

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2007

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.

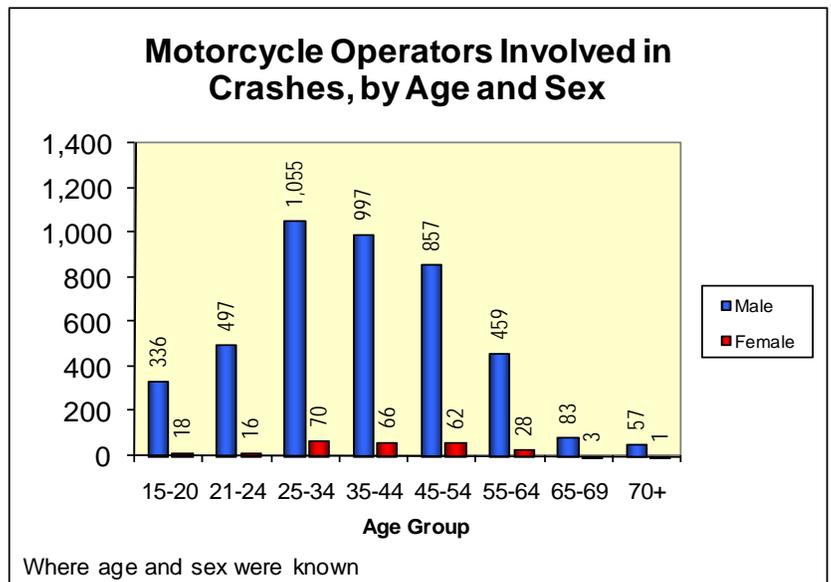
| | All Crashes | Crashes Involving Motorcycles |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Crashes: | 422,889 | 4,802 |
| Fatal Crashes: | 1,126 | 3,105 |
| Injury Crashes: | 73,220 | 154 |
| Total People Involved: | 983,373 ^a | 8,961 ^a |
| Total Fatalities: | 1,250 ^a | 159 ^a |
| Total Non-Fatal Injuries: | 103,174 ^a | 3,638 ^a |

^a Totals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 983,373 total people = 973,034 occupants + 10,339 non-occupants

Just 4,802 (1.1%) of all 422,889 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2007 involved motorcycles, yet these crashes accounted for 159 (12.7%) of all 1,250 traffic fatalities. Among the 159 motorcycle-related fatalities, 142 (89.3%) were among motorcycle operators, and 15 (9.4%) were among passengers on the motorcycles, while 2 (1.3%) were among drivers of other vehicles involved in the crashes.

Demographics of Motorcycle Operators

- 4,381 (98.1%) of the 4,468 operators of motorcycles that were involved in crashes were male[†]
- 1,638 (35.6%) of the 4,605 operators were aged 21-34[‡]



* Includes motorcycles, motorscooters, motorbikes and mopeds

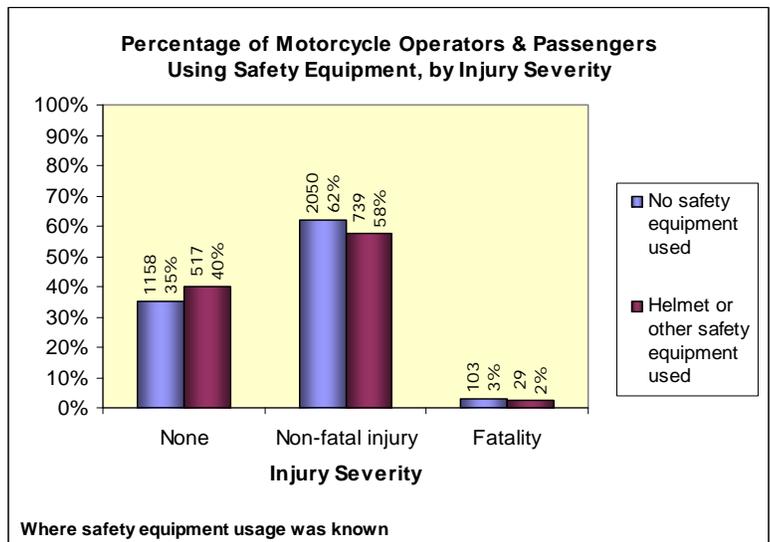
[†] Where sex was known

[‡] Where age was known

Note: Data as of March 23, 2009; with 422,889 crash records, 785,918 vehicle records and 983,373 person records

Use of Safety Equipment

- Overall, just 1,363 (25.8%) of 5,289 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 677 (14.4%) of all 4,802 crashes involving motorcycles[§]
 - In comparison, excessive speed was a factor in 46,550 (11.1%) of all 418,087 crashes that did not involve motorcycles
- Among all 4,922 motorcycles that were involved in crashes in Illinois in 2007 where collision type was known, 598 (12.1%) involved crashes into fixed objects
 - In comparison, 47,228 (6.1%) of all 780,301 other motor vehicles involved in crashes were in fixed object crashes (where collision type and vehicle type were known)
- 2,146 (44.7%) of all 4,801 motorcycle-related crashes were single-vehicle incidents involving the motorcycle itself and no other vehicle (where collision type was known)
- 574 (12.0%) of all 4,802 motorcycle-related crashes involved a collision between a motorcycle which was driving straight and an oncoming vehicle making a left turn

Geographic Facts

- 1,592 (33.2%) of all 4,802 crashes involving motorcycles took place in Cook County
 - In comparison, Cook County accounts for 30.6% of the average vehicle miles traveled in Illinois**
- 3,586 (74.7%) of all 4,802 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 | 861 | (17.9%) | 119,983 | (28.7%) |
| Suburban Cook County | 731 | (15.2%) | 85,317 | (20.4%) |
| Chicago Collar Counties | 979 | (20.4%) | 86,616 | (20.7%) |
| Rest of State - Urban | 1,070 | (22.3%) | 64,342 | (15.4%) |
| Rest of State - Rural | 1,161 | (24.2%) | 61,829 | (14.8%) |

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 2007, Illinois Department of Transportation