crashes	Crashes Involving Motorcycles
Crashes:	408,399	4,903
Fatal Crashes:	950	130
Injury Crashes:	67,845	3,168
Total People Involved:	937,463 ^a	9,275 ^a
Total Fatalities:	1,043 ^a	3,693 ^a
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	94,098 ^a	140 ^a

^aTotals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 937,463 total people = 927,093 occupants + 10,370 non-occupants

Just 4,903 (1.2%) of all 408,399 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2008 involved motorcycles, yet these crashes accounted for 140 (13.4%) of all 1,043 traffic fatalities. Among the 140 motorcycle-related fatalities, 123 (87.9%) were among motorcycle operators, and 12 (8.6%) were among passengers on the motorcycles, while 1 (0.7%) were among drivers of other vehicles involved in the crashes.

Demographics of Motorcycle Operators

- 4,398 (93.1%) of the 4,722 operators of motorcycles that were involved in crashes were male[†]
- 1,613 (34.5%) of the 4,671 operators were aged 21-34[‡]



* Includes motorcycles, motorscooters, motorbikes and mopeds

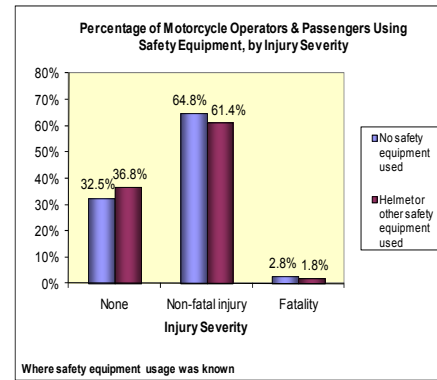
[†] Where sex was known

[‡] Where age was known

Note: Data as of January 6, 2010; with 408,399 crash records, 751,885 vehicle records and 937,463 person records

Use of Safety Equipment

- Overall, just 1,521 (28.0%) of 5,425 motorcycle riders (operators and passengers) reported using helmets or other safety equipment
- Riders who were uninjured were more likely to report having used a helmet or other safety equipment.
- Riders who were non-fatally or fatally injured were less likely to have been using safety equipment.



Other characteristics of motorcycle-related crashes

- Excessive speed was a factor in 644 (13.1%) of all 4,903 crashes involving motorcycles[§]
 - In comparison, excessive speed was a factor in 52,196 (12.9%) of all 403,496 crashes that did not involve motorcycles
- Among all 5,008 motorcycles that were involved in crashes in Illinois in 2008 where collision type was known, 644 (12.9%) involved crashes into fixed objects
 - In comparison, 49,164 (6.6%) of all 746,877 other motor vehicles involved in crashes were in fixed object crashes (where collision type and vehicle type were known)
- 2,199 (44.9%) of all 4,903 motorcycle-related crashes were single-vehicle incidents involving the motorcycle itself and no other vehicle (where collision type was known)
- 555 (11.3%) of all 4,903 motorcycle-related crashes involved a collision between a motorcycle which was driving straight and an oncoming vehicle making a left turn

Geographic Facts

- 1,654 (33.7%) of all 4,903 crashes involving motorcycles took place in Cook County
 - In comparison, Cook County accounts for 31.0% of the average vehicle miles traveled in Illinois**
- 3,744 (76.4%) of all 4,903 crashes involving motorcycles took place on roads or highways that were classified as "urban" use, but they were more likely to take place outside of Cook County than crashes not involving motorcycles:

	Crashes Involving One or More Motorcycles		Crashes Not Involving Motorcycles	
	n	(%)	n	(%)
Chicago	907	(18.5%)	110,786	(27.5%)
Suburban Cook County	747	(15.2%)	84,759	(21.0%)
Chicago Collar Counties	975	(19.9%)	84,394	(20.9%)
Rest of State - Urban	1,090	(22.2%)	62,923	(15.6%)
Rest of State - Rural	1,184	(24.1%)	60,634	(15.0%)

Note: Counties were stratified according to criteria defined by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System for the Illinois Department of Public Health
 URL: <http://app.idph.state.il.us/brfss/default.asp>

[§] Excessive speed includes crashes in which motorcyclists or any other driver in the crash was driving too fast for conditions or in which exceeding the speed limit or excessive speed for conditions was listed by police as a cause of the crash
 ** Source: Illinois Travel Statistics 2008, Illinois Department of Transportation