

SAFETY GUIDE FOR MOTORCYCLISTS

VISION ZERO ROAD SAFETY PLAN

VISIONZERO

The Vision Zero Road Safety Plan is a comprehensive action plan focused on reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on Toronto's streets. The Plan prioritizes the safety of our most vulnerable road users through a range of extensive, proactive, targeted and data driven initiatives.

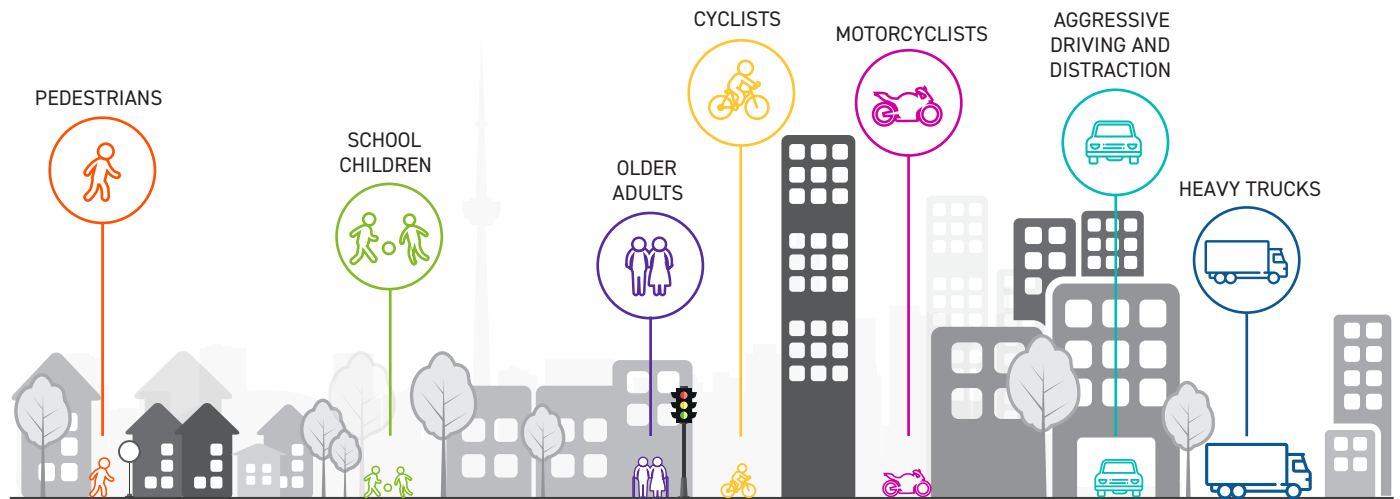
The City is committed to Vision Zero and upholds its fundamental message: fatalities and serious injuries on our roads are preventable, and we must strive to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries to zero.

The Vision Zero Road Safety Plan identifies and addresses seven emphasis areas, which were determined through collision data analysis, public engagement and Council direction. They include pedestrians, school children, older adults, cyclists, motorcyclists, aggressive driving and distraction and heavy trucks.

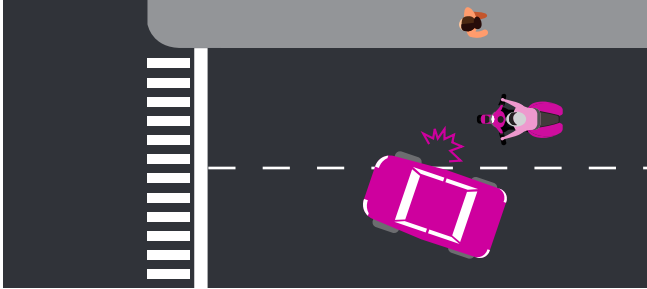
For each of these emphasis areas, the plan outlines existing and new safety measures that include engineering, education, enforcement and technology programs and initiatives.

