

# May is Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month

STATE OF INDIANA  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
INDIANAPOLIS

## PROCLAMATION

Executive Order

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS, motorcycles serve as an excellent form of transportation in our state for commuting, touring and recreational uses; and
- WHEREAS, motorcycles are energy-efficient vehicles, assisting in reducing fuel consumption and contributing to reducing traffic and parking congestion in many communities; and
- WHEREAS, road safety is of the highest priority for our streets, roads and highways; and
- WHEREAS, increased awareness of the rules of the road and good driving skills are necessary for the safe operation of all vehicles; and
- WHEREAS, citizens interested in learning how to ride a motorcycle or improve their current riding skills and knowledge can participate in courses offered throughout the state; and
- WHEREAS, the Motorcycle Rider Associations of Indiana have joined with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Indiana Department of Transportation and other state agencies in an effort to increase public awareness for the need of improved safety on our streets, roads, and highways;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Braun, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as

**MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND AWARENESS MONTH**  
in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

*In Testimony Whereof, I hereto  
set my hand and cause to be affixed the  
Great Seal of State. Done at the  
City of Indianapolis, this 21st  
day of April the year of our  
Lord 2026 and of the Independence  
of the United States 219.*



BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Mike Braun*





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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 7, 2026

## May is recognized as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month in Indiana

Governor Mike Braun has proclaimed May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month in Indiana, joining a nationwide campaign by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. With riding season underway, this annual observance serves as an important reminder that safety on our roadways is a shared responsibility.

As temperatures rise and traffic increases, so does the presence of motorcycles on Hoosier roads. For many riders, this marks a return after months off the bike. May presents the ideal time to remind motorists to look for motorcyclists, as well as offer tips for riders who have been inactive since last fall and could be a bit rusty.

Motorcycle crashes continue to have devastating consequences across our state. Behind every incident is a person, a family, friends, and communities left to cope with the loss. These are not isolated events. They are preventable tragedies that demand our collective attention.

A large percentage of multi-vehicle motorcycle crashes occur when a driver fails to recognize a motorcycle in traffic, often turning into or pulling out in front of a rider. It is not enough to simply glance. Motorists must actively look for motorcycles and account for them in every driving decision. The proliferation of Automated Driving Systems that do not yet accurately detect motorcycles compounds this issue. At the same time, riders must take personal responsibility by riding within their abilities, maintaining control, and staying alert to the actions of others.

Training and proper licensing continue to play a critical role in rider safety. Motorcyclists who invest in professional instruction and ongoing skill development are significantly better equipped to handle real-world riding situations. Experience matters, but so does preparation.

ABATE of Indiana encourages all riders to make safety a priority this season: get trained, get licensed, practice regularly, and ride defensively. Motorists are urged to slow down, eliminate distractions, allow additional space, and treat motorcycles with the same respect as any other road user.

Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month is not just about awareness; it's about awareness in action. Every decision made behind the wheel or on the handlebars has the potential to save a life.

“Save a Life – Be Aware – Motorcycles Are Everywhere.”

Media Contact:  
Jay Jackson  
Executive Director  
ABATE of Indiana  
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*ABATE of Indiana (American Bikers Aimed Towards Education) is a not-for-profit, safety, educational, charitable and advocacy motorcyclist organization. Our aims are to promote safety, protect rights and help others. ABATE of Indiana is the nation's largest state motorcyclists' rights organization. ABATE has a full-time staff, 350 volunteer officers, and nearly 100 certified safety instructors, dedicated to serving the interests of all motorcyclists.*





# 2025 INDIANA MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FACT SHEET

## Rider Education Program Statistics

- Effective Date (Legislated Voluntary Program): January 1, 1987.
- Funding Source: Separate Motorcycle License Plate Fee.
- Funding Amount: \$2 per Motorcycle Registration (1987-1992); \$5 per Registration (1993-2001); \$7 per Registration (2002-present)
- Annual Total Funding: \$200,000 (1987-1992); \$570,000 (1993-2001); \$1,000,000 (2002-present)
- Students Trained: More than 140,000.
- Class Locations: Merrillville, Ft Wayne, Evansville, Clarksville, Kokomo, Versailles, Terre Haute, and Indianapolis.
- Course Length: 15-18 instructional hours (4-6 hours classroom, 10-12 hours on-cycle training) offered in various scheduling options.

