

## Quick Facts

# Illinois Crash Information 2009

### 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.

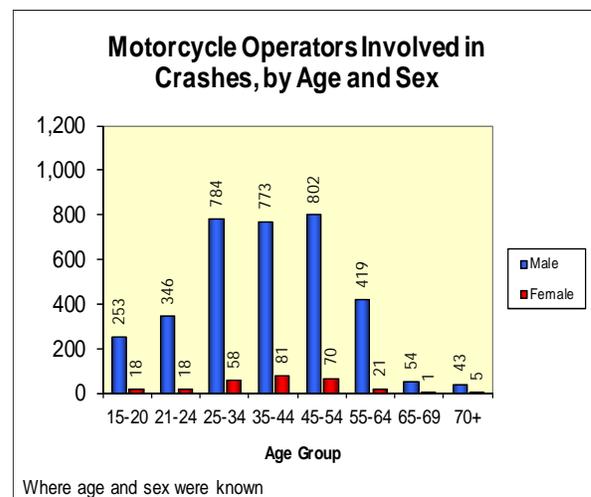
	All Crashes	Crashes Involving Motorcycles
<b>Crashes:</b>	292,439	3,846
<b>Fatal Crashes:</b>	832	124
<b>Injury Crashes:</b>	63,382	2,825
<b>Total People Involved:</b>	682,674 <sup>a</sup>	7,248 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total Fatalities:</b>	911 <sup>a</sup>	132 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total Non-Fatal Injuries:</b>	89,188 <sup>a</sup>	3,370 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Totals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 682,674 total people = 673,838 occupants + 8,836 non-occupants

Just 3,846 (1.3%) of all 292,439 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2009 involved motorcycles, yet these crashes accounted for 132 (14.5%) of all 911 traffic fatalities. Among the 132 motorcycle-related fatalities, 117 (88.6%) were among motorcycle operators, and 14 (10.6%) were among passengers on the motorcycles, while 1 (0.8%) was a pedestrian.

### Demographics of Motorcycle Operators

- 3,506 (92.7%) of the 3,783 operators of motorcycles that were involved in crashes were male<sup>†</sup>
- 1206 (32.2%) of the 3,746 were aged 21-34<sup>‡</sup>



\* Includes motorcycles, motorscooters, motorbikes and mopeds

<sup>†</sup> Where sex was known

<sup>‡</sup> Where age was known

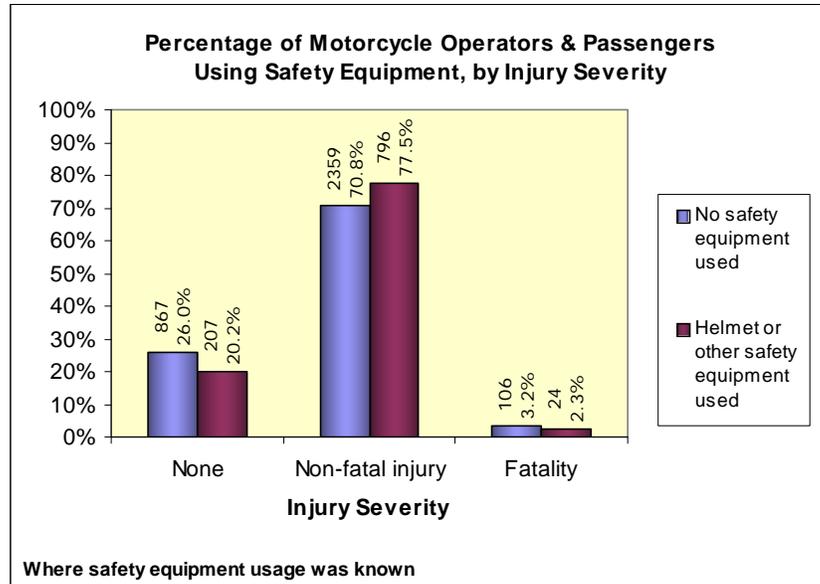
Note: Data as of October 4, 2010; with 292,439 crash records, 539,717 vehicle records and 673,839 person records.

The law regarding the reporting threshold for Property Damage Only crashes was amended effective January 1, 2009, resulting in decreased reporting of crashes in this specific category. It did not affect the reporting of injury or fatal crashes. For details of the reporting amendment, see also <http://app.idph.state.il.us/emsrpt/crash.asp>.

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### Use of Safety Equipment

- Overall, just 1,027 (23.6%) of 4,359 motorcycle riders (operators and passengers) reported using helmets or other safety equipment
- Riders who were fatally injured were less likely to have been using safety equipment.



### Other characteristics of motorcycle-related crashes

- Excessive speed was a factor in 550 (14.3%) of all 3,846 crashes involving motorcycles<sup>§</sup>
  - In comparison, excessive speed was a factor in 36,738 (12.7%) of all 288,593 crashes that did not involve motorcycles
- Among all 3,977 motorcycles that were involved in crashes in Illinois in 2009 where collision type was known, 644 (14.5%) involved crashes into fixed objects
  - In comparison, 35,617 (6.7%) of all 535,740 other motor vehicles involved in crashes were in fixed object crashes (where collision type and vehicle type were known)
- 1,822 (52.6%) of all 3,846 motorcycle-related crashes were single-vehicle incidents involving the motorcycle itself and no other vehicle (where collision type was known)
- 421 (10.9%) of all 3,846 motorcycle-related crashes involved a collision between a motorcycle which was driving straight and an oncoming vehicle making a left turn

### Geographic Facts

- 1,230 (32.0%) of all 3,846 crashes involving motorcycles took place in Cook County
  - In comparison, Cook County accounts for 31.2% of the average vehicle miles traveled in Illinois\*\*
- 2,774 (72.1%) of all 3,846 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 the Chicago area than crashes not involving motorcycles:

	Crashes Involving One or More Motorcycles	Crashes Not Involving Motorcycles
	n (%)	n (%)
<b>Chicago</b>	685 (17.8%)	81,299 (28.2%)
<b>Suburban Cook County</b>	545 (14.2%)	55,966 (19.4%)
<b>Chicago Collar Counties</b>	700 (18.2%)	58,080 (20.1%)
<b>Rest of State - Urban</b>	869 (22.6%)	47,207 (16.4%)
<b>Rest of State - Rural</b>	1,047 (27.2%)	46,041 (16.0%)

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>

<sup>§</sup> 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  
<sup>\*\*</sup> Source: Illinois Travel Statistics 2009, Illinois Department of Transportation