This brochure contains information pertaining to safety of those on motorcycles and covers the following topics:

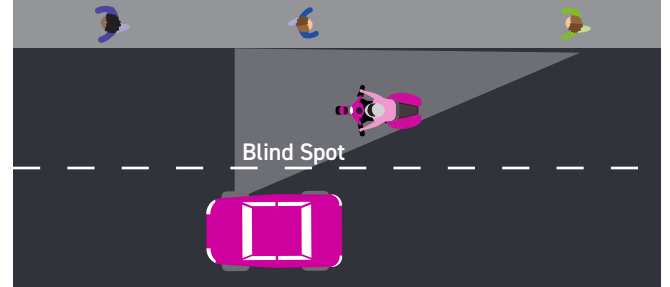
- What people driving should know about people riding motorcycles
- What people riding motorcycles should know about physical and psychological demands and the importance of training
- Safe motorcycle riding gear
- Safe motorcycle riding tips
- Most common collisions involving people riding motorcycles
- Risky behaviours to avoid
- Summary of motorcycle safety tips



WHAT PEOPLE DRIVING SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PEOPLE RIDING MOTORCYCLES



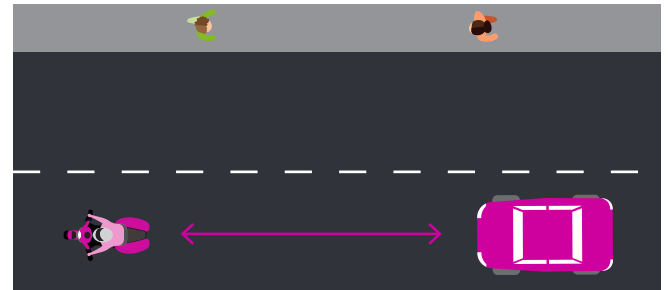
More than half of motorcycle collisions involve another vehicle. Most of the time a person riding a motorcycle is not at fault.



Motorcycles can be easily hidden from view when they are in a vehicle's blind spot or when they are approaching from perpendicular angles.



Because of the size of motorcycles, it can be difficult to judge how far away an approaching motorcycle is and how fast it is approaching.



People riding motorcycles often slow by downshifting. This means that their brake lights do not always turn on. Leave extra room when following a motorcycle, especially on off-ramps or when traffic is slowing ahead.

WHAT PEOPLE RIDING MOTORCYCLES SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEMANDS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

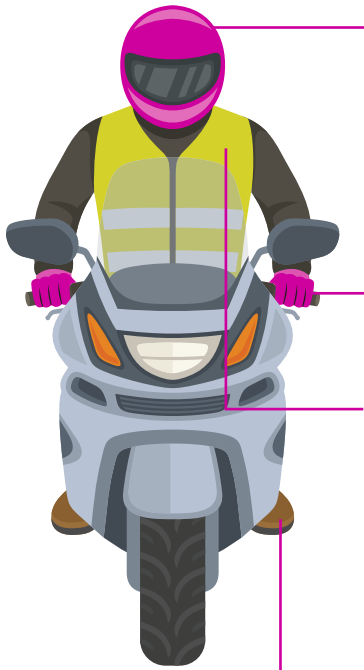
1. Riding a motorcycle is much more physically and mentally demanding compared to operating a passenger vehicle.
2. People riding motorcycles must continually adjust their speed and body position in response to the road alignment and road surface conditions.
3. Without proper training, inexperienced people riding motorcycles are less likely to have the skills required to effectively coordinate tasks related to motorcycle operation and information processing.
4. Without proper training, inexperienced people riding motorcycles are also less likely to have the skills required to respond to emergency scenarios involving braking or manoeuvring.
5. Younger people riding motorcycles are often overconfident in their own skill and ability.
6. Older and more experienced people riding motorcycles tend to be complacent in their riding tactics and could benefit from ongoing maintenance of their riding skills.
7. Active lane positioning skills are critical to safe motorcycling. You can make yourself more visible by moving from one side of the lane to the other in response to changing traffic patterns or by changing lanes when appropriate.



PHOTO BY COSTA MOUZOURIS

SAFE MOTORCYCLE RIDING GEAR

ONTARIO LAW REQUIRES YOU TO WEAR AN APPROVED HELMET.



HELMET

The most important gear. Protects against head injury, windblast, cold and flying objects. Full face helmets recommended.

GLOVES

Protect your hands.

