

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2006

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.

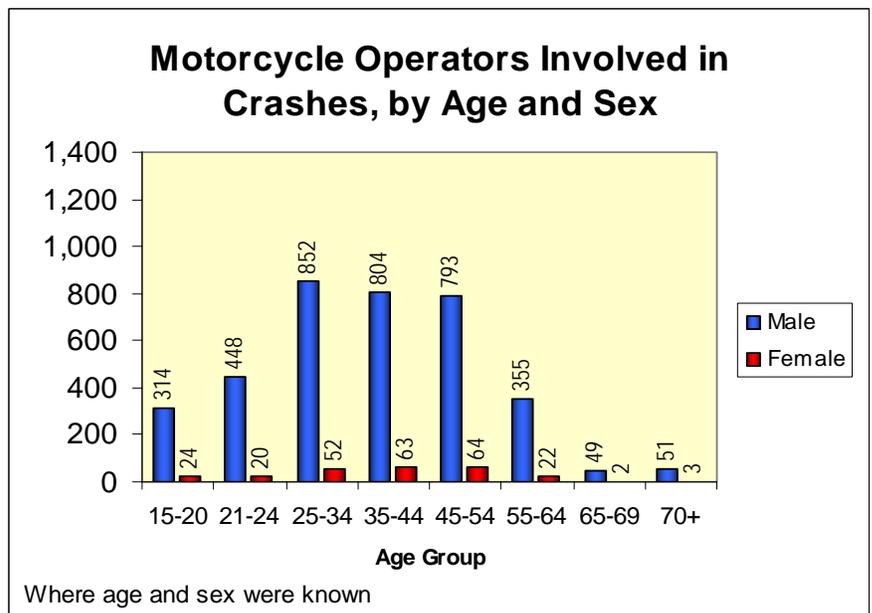
	All Crashes	Crashes Involving Motorcycles
Crashes:	408,851	4,121
Fatal Crashes:	1,136	128
Injury Crashes:	75,376	2,573
Total People Involved:	960,890 ^a	7,907 ^a
Total Fatalities:	1,254 ^a	132 ^a
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	106,901 ^a	2,996 ^a

^a Totals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 960,890 total people = 951,223 occupants + 9,667 non-occupants

Just 4,121 (1.0%) of all 408,851 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2006 involved motorcycles, yet these crashes accounted for 132 (10.5%) of all 1,254 traffic fatalities. Among the 132 motorcycle-related fatalities, 121 (91.7%) were among motorcycle operators, and 11 (8.3%) were among passengers on the motorcycles.

Demographics of Motorcycle Operators

- 3,705 (93.6%) of the 3,958 operators of motorcycles that were involved in crashes were male[†]
- 1,372 (35.0%) of the 3,924 operators were aged 21-34[‡]



* Includes motorcycles, motorscooters, motorbikes and mopeds

[†] Where sex was known

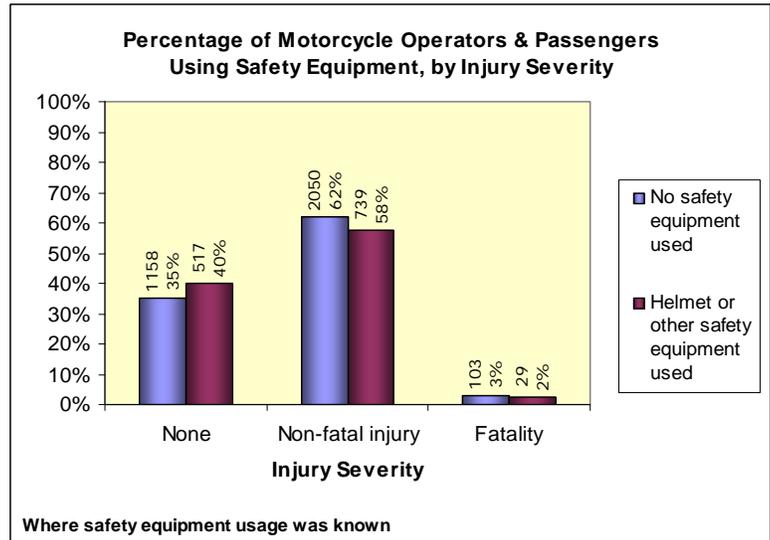
[‡] Where age was known

Note: Data as of May 23, 2008; with 408,851 crash records, 766,704 vehicle records and 960,890 person records

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Use of Safety Equipment

- Overall, just 1,285 (28.0%) of 4,597 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 619 (15.0%) of all 4,121 crashes involving motorcycles[§]
 - In comparison, excessive speed was a factor in 38,248 (9.5%) of all 404,730 crashes that did not involve motorcycles
- Among all 4,231 motorcycles that were involved in crashes in Illinois in 2006 where collision type was known, 525 (12.4%) involved crashes into fixed objects
 - In comparison, 40,422 (5.3%) of all 762,081 other motor vehicles involved in crashes were in fixed object crashes (where collision type and vehicle type were known)
- 1,762 (42.8%) of all 4,121 motorcycle-related crashes were single-vehicle incidents involving the motorcycle itself and no other vehicle
- 481 (11.7%) of all 4,121 motorcycle-related crashes involved a collision between a motorcycle which was driving straight and an oncoming vehicle making a left turn

Geographic Facts

- 1,378 (33.4%) of all 4,121 crashes involving motorcycles took place in Cook County
 - In comparison, Cook County accounts for 31.0% of the average vehicle miles traveled in Illinois**
- 3,150 (76.4%) of all 4,121 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 n (%)	Crashes Not Involving Motorcycles n (%)
Chicago	770 (18.7%)	117,669 (29.1%)
Suburban Cook County	608 (14.8%)	84,021 (20.8%)
Chicago Collar Counties	852 (20.7%)	82,764 (20.4%)
Rest of State - Urban	913 (22.2%)	61,159 (15.1%)
Rest of State - Rural	978 (23.7%)	59,117 (14.6%)

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 2006, Illinois Department of Transportation