

**Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police
2026 Speed Awareness Day
MEDIA FACT SHEET**

*****Speeding Catches Up with You*****

In 2016, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) founded Illinois Speed Awareness Day. Speed Awareness Day was 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 ILACP 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, 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 2023-2024 there were 2,228 fatal crashes. A total of 34.1% (760) of those crashes were SPEED related.

Speed Fact Sheet

- Speed Awareness Day involves state, county, and local law enforcement across Illinois conducting high visibility public awareness campaigns along with proactive enforcement targeting speed-related violations.
- In 2024, Illinois crashes involving speed accounted for 31.1% of the total crashes, 35.2% of injury crashes and 45.3% of all fatal crashes. (2024 Illinois Crash Facts and Statistics)
- Traffic crashes that result in death due to speeding are higher in the summer months. The highest fatalities occur between June to September. In Illinois for 2024, nearly 34.7% of speed related fatal crashes occurred between June and September. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- In 2024, speeding was involved in 34% of the fatal crashes in construction or maintenance zones in the United States and 33.3% in Illinois. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- In 2024, 423 people died in Illinois in a speed-related traffic crash. More than 80% of those fatalities (337) occurred on a non-Interstate roadway where the posted speed limits were 55 miles per hour or less. Nationally, 11,288 people died in a speed-related traffic crash, and 87.6% of those fatalities (9,890) occurred 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 are disproportionately involved in speed-related fatal crashes. In the 15-20- and 21-24-year age groups they have the highest rate of involvement, with approximately 34% to 39% of those speeding at the time of the crash. (National Safety Council)
- The proportion of female drivers speeding was smaller than male drivers across all age groups. In 2024, at least 34% of male drivers in these age groups who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash compared to 19% for female drivers. (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](#)
- [2024 Illinois Crash Facts](#)