

2010 MOTORCYCLE FATALITIES



QUICK FACTS

General Facts

- In 2010, Illinois experienced a total of 130 fatal crashes involving motorcycles (motorcycles, motor scooters, motorbikes, mopeds, etc.), resulting in the death of 131 motorcycle operators and passengers and one non-motorcyclist.
- The 131 motorcyclists account for over 14% of all motor vehicle fatalities that occurred in 2010. In comparison, motorcycle registrations comprise 3-4% of all motor vehicle registrations.
- There were 343,924 motorcycles registered in 2010 – an increase of over 73% when compared to the 198,444 motorcycles registered in 1999. (Figures reported by the Secretary of State.)
- The 131 motorcyclists killed in 2010 represent a 27% increase compared to the 103 motorcyclists killed in 1999.

Age and Gender of Motorcyclists Killed

- Since 1999, motorcyclists aged 45 or older have experienced the greatest increase in fatalities of any age group. In 1999, fewer than 14% of the motorcyclists killed were 45 or older. By 2002, that percentage had escalated to 37%. In 2010, motorcyclists aged 45 or older accounted for about 46% of the motorcyclists killed; approximately 30% of the motorcyclists killed were 45-54 years old.

Motorcyclists Killed by Age and Person Type			
Age	Operators	Passengers	TOTAL
19 or younger	2	1	3
20-24	10	1	11
25-29	16	0	16
30-34	15	1	16
35-39	9	1	10
40-44	13	2	15
45-49	21	0	21
50-54	16	2	18
55-59	9	2	11
60-69	7	0	7
70 or older	3	0	3
TOTAL	121	10	131

- The average age of all motorcycle rider fatalities in 2010 was 42. The youngest rider killed was 18; the oldest was 86.
- Almost 23% of the motorcycle riders killed in 2010 were under the age of 30.
- Of all 131 motorcyclists killed, 118 (90%) were male.

Helmet Usage

- Only two of the 131 motorcyclists killed in 2010 wore a DOT-compliant helmet; 19 motorcyclists wore a helmet that was not DOT-compliant. These 21 fatalities constitute 16% of all motorcycle rider fatalities in 2010.

Motorcycle Operator's License

- 108 (89%) of the 121 motorcycle operators killed in 2010 were licensed to operate a motorcycle.

When Motorcyclists Are Killed

- Generally, the hours of 6:00 p.m. on Friday through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday are deadlier for motorcyclists than other periods of the week. In 2010, 68 (52%) of the 130 fatal crashes involving motorcycles occurred during the weekend.

	Fatal Crashes Involving Motorcycles by Time of Day and Day of Week							
Time of Day	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	TOTAL
Midnight – 2:59 am	5	2	1	1	2	2	2	15
3:00 am – 5:59 am	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	6
6:00 am – 8:59 am	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	8
9:00 am – 11:59 am	0	3	2	2	0	3	4	14
Noon – 2:59 pm	2	2	1	1	1	2	7	16
3:00 pm – 5:59 pm	0	2	3	2	5	3	12	27
6:00 pm – 8:59 pm	6	3	0	2	2	7	9	29
9:00 pm – 11:59 pm	3	1	3	2	1	1	4	15
TOTAL	19	15	12	12	12	19	41	130

- 52 (40%) of the 130 fatal crashes involving motorcycles occurred in July and August.

Fatal Crashes Involving Motorcycles by Month			
January	0	July	22
February	0	August	30
March	2	September	16
April	11	October	16
May	18	November	5
June	10	December	0

Alcohol

- 49 (40%) of the 121 motorcycle operators killed in 2010 had been drinking (positive BAC). Their BAC results ranged from 0.01 to 0.33, with the average BAC being 0.14.
- Of the 121 motorcycle operators killed, those aged 21-29 had a higher percentage of alcohol-related crash involvement than those in the older age groups. Almost 54% of the 21-29 year old operators who died had a positive BAC, compared with approximately 38% of those aged 30 or older.

Motorcycle Operators Killed with BAC > 0.00 by Age			
Age	Operators Killed with BAC > 0.00	Total Operators Killed	Operators Killed with BAC > 0.00 as % of Total
19 or younger	0	2	0%
20	0	0	0%
21-24	5	10	50%
25-29	9	16	56%
30-34	7	15	47%
35-39	4	9	44%
40-44	6	13	46%
45-49	6	21	29%
50-54	7	16	44%
55-59	4	9	44%
60-69	1	7	14%
70 or older	0	3	0%
TOTAL	49	121	40%

- 48 (98%) of the 49 impaired motorcycle operators who died were male.
- Only one of the impaired operators killed – a male with a BAC of 0.21 – wore any type of helmet. The helmet, however, was not DOT-compliant.
- There were 50 fatal crashes involving impaired motorcycle operators. 34 (68%) occurred between 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 11:59 p.m. on Sunday.

Fatal Crashes Involving Motorcycle Operators with BAC > 0.00 by Time of Day and Day of Week								
Time of Day	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	TOTAL
Midnight – 2:59 am	5	1	0	0	1	1	1	9
3:00 am – 5:59 am	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	5
6:00 am – 8:59 am	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
9:00 am – 11:59 am	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Noon – 2:59 pm	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
3:00 pm – 5:59 pm	0	0	1	1	2	1	5	10
6:00 pm – 8:59 pm	4	1	0	1	0	2	4	12
9:00 pm – 11:59 pm	2	1	1	2	0	1	2	9
TOTAL	13	4	2	4	4	5	18	50

Where More Motorcyclists Were Killed

- In general, more motor vehicle fatalities occur in the more densely populated northeast area of the state than in any other region in Illinois. The following counties had at least five motorcyclists killed in 2010:

County	# Killed
Cook	30
Will	8
Madison	7
Winnebago	7
DuPage	5

Other Factors

- Weather and roadway surface condition are generally not factors in crashes that result in motorcycle fatalities. In 2010, approximately 93% of such crashes occurred in clear weather, on dry pavement.
- In addition to alcohol use, the driver-related factors reported most frequently in 2010 for fatal motorcycle crashes were:
 - Failure to keep in proper lane.
 - Operator inexperience.
 - Following improperly.
 - Operating vehicle in erratic, reckless, or negligent manner; operating at erratic or suddenly changing speeds.
 - Failure to obey actual traffic signs/control devices/officers; failure to obey safety zone traffic laws.