



## **Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police 2025 Illinois Speed Awareness Day MEDIA FACT SHEET**

### **\*\*\*Speeding Catches Up with You\*\*\***

In 2016, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (IACOP) founded Illinois Speed Awareness Day. Speed Awareness Day is a combined statewide effort involving public and private stakeholders partnering to address the issue of excessive speeding on Illinois roadways and the deadly impact speeding has on traffic safety.

The IACOP's goal is to build and coordinate a High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) program to include public and private partnerships to address the issues of excessive speeding. By combining efforts, a common goal can be achieved: reduce crashes, prevent injuries, and, more importantly, save lives through proactive public awareness and enforcement efforts.

### **Mission**

To promote Education and conduct Enforcement to heighten public awareness of the dangers of excessive speed. Establish partnerships among state, county, and local law enforcement agencies to build a cooperative effort to impact SPEED-related traffic safety issues.

### **Why Dedicate a Day to Speed Awareness?**

SPEED is one of the leading contributory causes of all types of crashes involving a motor vehicle. Speeding is not limited to exceeding the posted limit for a specific roadway; it also includes driving too fast for weather/road/traffic conditions. National trends suggest more drivers are operating motor vehicles with less regard for speed limits and surrounding traffic conditions. This type of driving behavior and attitude has resulted in high crash numbers, increased injuries, and fatalities. SPEED also impacts the severity of the crash, type and extent of the injuries, and the number of fatalities.

According to NHTSA FARS data for Illinois, between 2021-2023, there were 3,500 fatal crashes. A total of 33.31% (1,166) of those crashes were speed-related, resulting in 1,339 fatalities.

Nationally, during the same time period, there were 116,861 fatal crashes. A total of 27.91% (32,693) of those crashes were speed-related, resulting in 36,430 fatalities.

## Speed Fact Sheet

- Speed Awareness Day involves state, county, and local law enforcement officers across Illinois conducting HVE-focused and proactive enforcement targeting speed-related violations.
- Traffic crashes that result in death due to speeding are higher in the summer months. The highest fatalities occur between June and September. In Illinois for 2023, nearly 43% of speed-related fatal crashes occurred between June and September. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- In 2023, speeding was involved in approximately 33.59% of all fatal crashes in Illinois. Nationally, nearly 28% of all fatal crashes involved speeding. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- In 2023, 974 people were involved in a traffic crash in Illinois that was speed-related, and 44.76% of those involved (436) received fatal injuries. Nationally, 25,519 people were involved in a traffic crash that was speed-related, with 46.14% of those involved (11,775) receiving fatal injuries. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- In 2023, an average of more than one person died every day in a speed-related crash in Illinois. An average of 32 people per day were killed in a speed-related traffic crash in the United States. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- In 2023, young drivers (aged 15-20) in Illinois were involved in 162 fatal crashes, with 43.20% of those crashes (70) being speed-related, resulting in 89 deaths. In the United States, young drivers were involved in 5,133 fatal traffic crashes, with 38.65% of those crashes being speed-related, resulting in 2,219 deaths. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- In 2023, 45% of fatal crashes in Illinois construction or maintenance zones were speed-related. Speeding was involved in 29.96% of the fatal crashes in construction or maintenance zones in the United States. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- In 2023, 436 people died in Illinois in a speed-related traffic crash. More than 81% of those fatalities (356) occurred on a non-Interstate roadway where the posted speed limits were 55 miles per hour or less. Nationally, 11,775 people died in a speed-related traffic crash, with 87.34% of those fatalities (10,285) occurring on non-Interstate roadways. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- NHTSA considers a crash to be speeding-related if the driver was charged with a speeding-related offense, or if the responding officer indicated the driver was driving too fast for conditions at the time or was exceeding the posted speed limit.
- According to NHTSA, a crash on a road with a speed limit of 65 mph or greater is more than twice as likely to result in a fatality than a crash on a road with a speed limit of 45 or 50 mph and nearly five times as likely as a crash on a road with a speed limit of 40 mph or below.

- Speeding is usually defined as driving in excess of the posted speed limit or driving too fast for conditions, and can have dangerous consequences, including:
  - Reducing a driver's ability to negotiate curves or maneuver around obstacles in the roadway.
  - Extending the distance traveled before a vehicle can stop.
  - Increasing the distance a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a hazard.
  - Increasing the risk of crashes and injuries because other vehicles and pedestrians may not be able to judge distance accurately.

### **Young Male Involvement in Speeding-Related Crashes**

- Young male drivers in the 15-20 and 21-24 year age groups are the most likely to be speeding at the time of fatal crashes. (National Safety Council)
- In 2023, nearly 37% of male drivers in these age groups who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash, compared to 18% of female drivers in these two age groups. (National Safety Council)

### **Help Save Lives by Obeying Posted Speed Limits**

- Our goal is to save lives. Please join us in reminding all drivers to be alert, watch for, and obey speed limit signs - especially in school zones, residential neighborhoods, and on secondary roads.
- Drivers need to remember there is a reason for posted speed limits. The roadways are a dangerous place, and speed limits are designed to protect all users: drivers, passengers, pedestrians – everyone!
- Please remember, **Speeding Catches Up with You**
- [FARS Encyclopedia](#)
- [Speeding - Publication Topic - CrashStats - NHTSA - DOT](#)
- [Speeding - Injury Facts](#)