

Speeding Dangers and Solutions



When a car crashes or suddenly stops, its energy transfers to the people in it. This is why you jolt forward into your seat belt when a car brakes hard. The faster the car goes, the more energy is transferred.

This leads to **higher impacts** during crashes and **increased risk for serious injuries**.



Consequences of Speeding: The Stats Behind the Facts



Speeding dramatically increases the likelihood of crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities on highways and local roads.

- At highway speeds, even a 10% increase in speed (i.e., 77 mph in a 70 zone) can increase the risk of fatal and serious injury crashes by 30%.¹
- 29% of all U.S. traffic fatalities in 2023 had speeding as a contributing factor—in Michigan, it was 19.2%.²
- 7.4% of all crashes in Michigan involved a speeding driver.³

Community Solutions: Automated Speed Enforcement



Automated speed enforcement (ASE) is one of many strategies used to prevent speeding.

If a vehicle is speeding, a photo of the license plate goes to local law enforcement. Then, a ticket is sent to the vehicle owner. The goal is not to catch speeders, but to prevent drivers from speeding in the first place.

Michigan recently passed a law implementing ASE cameras in work zones. It joins the many states that already have them in various areas, including school zones. States with ASE cameras have found lower speeding and crash rates.

- In New York, there has been a 63% decrease in speed and 55% decrease in fatalities in areas with ASE⁴
- In Pennsylvania, work zone crashes went down approximately 30% in the first 4 years of ASE in these zones⁵

What Can You and Others Do?

Be aware of the speed limit in the area.



States typically have established maximum speed limits for different types of roads, commonly referred to as statutory speed limits, unless a sign indicates otherwise.

Check here for your state's rules:

iihs.org/research-areas/speed/speed-limit-laws

Give yourself plenty of time when heading to your destination.



You are much more likely to speed if you're running late, so plan your time and schedule carefully to arrive safely!

Remember, you are one of many on the road.



Speeding greatly reduces your ability to control your car and react quickly to others on the road, significantly increasing your chances of crashing into another vehicle or object. Protect not just yourself, but everyone around you!

References

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