

# UNLICENSED MOTORCYCLISTS IN TEXAS



## 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**

lost their lives in crashes.



Of these,

**57.4%**

did not have a Class M.

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

## 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:

**74,635** WARNINGS OR CITATIONS TO MOTORCYCLISTS

Which resulted in a total of

**156,148** VIOLATIONS

OF THOSE:

**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 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 TxDPS-certified 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/>

