





## Project Goal

To encourage more riders to complete motorcycle safety training and continue promoting a culture of rider safety in Texas.





The fact sheet was designed to highlight the importance of training. Information was obtained through Texas DMV and Texas DPS. The graphic can downloaded at https://www.looklearnlive.org/ resources/fact-sheet/





#### How Many Unlicensed Riders Are in Texas?

It's difficult to estimate how many motorcyclists ride without a valid motorcycle endorsement or license, known as a Class M, in Texas. For this reason, states often rely upon crash data to gain a better understanding of the problem.

From 2020 to 2024,

2.454 operators



Of these,

More than 1 in 2 motorcycle operators killed in Texas did not have a Class M at the time of the crash.1

### What is the Role of Law Enforcement and Unlicensed Riders?

Traffic enforcement can help promote legal riding. Receiving a warning or citation can be the motivating factor for many unlicensed riders to go on and get their Class M, and it can serve as a deterrent for other unlicensed riders.

> From 2014 to 2024, the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) issued:

WARNINGS OR CITATIONS TO MOTORCYCLISTS

**156,148** VIOLATIONS



26.0% were issued for improper or lack of license for operating a motorcycle<sup>2</sup> (invalid, suspended, expired, fictitious/deceptive driver's license, or no driver's license)

16.8% were issued for improper driver's license for type vehicle (riders did not have a Class M)

### Do Unlicensed Riders Continue Riding Unlicensed?

Unfortunately, some riders continue to ride unlicensed even after being issued a violation. And, worse, some of these riders have been involved in crashes.



From 2020 to 2024:

72.6% of operators with an M

wore their helmet when they crashed versus 55.4% of

operators without a Class M.

Of operators involved in crashes who were

charged with DWI, 64% did not have a Class M.

### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

From 2020 to 2024:

Of the operators involved in crashes with contributing factors of had been drinking or intoxication due to alcohol,

62% did not 100 have a Class M.

Of the operators involved in crashes with a contributing factor of intoxication due to drugs, 72.3% did not have a Class M.

#### How Can Unlicensed Riders Become Licensed?

To ride legally in Texas, riders must complete a TxDPScertified motorcycle operator training course. There are several courses riders can complete that will meet this requirement, including:

- · Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic and Intermediate Rider Courses
- Total Control Beginner and Intermediate Riding Clinics

Training course information can be found at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Website: https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/mot/





- Data originates from the Texas Department of Transportation
- Crash Records Information System and was pulled in June 2025 <sup>2</sup> Data originates from the Texas Department of Transportation
- Crash Records Information System and was pulled in January 2025.







## 2020-2024 Data Linkage

- TxDMV Motorcycle registration
  - 367,312 2020
  - 341,507 2021
  - 344,041 2022
  - 324,217 2024
- TxDPS Class M Driver License (AM, BM, CM, M)
  - 1,162,011 2020
  - 1,184,879 2021
  - 1,071,660 2022
  - 1,078,031 2024

The intent behind this data linkage was to identify registration records that had no link to driver license records. The "unmatched" records.







# Post Processing

### **2020 Data (from FY21)**

• Final number of unmatched records was 70,468

### **2021 Data (from FY22)**

• Final number of unmatched records was 75,524

### **2022 Data (from FY23)**

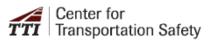
• Final number of unmatched records was 84,343

### **2024 Data (From FY25)**

Final number of unmatched records was 88,074

## Outreach





3135 TAMU College Station, TX 77843-3135

You can't control what other drivers do on the road, but you can control your riding knowledge and skill. Get trained and get licensed.

Last year, over 50% of the riders killed in motorcycle crashes in Texas were unlicensed. Whether you're new to riding or an experienced rider, there's a course for you to earn your motorcycle license.

Take control of your safety by taking a motorcycle training course near you at https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/mot/find-schools.htm.

For more information about this safety message, visit www.looklearnlive.org





## Project Evaluation

- FY 22 3,731 postcard recipients from postcards sent in August of 2021 "matched" (meaning received license since 2020)
- FY 23 (re-evaluated 2021 mailout) 5,438 (8%) postcard recipients from postcards sent in August of 2021 "matched" (meaning received license since 2020)
  - 46% increase when extending timeline
- FY 25 (re-evaluated 2023 mailout) 4,714 (9.4%) postcard recipients successfully matched with a Class M license by the end of 2024.
  - 14.6% year-over-year improvement compared to FY22





## Project Evaluation

- Top Counties by Match Percentage
  - Bandera 26.4%
  - Colorado 24.2%
  - Camp 21.8%
- Top Cities by Match Percentage
  - Nolanville 36.4%
  - Pipe Creek 33.3%
  - Fort Hood 32.8%

Proximity Matters! A geographic information system analysis revealed that individuals who obtained a Class M license lived, on average, 2 miles closer to training programs than those who did not. This suggests that accessibility plays a role in licensing behavior.











## Survey Recruitment





You are receiving this email because the Texas Department of Transportation has identified your area as being one with a high incidence of motorcycle fatal and serious injury crashes. The Texas A&M Transportation Institute is conducting a research study in reference to motorcycle licensing and is asking for your assistance. Your school's participation in this project is entirely voluntary.

#### What we are asking of you:

I have included a draft email for you to send to students who may be interested in participating. Please send the email to students who are enrolled in a course but have not yet completed the in-person portion. There are a limited number of spots, and participation is on a first-come/first-serve basis. As a reminder, the participants can receive up to \$50 after completing the course and the surveys associated with the research study.

The email has our team's contact information, and the students will respond directly to us. Please note that the surveys must be completed by July 31, 2025. This means that students will have to be enrolled in a course that is completed before that deadline.

We are also posting to our social media pages. If you would like to share the opportunity with your followers, here is a link to a recent post: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1QRuMGSp1Z/">https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1QRuMGSp1Z/</a>.

Thank you for assisting us with this project.

#### From the Project Staff at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute:

We have asked [insert school name] to forward this email to offer you up to \$50 in Amazon Gift Cards for participating in a study involving the motorcycle course you are enrolled in.

To encourage more riders to complete training and continue promoting a culture of rider safety in Texas, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) has partnered with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDDT) to offer compensation of up to \$50 in Amazon (TxDDT). The number of participants is limited. Riders must participate in motorcycle safety training and complete up to two surveys about the course and the motorcycle licensing process in Texas.

To be considered for eligibility, you must:

- Be currently enrolled in a state-certified motorcycle safety training course
- Have NOT started the in-person portions of the course
- Be 18 years old or older
- Be fluent in the English language
- Fill out the application linked below (no compensation is available for the application)
- The course and surveys need to be completed by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- If you currently have a Class M, you must be enrolled in a non-beginner course.

To be considered for the program, please complete the following <u>application</u> as soon as possible Space is *limited*, and enrollment is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

You will be notified within two weeks concerning the status of your application. If you have not





## Survey Results

- 11 Applications received, 6 eligible
- 6 Before surveys emailed, 5 completed
- 5 After surveys emailed, 5 completed
- 2227 Post reach, 4493 views, 51 interactions







Don't miss out on this opportunity!



**0**0 5 9 shares