JACKET & PANTS

Long sleeves & pants protect against sunburn, road rash & windburn. Light colors or reflective materials increase your visibility.

BOOTS

Boots protect you against foot and ankle injuries and give you a good grip on footpegs or road surfaces.

DRESS FOR THE FALL, NOT FOR THE RIDE.



Approved helmet with eye protection and chin strap securely fastened.



Full-fingered gloves to reduce vibrations, absorb moisture and protect your hands.



Abrasion-resistant jacket with built-in elbow and back protection. Preferably with high visibility material, such as retroreflective stripes.



Sturdy pants with built-in knee pads.



Over the ankle boots that have non-skid rubber soles.

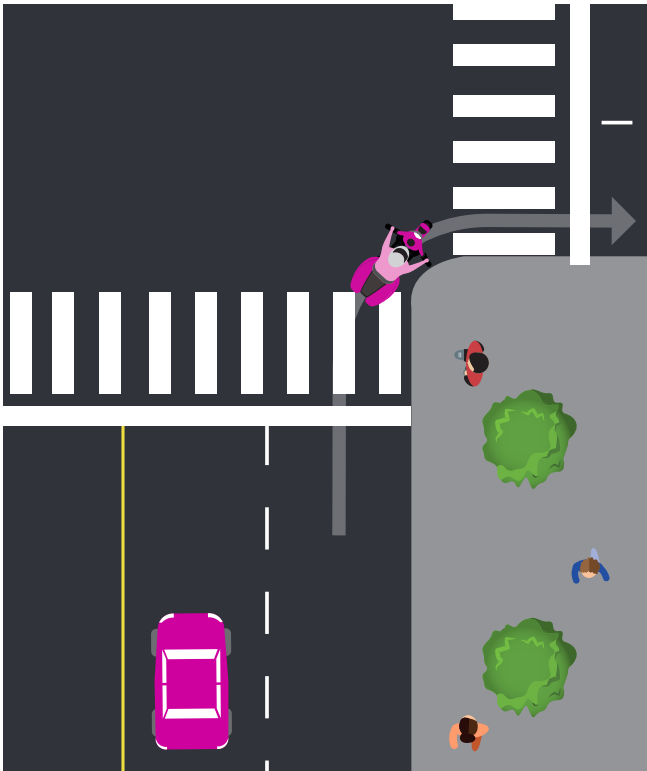
FACT:

People riding motorcycles are nearly 30 times more likely to be killed in a collision as compared to occupants of passenger vehicles.

SAFE MOTORCYCLE RIDING TIPS

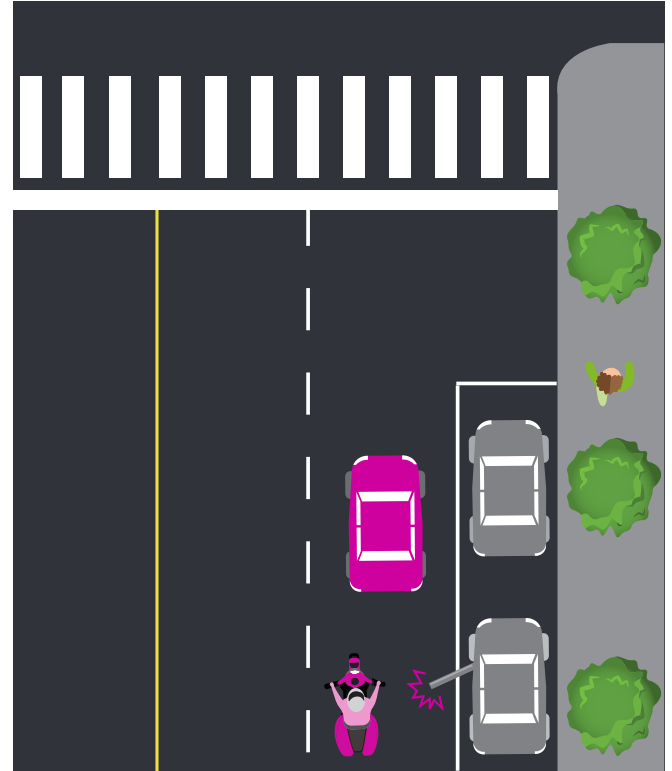
TURNING:

- Slow down before you enter the turn. Look as far ahead as possible through the turn.
- Keep your feet on the pegs and grip the gas tank with your knees.
- Lean with the motorcycle. Don't sit perpendicular to the road while the motorcycle is leaning over.
- Keep an even throttle through the turn or accelerate a small amount after passing the tightest portion of the curve.



