

The Results are In!

The 2000 International Police Mountain Bike Association's Police Mountain Bike Survey was distributed to bike officers from around the country through three primary channels: the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual IPMBA Conference in Tucson, Arizona; the IPMBA listserv; and Police Cyclist courses held throughout the state of Michigan. 306 surveys were returned and tallied, with the following results.

**On duty, what combination of bike and patrol car do you take?**

*Patrol car and bicycle:* 55%

*Bicycle only:* 35%

*Other:* 5%

**If you take both a patrol car and a bike, which racking system do you use?**

*Trunk rack:* 48%

*Trailer hitch and bike rack:* 40%

*Other:* 12% (back of truck; back of seat of patrol car; trunk)

**Have you or anyone from your department experienced any intentional damage or theft of your bike or equipment?**

*No:* 79%

*Yes:* 21% (bikes were stolen while unattended; tires were flattened; quick releases opened; lights and rack bags stolen off bikes; computers stolen; brakes released, helmets stolen while on the bike; sunglasses stolen; bike repair stands stolen)

**Does your department provide bike patrol-specific firearms training?**

*No:* 74%

*Yes:* 26%

**Does your department provide bike specific defensive tactics training?**

*No:* 84%

*Yes:* 16%

**Does your bike patrol have an "off-season" (i.e.: winter, little or no riding)?**

*No:* 40%

*Yes:* 60% (on that off-season the top three activities to stay in shape were to jog/run, weights, and bike skills/stationary bike)

**Which injuries have you incurred during bike patrol training?**

*None:* 33%

*Scrapes & Bruises:* 46%

*Sprains, strains, muscle tears:* 15%

*Dislocations, fractures, other:* 6%

**Did the training injury result in time lost from work?**

*Yes:* 64% lost five or fewer days; length of time ranged from one day to 11 months

**Have you ever been injured (other than assaulted) while on bike patrol duty?**

*No:* 80%

*Yes:* 20% (included: 49% minor crashes; 14% hit by a car; 37% miscellaneous injuries, including water on the knee, broken patella, broken arm, injured rotator cuff)

**Did the bike duty injury result in time lost from work?**

*No:* 57%

*Yes:* 42% (75% lost less than one week; length of time ranged from 1 day to 6 months)

**Have you experienced a foot injury due to improper footwear?**

*No:* 96%

*Yes:* 4%

**Have you ever unintentionally injured someone else while on bike patrol?**

*No:* 100%

**Are you familiar with any bike officers who died during bike training or while on bike patrol duty?**

*No:* 99%

*Yes:* 1%

**Are you aware of any incidents in which a bike officer was involved in a lethal force incident?**

*No:* 91%

*Yes:* 9%

**Is there a noticeable difference in morale between bike officers and road patrol officers in your department?**

*No:* 44%

*Yes:* 38% (75% reported that bike officers' morale was better. Descriptions of bike officers included: happier, more proud, more positive, more committed, more enthusiastic, better attitudes, more job satisfaction, more motivated, more willing to train, more outgoing, greater community awareness. 25% reported resentment by road patrol officers toward bike officers.)

**Has your bike patrol program experienced any form of stagnation or disinterest?**

*No:* 62%

*Yes:* 38% (administration no longer supports bike patrol; manpower shortages; budget crunches; lack of interest in riding among bike officers)

**Does your department keep statistics that compare bike patrol activity to road patrol such as arrest, tickets or enforcement?**

*No:* 75%

*Yes:* 25%

**Has your bike patrol experienced any issues or situations unique to your area?**

*Yes:* winter riding, seasonal Christmas riding in shopping areas, hazard pay, pre-screening, patrolling dorm areas, state troopers on bikes, enforcing hunting and fishing law on bikes, working organized protests such as KKK rally, crowd control, undercover and plainclothes surveillance.