

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2011

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.

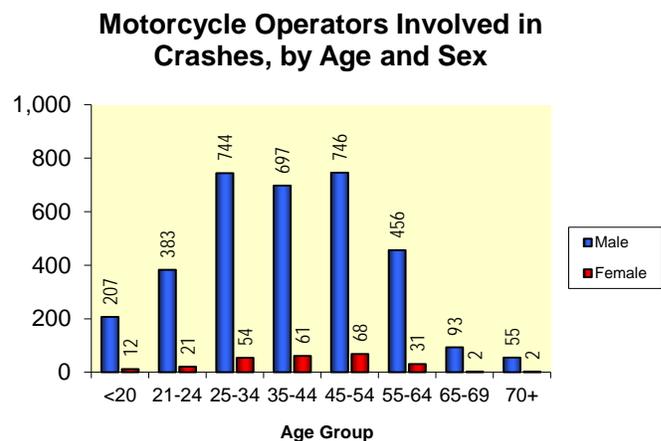
	All Crashes	Crashes Involving Motorcycles
Crashes:	281,914	3,760
Fatal Crashes:	835	142
Injury Crashes:	60,056	2,747
Total People Involved:	665,697 ^a	7,130 ^a
Total Fatalities:	918 ^a	146 ^a
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	84,215 ^a	3,222 ^a

^a Totals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 665,697 total people = 657,345 occupants + 8,352 non-occupants

Just 3,760 (1.3%) of all 281,914 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2011 involved motorcycles, yet these crashes accounted for 146 (15.9%) of all 918 traffic fatalities. Among the 146 motorcycle-related fatalities, 132 (90.4%) were among motorcycle operators, and 13 (8.9%) were among passengers on the motorcycles, while 1 (0.7%) was a pedestrian.

Demographics of Motorcycle Operators

- 3,406 (93.1%) of the 3,658 operators of motorcycles that were involved in crashes were male[†]
- 1,202 (33.1%) of the 3,632 were aged 21-34[‡]



Where age and sex were known

* Includes motorcycles, motorscooters, motorbikes and mopeds

[†] Where sex was known

[‡] Where age was known

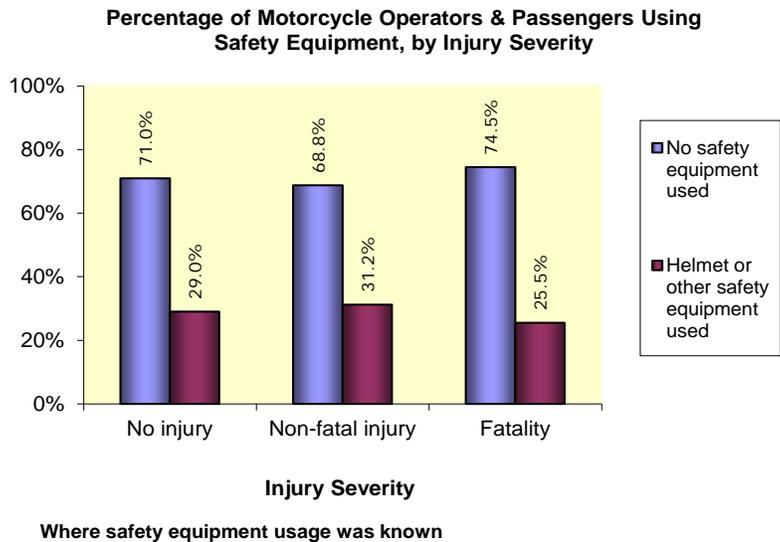
Note: Data as of October 22, 2012; with 281,914 crash records, 523,044 vehicle records and 665,697 person records.

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 1,277 (30.5%) of 4,186 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 509 (13.5%) of all 3,760 crashes involving motorcycles[§]
 - In comparison, excessive speed was a factor in 30,516 (11.0%) of all 278,154 crashes that did not involve motorcycles
- Among all 3,873 motorcycles that were involved in crashes in Illinois in 2011 where collision type was known, 481 (12.4%) involved crashes into fixed objects
 - In comparison, 32,781 (6.3%) of all 519,171 other motor vehicles involved in crashes were in fixed object crashes (where collision type and vehicle type were known)
- 1,768 (47.0%) of all 3,760 motorcycle-related crashes were single-vehicle incidents involving the motorcycle itself and no other vehicle
- 431 (11.5%) of all 3,760 motorcycle-related crashes involved a collision between a motorcycle which was driving straight and an oncoming vehicle making a left turn

Geographic Facts

- 1,121 (29.8%) of all 3,760 crashes involving motorcycles took place in Cook County
 - In comparison, Cook County accounts for 30.7% of the annual vehicle miles traveled in Illinois**
- 2,776 (73.8%) of all 3,760 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	(%)
Chicago	647	(17.2%)	77,293	(27.8%)
Suburban Cook County	474	(12.6%)	55,085	(19.8%)
Chicago Collar Counties	767	(20.4%)	55,922	(20.1%)
Rest of State - Urban	921	(24.5%)	46,112	(16.6%)
Rest of State - Rural	951	(25.3%)	43,742	(15.7%)

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 2011, Illinois Department of Transportation