

# What is the future of motorcycling?

The rights, safety, and freedoms of all motorcyclists and off-road riders are at stake each year. Are you aware of the changes that could take place?

## Did you know...?

- In September of 2007 the NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board), founded over **40 years** ago, proposed radical changes to all states based on only **6 motorcycle crashes**.
- Under a loophole in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) your employee health insurance **can deny you benefits** if you are in a **motorcycle accident**.
- States are **not** required to report **accurate motorcycle crash** numbers or miles traveled by motorcycles.
- The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) **has enacted new guidelines** for motorcycle emissions. This includes exhaust modifications and fuel re-mapping.
- The cities of Rockford & East Peoria, IL have made it **illegal** to operate ATV'S (All Terrain Vehicles) on **private property**.
  - **Illinois** is one of the only states that **do not** operate government funded **off-road trails**.
- The City of Chicago had passed an ordinance to **close down** Lake Shore Dr. to **motorcycle traffic**.
- ABATE of IL is **constantly** working to protect the right's of motorcyclists and off-road riders.

Find out what you can do to help!  
[www.abate-il.org/dukane](http://www.abate-il.org/dukane)

# **The Real Truth About Motorcycling**

## ***Motorcyclists cost taxpayers millions in healthcare cost a year.***

According to the Brain Injury Assoc. of America there is a total annual cost of 60 billion dollars associated with traumatic brain injuries. 62% of these injuries are caused in motor vehicle accidents, 12% from trips and falls, 7% from bicycling, and only 6% from motorcycling.

## ***Motorcycling is a dangerous activity.***

Yes motorcycling can be a dangerous activity, but according to an article in the Spinal Cord Journal, horseback riding is 20 times more dangerous than motorcycling. Horseback accidents occur at a rate of 1 per 350 hours whereas motorcycle accidents are 1 per 7000 hours.

## ***Motorcycle helmets can save your life.***

Even the National Highway Traffic & Safety Administration reports that helmets are only 29 – 36% effective. The NHTSA also states that over half of the accidents they investigated involved helmeted riders. Helmet usage is ranked #4 in preventing head injuries by the Center for Disease Control. Most motorcyclists are killed by a combination of injuries.

## ***Motorcycle helmets are tested to be safe.***

The truth is most helmet testing laboratories test helmets at an impact speed of 9-16mph, because these are the tolerances of human impact. The SNELL Memorial Fund test helmets for penetration and require a harder shell. The DOT accepts a softer shell that will absorb more impact. Who's safer?

## ***Motorcycle accidents involve only motorcyclists.***

This is completely false. According to the Hurt Report, the majority of motorcycle accidents involve a motorcycle and another vehicle. The #1 cause of motorcycle accidents are automobilist turning left in front of an oncoming motorcycle.

## ***Motorcycle accidents occur at high speeds.***

According to the Hurt Report, which did actual investigations into the cause of motorcycle accidents, reported that most motorcycle accidents occur at an average crash speed of 21.5mph.

## ***Motorcycles are responsible for noise pollution.***

The Federal Standard for motorcycle decibel rating is 85dB. A 2007 stock Harley Davidson Softail used in testing metered 97dB at idle and 102dB at cruising speed. Other decibel levels: Normal speech 60-70db, Telephone Dial Tone 80dB, Vacuum Cleaner 80dB, Lawn Mower 107dB.

## ***What can I do to protect my rights and safety?***

By joining ABATE of IL you can make a difference in what happens to motorcyclists here in Illinois. Don't let your safety be jeopardized or your rights be taken away.

**[www.abate-il.org/dukane](http://www.abate-il.org/dukane)**

The DuKane Chapter of ABATE of Illinois meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm.  
The St. Charles VFW  
119 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
St. Charles, IL