

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2012

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:	274,291	4,232
Fatal Crashes:	886	148
Injury Crashes:	60,284	3,037
Total People Involved:	649,023 ^a	7,889 ^a
Total Fatalities:	956 ^a	150 ^a
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	83,810 ^a	3,530 ^a

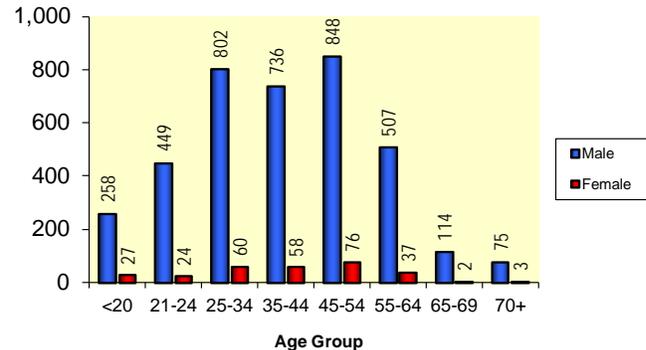
^aTotals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 649,023 total people = 640,402 occupants + 8,621 non-occupants

Just 4,232 (1.5%) of all 274,921 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2012 involved motorcycles, yet these crashes accounted for 150 (15.7%) of all 956 traffic fatalities. Among the 150 motorcycle-related fatalities, 142 (94.7%) were among motorcycle operators, and 7 (4.7%) were among passengers on the motorcycles, while 1 (0.7%) was a pedestrian.

Demographics of Motorcycle Operators

- 3,812 (92.9%) of the 4,105 operators of motorcycles that were involved in crashes were male[†]
- 1,335 (32.8%) of the 4,076 were aged 21-34[‡]

Motorcycle Operators Involved in Crashes, by Age and Sex



Where age and sex were known

* Includes motorcycles, motorscooters, motorbikes and mopeds

[†] Where sex was known

[‡] Where age was known

Note: Data as of March 28, 2014; with 274,291 crash records, 511,337 vehicle records and 649,023 person records.

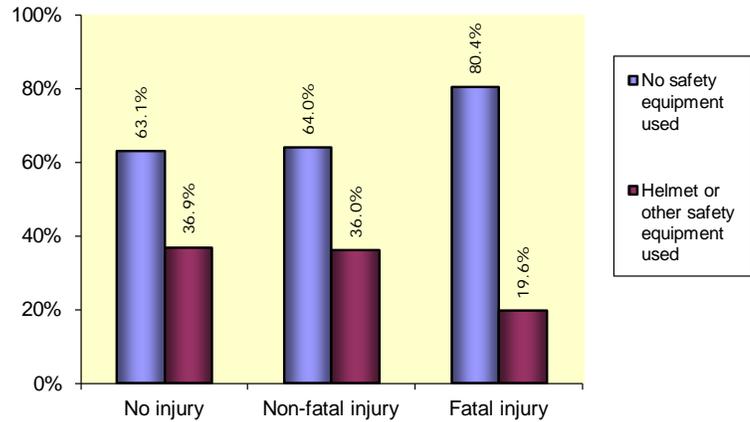
The law regarding the reporting threshold for Property Damage Only crashes was amended effective January 1, 2009, resulting in decreased reporting of crashes in this specific category. It did not affect the reporting of injury or fatal crashes. For details of the reporting amendment, see also <http://app.idph.state.il.us/emsrpt/crash.asp>.

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Use of Safety Equipment

- Overall, just 1,658 (35.7%) of 4,640 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.

Percentage of Motorcycle Operators & Passengers Using Safety Equipment, by Injury Severity



Where safety equipment usage was known

Other characteristics of motorcycle-related crashes

- Excessive speed was a factor in 549 (13.0%) of all 4,232 crashes involving motorcycles[§]
 - In comparison, excessive speed was a factor in 27,411 (10.2%) of all 270,059 crashes that did not involve motorcycles
- Among all 4,327 motorcycles that were involved in crashes in Illinois in 2012 where collision type was known, 539 (12.5%) involved crashes into fixed objects
 - In comparison, 32,053 (6.3%) of all 507,010 other motor vehicles involved in crashes were in fixed object crashes (where collision type and vehicle type were known)
- 1,931 (45.6%) of all 4,232 motorcycle-related crashes were single-vehicle incidents involving the motorcycle itself and no other vehicle
- 455 (10.8%) of all 4,232 motorcycle-related crashes involved a collision between a motorcycle which was driving straight and an oncoming vehicle making a left turn

Geographic Facts

- 1,346 (31.8%) of all 4,232 crashes involving motorcycles took place in Cook County
 - In comparison, Cook County accounts for 30.1% of the annual vehicle miles traveled in Illinois**
- 2,982 (70.5%) of all 4,232 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	765	(18.1%)	76,650	(28.4%)
Suburban Cook County	581	(13.7%)	53,510	(19.8%)
Chicago Collar Counties	844	(19.9%)	54,633	(20.2%)
Rest of State - Urban	990	(23.4%)	44,255	(16.4%)
Rest of State - Rural	1,052	(24.9%)	41,011	(15.2%)

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 2012, Illinois Department of Transportation