### Motorcycle Collision, Injury, Fatality, and Registration Statistics

	1986*	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Collisions	3,951	3,808	3,683	3,056	2,949	2,810	2,279	2,251	2,410	2,251	1,844	1,899	2,063	2,149	2,279
Injuries	3,729	3,619	3,498	2,748	2,720	2,655	2,152	2,182	2,407	2,260	1,446	1,450	1,580	1,637	1,730
Fatalities	134	131	90	68	82	87	72	67	64	68	59	47	69	67	73
Per 10,000 Registered MCs	10.8	12.6	8.7	7.2	8.5	9.0	7.6	7.0	6.6	6.7	6.4	4.9	6.6	6.2	6.1
Registrations	124,218	104,051	104,012	95,051	96,260	96,389	94,988	95,524	97,017	96,394	96,710	98,252	104,106	108,716	118,796

	2001	2002	2003	2004**	2005**	2006**	2007**	2008**	2009**	2010**	2011**	2012**	2013**	2014**	2015**
Collisions	N/A	N/A	2,151	2,873	2,906	3,098	3,555	3,822	3,276	3,429	3,551	4,104	3,524	3,407	3,263
Injuries	N/A	N/A	1,753	3,139	3,096	2,593	3,802	2,957	3,486	2,717	2,725	3,286	2,755	2,671	2,607
Fatalities	75	88	81	109	113	108	122	130	111	110	118	151	118	125	107
Per 10,000 Registered MCs	5.9	6.5	5.5	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.4	6.5	5.4	5.4	5.5	7.29	5.30	5.60	4.21
Registrations	128,130	134,881	145,948	154,739	164,423	162,683	190,073	204,386	202,878	208,918	214,903	223,989	221,775	221,606	253,921

	2016**	2017**	2018**	2019**	2020**	2021**	2022**	2023**	2024**	2025**
Collisions	3,216	3,403	2,876	2,701	2,948	2,952	2,628	2,523	2,542	2,381
Injuries	2,505	2,288	1,932	1,819	1,968	1,934	2,018	1,963	2,003	1,855
Fatalities	100	144	121	112	142	129	121	133	132	127
Per 10,000 Registrations	3.98	6.54	4.87	4.78	6.07	5.79	4.87	5.83	5.71	
Registrations	251,032	220,340	230,107	234,229	234,014	222,807	238,143	226,519	222,361	

\* Last year prior to legislated program implementation. \*\*2004 forward contains mopeds, scooters, all two and three wheeled vehicles. \*\*\*Preliminary data.

2006 Forward revised to current ICJI reports.

Sources: Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Indiana State Police Automated Reporting Information Exchange System (ARIES), Indiana Department of Education, Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. ABATE of Indiana has gathered the information from various sources, but cannot attest to the method of collection, analysis, consistency or accuracy of the data.

### Other Program Activities

In addition to conducting training courses, the Indiana Motorcycle Safety Program conducts statewide public information and education campaigns to increase motorists' awareness of motorcycles, to convince riders not to drink and ride, to encourage the use of protective riding equipment, and to promote proper licensing of all motorcyclists.

Contact information for ABATE of Indiana Motorcycle Safety Division: Jay Jackson, Director, PO Box 665, Bargersville, IN 46106; (317) 422-8040.

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Motorcycle Safety And Awareness Month

**Public Service Announcement #1**

Motorcyclists losing control or going wide in a corner is an increasing problem. This is usually due to the rider not adjusting their speed adequately prior to the turn, or making errors in judgment while leaning in the curve.

Learning the skills and strategies needed to properly corner is just a part of the benefit of completing a rider education course.

To get more information about rider education, contact ABATE of Indiana's Motorcycle Safety Division at 1-800-23ABATE or visit the website at ABATEonline.org and remember, Save a Life - Be Aware - Motorcycles Are Everywhere.



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Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month

**Public Service Announcement #2**

Governor Mike Braun has proclaimed May Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month in Indiana.

Motorists frequently misjudge the approach speed of motorcycles, or fail to see them at all. Studies identify a vehicle violating a motorcyclist's right-of-way as the cause in two-thirds of the multiple-vehicle crashes involving motorcycles.

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**Public Service Announcement #3**

Governor Mike Braun has proclaimed May Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month in Indiana.

Studies indicate that 92 percent of the riders involved in motorcycle crashes are self-taught and have no formal training. Motorcycle rider education courses supply riders with the skills and strategies to prepare for riding, deal with hazards and avoid crashes.

To get more information about rider education, contact ABATE of Indiana's Motorcycle Safety Division at 1-800-23-ABATE or visit the website at [www.ABATEonline.org](http://www.ABATEonline.org) and remember, Save a Life – Be Aware – Motorcycles Are Everywhere.



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**Public Service Announcement #4**

Governor Mike Braun has proclaimed May Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month in Indiana.

Alcohol continues to be over-represented in motorcycle crashes. Motorcycling requires balance and a great deal of judgment. Don't compromise either one by being impaired. We're not saying that people should or should not drink; we are however, encouraging motorcyclists to separate drinking from riding. Ride straight – don't drink and ride. And remember, Save a Life – Be Aware – Motorcycles Are Everywhere.



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**Public Service Announcement #5**

Incidents of motorcyclists running into a static object, such as a stopped or even parked car, have risen. Riders must be aware of their surroundings and be prepared to stop quickly and unexpectedly. Allowing ample following distance, using an adequate visual lead and having a riding strategy are all keys to avoiding rear-end collisions. ABATE of Indiana urges all riders to be alert and expect the unexpected while operating a motorcycle.

And remember, Save a Life – Be Aware – Motorcycles Are Everywhere.



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