

2007 MOTORCYCLE FATALITIES



QUICK FACTS

General Facts

- Motorcyclists (operators and passengers) killed in 2007 accounted for over 12% of all motor vehicle fatalities. Motorcycle registrations, however, accounted for less than 3% of all motor vehicles registered.
- In 2007, there were 157 motorcyclists killed in 154 motor vehicle crashes. This is an increase in fatalities of 52% compared to 1999, when 103 motorcyclists were killed in 101 crashes.
- In 2007, there were 304,038 motorcycle registrations – an increase of 53% when compared to the 198,444 motorcycle registrations in 1999.

Age and Gender of Motorcyclists Killed

- Since 1999, motorcyclists in the 45 or older age group have experienced the largest increase in fatalities of any age group. In 1999, there were 14 from this age group who died in motorcycle crashes (14% of all motorcyclists killed). By 2007, this number increased to 60 motorcyclists (38% of all motorcyclists killed).
- In 2007, 22 motorcyclists under the age of 25 were killed (14% of all motorcycle fatalities). The youngest was 13.
- 137 (87%) of the 157 motorcyclists killed were male.

Helmet Usage

- Over 80% of the motorcyclists killed were NOT wearing a helmet.

Motorcycle Operator's License

- 105 (74%) of the 142 motorcycle operators killed in 2007 were licensed to operate a motorcycle.

When Motorcyclists Are Killed

- Generally, more fatal motorcycle crashes occur on the weekend than during the rest of the week. In 2007, there were 154 fatal motorcycle crashes, of which 88 (57%) occurred during the hours of 6:00 p.m. on Friday – 11:59 p.m. on Sunday.

Time of Day	Day of Week							TOTAL
	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
Midnight – 2:59 am	7	3	1	3	0	2	3	19
3:00 am – 5:59 am	4	2	0	1	0	1	1	9
6:00 am – 8:59 am	3	0	0	2	0	1	1	7
9:00 am – 11:59 am	4	0	0	0	1	1	5	11
Noon – 2:59 pm	4	1	5	2	3	1	6	22
3:00 pm – 5:59 pm	10	2	3	3	3	5	9	35
6:00 pm – 8:59 pm	9	4	1	5	4	3	8	34
9:00 pm – 11:59 pm	2	2	4	0	0	6	3	17
TOTAL	43	14	14	16	11	20	36	154

- 71% of the fatal motorcycle crashes occurred during the months of May through September, with July and August having the most fatalities.

Alcohol

- 62 (44%) of the 142 motorcycle operators killed in 2007 had been drinking. Of the impaired operators: 95% were male; 89% were in the age group of 21-54.
- 62% of the fatal crashes involving impaired motorcycle operators occurred between 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 11:59 p.m. on Sunday.

Time of Day	Day of Week							TOTAL
	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
Midnight – 2:59 am	5	1	0	2	0	2	3	13
3:00 am – 5:59 am	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	7
6:00 am – 8:59 am	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
9:00 am – 11:59 am	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Noon – 2:59 pm	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
3:00 pm – 5:59 pm	3	0	0	0	1	1	5	10
6:00 pm – 8:59 pm	4	3	1	2	3	1	7	21
9:00 pm – 11:59 pm	1	2	1	0	0	3	2	9
TOTAL	18	9	3	4	4	9	19	66

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 nine counties having the highest number of motorcyclists killed in 2007 were:

<u>County</u>	<u># Killed</u>
Cook	36
Lake	10
Will	8
Jersey	7
DuPage	6
Winnebago	6
Kane	5
McHenry	5
St. Clair	5

Other Factors

- Weather and roadway surface condition are generally not factors in fatal motorcycle crashes. In 2007, approximately 95% of all fatal motorcycle crashes occurred in clear weather, on dry pavement.
- The three driver-related factors reported most frequently in 2007 for fatal motorcycle crashes were:
 - Driving too fast for conditions or in excess of posted maximum
 - Under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication
 - Failure to keep in proper lane.