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.



57.4% did not have a Class M.

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:

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 motorcycle² (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)

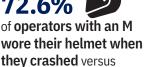
Do Unlicensed Riders Continue Riding Unlicensed?

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% I



55.4% of operators without a Class M.

Of operators involved in crashes who were charged with DWI,

64% did not have a

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 **I** 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/







² Data originates from the Texas Department of Transportation Crash Records Information System and was pulled in January 2025.