PASSING:

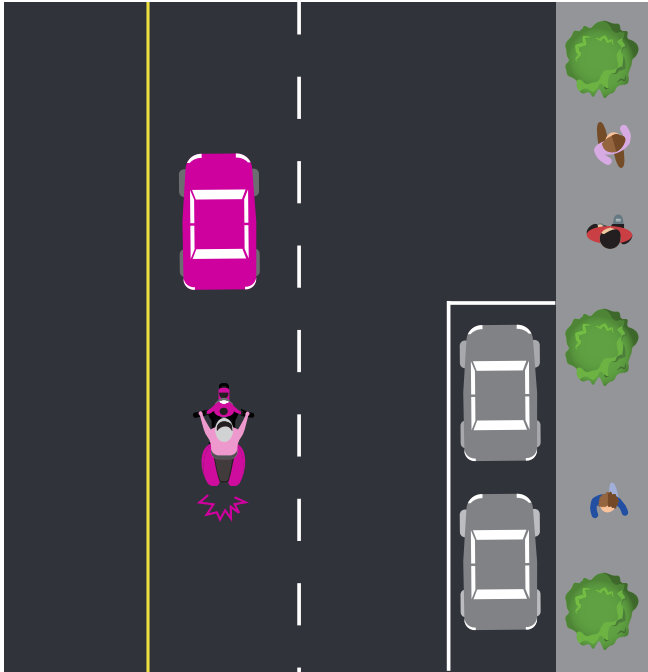
- When passing, always check your blind spots before and after signalling.
- When passing parked vehicles, ride in the left track of the passing lane and reduce your speed. This will give you more time and distance to react should a door open in front of you or a pedestrian emerge between parked vehicles.



SAFE MOTORCYCLE RIDING TIPS

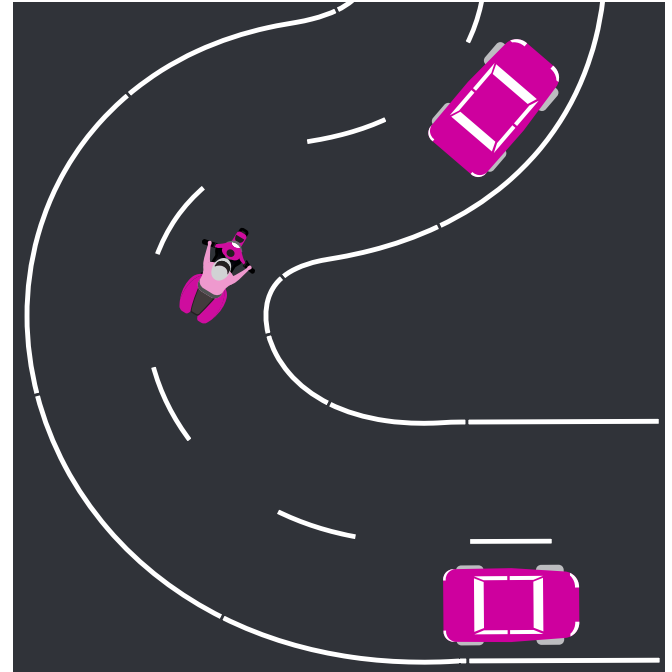
EMERGENCY BRAKING

- Keep the motorcycle upright and traveling in a straight line.
- Apply both brakes while disengaging the clutch and releasing the throttle. Applying the brakes smoothly and progressively is the best way to minimize the risk of locking up the wheels.
- Don't lock up the front brake. If you do, release the brake for a split second, then immediately reapply the front brake without locking it up. If the rear wheel locks up, do not release the brake. If your handlebars are straight and you are upright, you will skid in a straight line, which is easier to control.



