

# Motorcycles: Big Fun... And Big Risks

Ever wonder where that dirt road through the woods leads, or what it feels like to arc into a string of corners, playing along with the rhythm of the road like no ordinary set of wheels can? You'll find out what it's like if you ride a motorcycle.

People who decide to ride a motorcycle select a unique and challenging form of transportation. However, riding isn't for everyone, and a motorcycle won't always be your best choice of transportation.

For many, motorcycling is more than a means of transportation; it's an enthusiast's sport. The attraction of motorcycling often comes from the unique mental and physical skills necessary to operate the machine. There are many varieties of motorcycles and motorcyclists, but all motorcyclists have something in common: They face an increased element of risk.

The first step in making a responsible decision to ride is understanding the high level of risk that exists. We can lower that risk through our attitudes, with the protective gear we wear, and by developing sound mental and physical strategies through training. We also must apply the basic principles of risk management. Even so, the motorcyclist is physically vulnerable in a mishap. You're 20 times more likely to be injured on a motorcycle than in a car.

More and more men and women are riding these days—from those just starting out to those who are getting back into riding after a long hiatus. There are miles waiting to be discovered—enjoy the journey... but don't become part of these Navy and Marine Corps statistics. 

For more statistics, go to <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/statistics/ashore/motorvehicle/default.htm> or <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/statistics/ashore/motorvehicle/tables.htm>.

