

# Quick Facts

## Illinois Crash Information 2004

### 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.

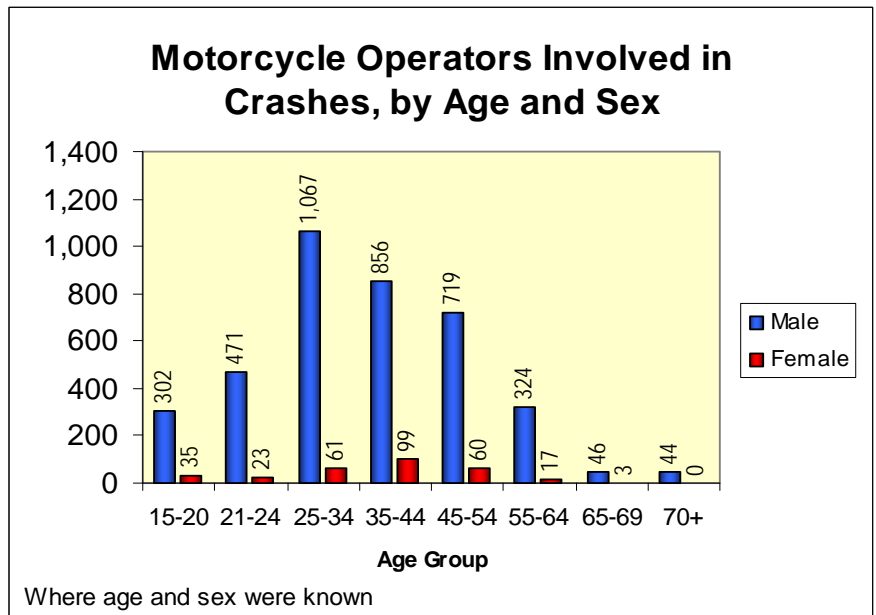
	All Crashes	Crashes Involving Motorcycles
<b>Crashes:</b>	433,035	4,162
<b>Fatal Crashes:</b>	1,224	154
<b>Injury Crashes:</b>	83,924	2,787
<b>Total People Involved:</b>	1,008,936 <sup>a</sup>	8,291 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total Fatalities:</b>	1,355 <sup>a</sup>	157 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total Non-Fatal Injuries:</b>	121,404 <sup>a</sup>	3,355 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Totals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 1,008,936 total people = 999,641 occupants + 9,295 non-occupants

Just 4,162 (1.0%) of all 433,035 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2004 involved motorcycles, yet these crashes accounted for 157 (11.6%) of all 1,355 traffic fatalities. Among the 157 motorcycle-related fatalities, 146 (93.0%) were among motorcycle operators, and 11 (7.0%) were among passengers on the motorcycles.

### Demographics of Motorcycle Operators

- 3,888 (92.8%) of the 4,190 operators of motorcycles that were involved in crashes were male<sup>†</sup>
- 1,622 (39.3%) of the 4,129 operators were aged 21-34<sup>‡</sup>



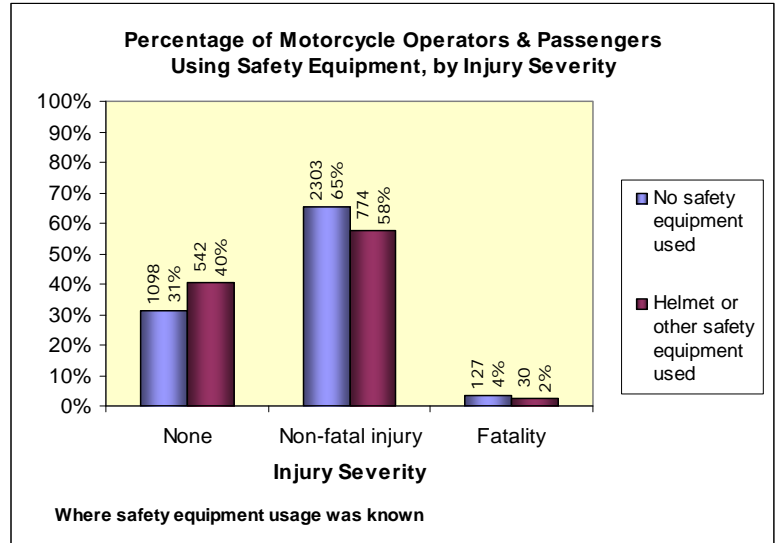
\* Includes motorcycles, motorscooters, motorbikes and mopeds

<sup>†</sup> Where sex was known

<sup>‡</sup> Where age was known

## Use of Safety Equipment

- Overall, just 1,346 (28.1%) of 4,874 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 615 (14.8%) of all 4,162 crashes involving motorcycles<sup>§</sup>
  - In comparison, excessive speed was a factor in 46,424 (10.8%) of all 428,873 crashes that did not involve motorcycles
- Among all 4,117 motorcycles that were involved in crashes in Illinois in 2004 where collision type was known, 290 (7.0%) involved crashes into fixed objects
  - In comparison, 23,697 (3.4%) of all 695,901 other motor vehicles involved in crashes were in fixed object crashes (where collision type and vehicle type were known)
- 1,818 (43.7%) of all 4,162 motorcycle-related crashes were single-vehicle incidents involving the motorcycle itself and no other vehicle
- 482 (11.6%) of all 4,162 motorcycle-related crashes involved a collision between a motorcycle which was driving straight and an oncoming vehicle making a left turn

## Geographic Facts

- 1,482 (35.6%) of all 4,162 crashes involving motorcycles took place in Cook County
  - In comparison, Cook County accounts for just 31.9% of the average vehicle miles traveled in Illinois\*\*
- 3,236 (77.8%) of all 4,162 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	772 (18.5%)	126,387 (29.5%)
Suburban Cook County	710 (17.1%)	89,721 (20.9%)
Chicago Collar Counties	884 (21.2%)	84,603 (19.7%)
Rest of State - Urban	909 (21.8%)	64,896 (15.1%)
Rest of State - Rural	887 (21.3%)	63,266 (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>

<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

\*\* Source: Illinois Travel Statistics 2004, Illinois Department of Transportation