NIGHT RIDING:

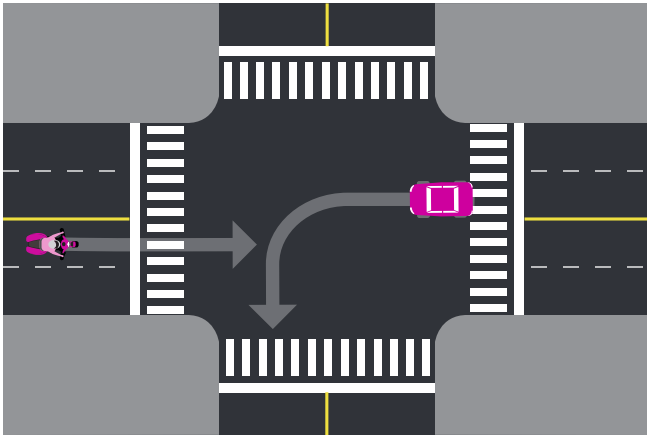
- Slow down when riding at night, especially on winding roads.
- Keep an eye on the road surface; it is more difficult at night to see debris or materials that may have fallen on the road.
- Give yourself more room to respond between you and the vehicle in front.
- Wear a clear face shield without scratches. A scratched face shield can make it more difficult to see through.



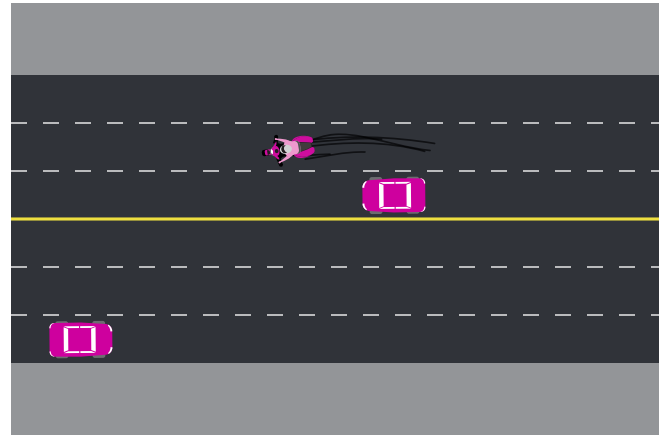
Motorcycles with anti-lock braking system (ABS) brakes reduce fatal collision risk by one-third.

MOST COMMON COLLISIONS INVOLVING PEOPLE RIDING MOTORCYCLES

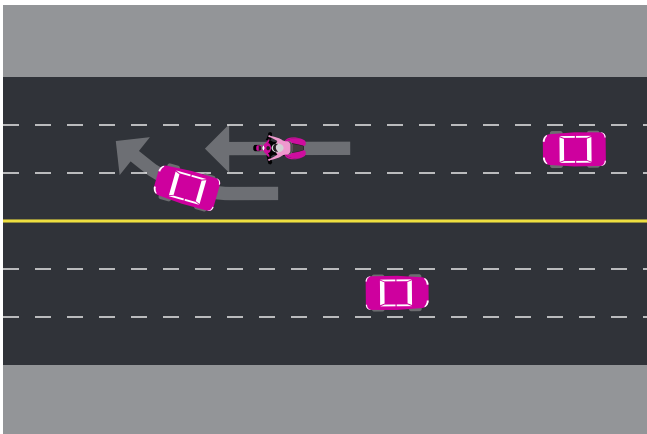
A person driving makes left turn across path of a person riding a motorcycle who is going straight.



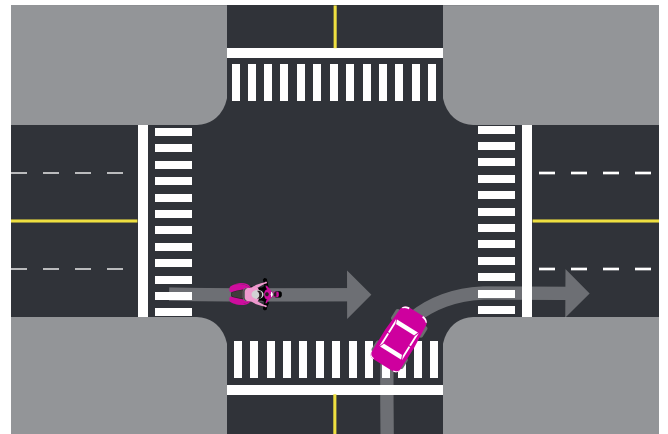
A person riding a motorcycle loses control.



