



**People for Proper Policing in North Wales**

## **Motorcycling gets safer (relatively)**

By Steve Farrell for MCN 26 September 2008

**The RATE of serious motorcycle accidents has fallen 28%**, new Government figures reveal.

While the total number of serious bike crashes has risen, motorcycle use has risen even more, so the average chance of being involved has fallen.

Deaths and serious injuries of bikers rose 4% in 2007 compared to the average for 1994-1998. But the rise is outweighed by soaring **motorcycle traffic, up 44%** in the same period. It means that overall the rate of serious crashes has fallen sharply.

The figures also show **only 5% of motorcycles in crashes were speeding**. The most common factor in all accidents was **failure to look properly, reported in 35% of cases**. But this was **only attributed 15% of motorcyclists** in crashes, making us among the least likely to make the error. **Cyclists** on the other hand were among the **most likely to not look**.

**The PPP comments.... Anyone who has ever ridden a bike knows that to avoid any incidents a motorcyclist needs all their **six senses** at full strength all the time. Those that haven't ridden a bike have been surprised by the sudden appearance of a bike from apparently nowhere. Paul Smith covered this issue in 2004 and his **comprehensive analysis** is at ... [www.safespeed.org.uk/smidsy.html](http://www.safespeed.org.uk/smidsy.html)**

**The 5% speeding figure yet again highlights the inadequacy of the Speed kills simplistic policy that the Government and their brainwashed followers still trot out. If they were held responsible for the results of this policy they might think beyond it and we could make some real progress.**