

**Fact : Motorcycle rallies bring serious crimes, not just petty offenses.**

Pro-rally advocates dismiss the number of arrests and citations given during the rallies, and often suggest these are “just minor offenses”. Well, take a look at these figures. Who wants to live in a community where this kind of crime takes place? It’s no wonder Myrtle Beach regularly ranks at or near the top of the national crime index; with stats like these, Myrtle Beach will always have high crime rates.

**City of Myrtle Beach - Violations (2006 and 2007 averaged)**

During May of 2007, 5,758 violations were cited, including 96 felonies and 3,477 traffic violations. In fact, the month of May accounted for 11% of the year’s felonies, 13% of the year’s misdemeanors and 15% of the year’s traffic violations.

Pro-rally advocates point to the number of people and the number of police, but the numbers do not lie: motorcycle rallies bring crime. Compare May to the busiest month of the year, July, and you can see just how bad it is:

	<u>May</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>% Variance</u>
Misdemeanors	2,191	1,854	+18%
Felonies	105	94	+12%
Traffic Violations	<u>3,298</u>	<u>1,571</u>	+110%
Total	5,594	3,519	+ 59%

**Horry County - Violations (2008)**

During the 2008 rallies, Horry County experienced an 82% increase in violations. See below just what occurred. Advocates of the Harley Rally point out that the May Harley-Davidson Rally lasts for ten days and that when you analyze the total number of violations over the number of days for each event, Harley is not as problematic as the Memorial Day Bikefest. Okay, so maybe that’s true. But should we tolerate either event, when they generate nearly 4,000 violations over a 3-week period?

	<b><u>Harley Rally</u></b> (10 days)	<b><u>Mem. Day BikeFest</u></b> (5 days)	<b><u>Both Combined</u></b> (15 days)
Speeding	1,214	702	1,916
Improper Start/Stop/Turn	267	114	381
Disregarding Traffic Signal	60	31	91
Drug or Alcohol Offense	66	55	121
Reckless Driving	26	28	54
Assaults / Disorderly Conduct	17	16	33
Other Citations	<u>729</u>	<u>562</u>	<u>1,291</u>
Total	2,379	1,508	3,887