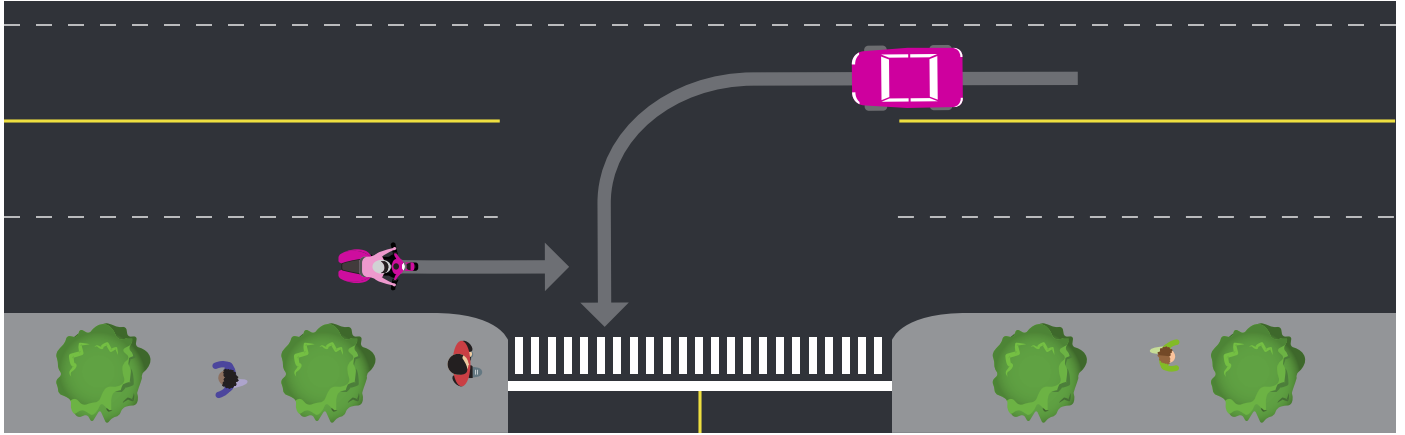
A person driving makes an improper lane change.



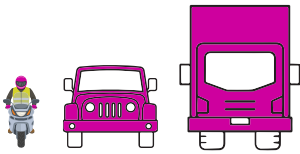
A person driving does not yield the right of way to a person riding a motorcycle.



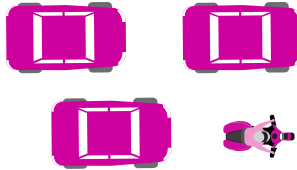
LEFT TURN ACROSS A PATH



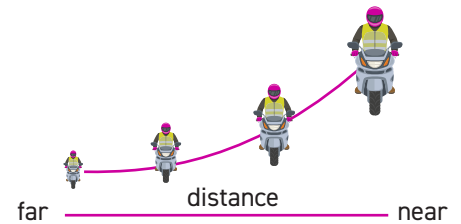
A left turn across a path is the most common collision type involving people riding motorcycles. It accounts for about one-third of motorcycle fatal injuries. There are three main reasons why this is the most common collision type:



(1) Motorcycles are much smaller than other motor vehicles; they are not as noticeable to people driving. It may be that people driving look in the direction of the approaching motorcycle but are not able to determine how far away the motorcycle is or how quickly it's approaching.



