

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2003

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.

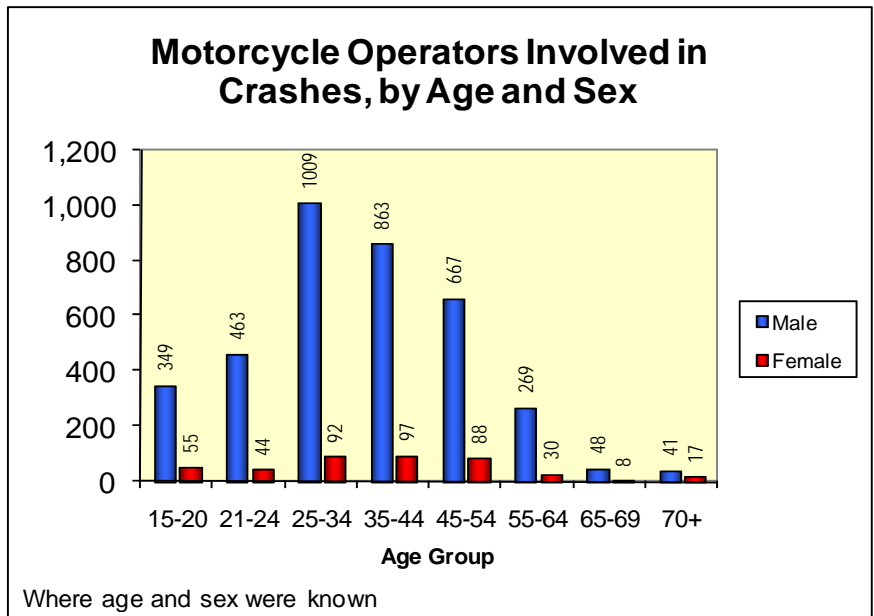
	<u>All Crashes</u>	<u>Crashes Involving One or More Motorcycles</u>
Crashes:	437,289	4,376
Fatal Crashes:	1,308	137
Injury Crashes:	88,585	2,618
Total People Involved:	989,697 ^b	8,599 ^b
Total Fatalities:	1,454 ^b	145 ^b
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	131,279 ^b	3,230 ^b

^a Totals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 989,697 total people = 980,219 occupants + 9,478 non-occupants

Just 4,376 (1.0%) of all 437,289 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2003 involved motorcycles, yet these crashes accounted for 145 (10.0%) of all 1,454 traffic fatalities. Among the 145 motorcycle-related fatalities, 133 (91.7%) were among motorcycle operators, 10 (6.9%) were among passengers on the motorcycles, and 2 (1.4%) were among occupants of other vehicles involved in the crashes.

Demographics of Motorcycle Operators

- 3,725 (89.6%) of the 4,157 operators of motorcycles that were involved in crashes were male[†]
- 1,608 (38.8%) of the 4,140 operators were aged 21-34[‡]



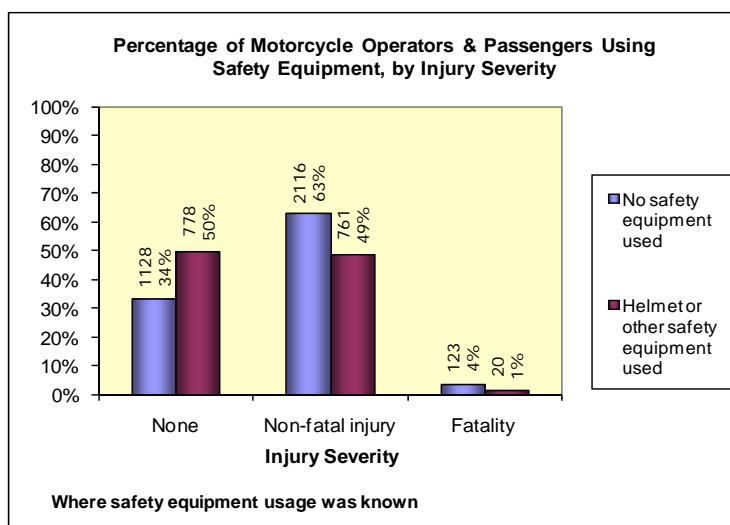
* Includes motorcycles, motorscooters, motorbikes and mopeds

[†] Where sex was known

[‡] Where age was known

Use of Safety Equipment

- Overall, just 1,559 (31.6%) of 4,926 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 much less likely to have been using safety equipment.



Other characteristics of motorcycle-related crashes

- Excessive speed was a factor in 657 (15.0%) of all 4,376 crashes involving motorcycles[§]
 - In comparison, excessive speed was a factor in 46,967 (10.9%) of all 432,913 crashes that did not involve motorcycles
- Among all 4,449 motorcycles that were involved in crashes in Illinois in 2003 where collision type was known, 351 (7.9%) involved crashes into fixed objects
 - In comparison, 27,477 (3.5%) of all 787,320 other motor vehicles involved in crashes were in fixed object crashes (where collision type and vehicle type were known)
- 1,557 (35.6%) of all 4,376 motorcycle-related crashes were single-vehicle incidents involving the motorcycle itself and no other vehicle
- 127 (2.9%) of all 4,376 motorcycle-related crashes involved a collision between a motorcycle which was driving straight and an oncoming vehicle making a left turn

Geographic Facts

- 1777 (40.6%) of all 4,376 crashes involving motorcycles took place in Cook County
 - In comparison, Cook County accounts for just 32% of the average vehicle miles traveled in Illinois**
- 3,572 (81.6%) of all 4,376 crashes involving motorcycles took place on roads or highways that were classified as "urban" use

	Crashes Involving One or More Motorcycles n (%)	Crashes Not Involving Motorcycles n (%)
Chicago	1,054 (24.1%)	129,372 (29.9%)
Suburban Cook County	723 (16.5%)	89,570 (20.7%)
Chicago Collar Counties	870 (19.9%)	83,949 (19.4%)
Rest of State - Urban	882 (20.2%)	66,014 (15.2%)
Rest of State - Rural	847 (19.4%)	64,008 (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 2003, Illinois Department of Transportation