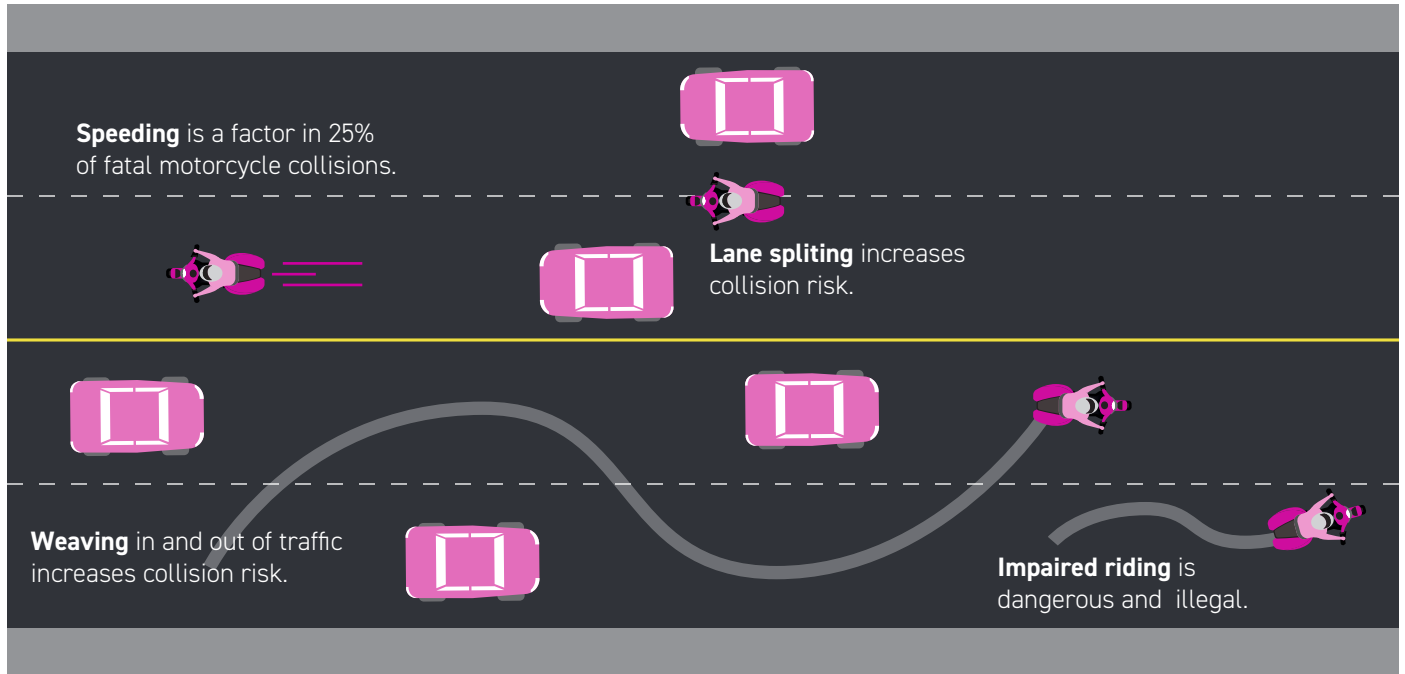
(2) There are far fewer motorcycles on the road as compared to other types of vehicles, and motorcycles are typically ridden seasonally. Driving relies on pattern recognition and motorcycles only have a single headlight and do not fit the pattern of most other vehicles on the road.



(3) At a distance, the approaching objects increase in size very slowly. Then they increase in size very rapidly as the object gets closer. Motorcycles are much smaller than other motor vehicles, which makes it even harder to assess how fast they are approaching as compared to other vehicles. This is especially problematic when the motorcycle is approaching at a perpendicular angle.

Keep a very close lookout for approaching vehicles that may turn left ahead of you. Don't assume they can see you!

RISKY BEHAVIOURS TO AVOID WHEN RIDING A MOTORCYCLE



SUMMARY OF MOTORCYCLE RIDING SAFETY TIPS

1. Take formal training to get your M2 and M licence.
2. Wear proper safety gear when riding, regardless of season or temperature.
3. Never ride after consuming alcohol or drugs.
4. Assume other people driving don't see you.
5. Maintain 360 degree awareness.
6. Leave a space cushion all around.
7. Enter intersections and curves with caution.
8. Practice emergency braking and swerving through an approved refresher training course.
9. Save stunt riding for the race track.