

# Speeding Dangers



**Speeding-related crashes killed** an estimated **10,134 people** in 2012 in the United States, an average of **28 people a day**.

*Source: Daily fatality based on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities, August 2013, multiplied by 30 percent average of all fatalities being speed related.*

In 2011, **9,944 people died** in speeding crashes in the U.S., a **24% decrease** from 2007.

*Source: 2007-2011 report generated by National Center for Statistics and Analysis, an office of the NHTSA.*



**From 2007-2011 an average of...**

**11,205 people died** each year in speed-related crashes.

*Source: 2007-2011 report generated by National Center for Statistics and Analysis, an NHTSA office.*



**934 people were killed** each month in speeding crashes.

*Source: 2007-2011 report generated by National Center for Statistics and Analysis, an NHTSA office.*



**\$5.6 billion** was lost each month to speeding-fatality related costs.

*Source of cost: AAA and Cambridge Systematics. "Crashes vs. Congestion – What's the Cost to Society?" November 2011.*



In 2011, **25% of speed-related fatalities** occurred on streets with a posted speed limit of **35 mph or less**.

*Source: 2007-2011 report generated by National Center for Statistics and Analysis, an NHTSA office.*



**87% of speed-related fatalities** occurred on roads that were **not interstate highways** in 2011.

*Source: NHTSA. Traffic Safety Facts. 2011 Data. State Traffic Data. Published July 2013.*

## Myth V. Fact

**Myth** – Higher speeds are safer for traffic.

**Fact:** **Speeding-related fatalities remained level** for the first 10 years since the national maximum speed limit repeal, but **should have decreased** if higher speeds are safer.

*Source: Governors Highway Safety Administration.*

**Myth** – Speeding is not a problem.

**Fact:** Speeding is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crashes. In 2011, speeding was a contributing factor in **30.7%** of all fatal crashes, and **9,944 lives were lost** in speeding-related crashes.

*Source: NHTSA. Traffic Safety Facts. 2011 Data. State Traffic Data. Published July 2013.*



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**Myth** – Speed cameras can generate false readings.

**Fact:** Most speed-measuring devices are equally accurate measuring approaching or receding traffic speeds and are **accurate to within 1 mph** when used properly.

*Source: NHTSA: Speed Enforcement Camera Systems Operational Guidelines.*

**Myth** – Speed safety cameras violate citizens’ due process rights under the Fifth and 14th Amendments by presuming the driver is guilty, preventing the driver from confronting his/her accuser and delaying immediate notice of the offense.

**Fact:** **There is no presumption of guilt in a ticket** issued from camera-based evidence. A citation is a summons. Every person who receives a citation for speeding **has the opportunity to contest their ticket**, just as they can with a traditional traffic ticket. They may confront the police officer who approves the citation based on photographic evidence and notices the accused within the statute of limitations.

**Fact:** Citations are mailed to the vehicle’s registered owner, who has the option to sign a legal affidavit stating he/she was not driving the vehicle at the time of the violation.



**Fact:** In 2010, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that speed cameras in Akron, Ohio, **did not violate due process**, stating. “As the district court found, the ordinance provides for notice of the citation, an opportunity for a hearing, provision for a record of the hearing decision, and the right to appeal an adverse decision. We agree with the district court that the ordinance and its implementation, as detailed in the stipulations, satisfy due process.”

*Source: Mendenhall v. City of Akron, Nestor Traffic Systems, Inc., (American Traffic Solutions – Intervenor) U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. No. 09-3061 (6th Cir. March 29, 2010).*

## Research Shows Speed Cameras Improve Safety

Outside the United States, countries with longer histories of using speed safety cameras as part of their enforcement programs have reported **reductions in speed-related fatalities** of **15% to 20%**.

*Source: The National Academies. “Achieving Traffic Safety Goals in the United States. Lessons from Other nations.” 2010. Page 5.*

A speed camera program **reduced injury crashes** by **28% to 48%** in Scottsdale, Arizona.

*Source: Washington S., Shin K., van Schalkwyk I. “Evaluation of the City of Scottsdale loop 101 Photo Enforcement Demonstration Program.” Arizona Department of Transportation. Report AZ-684. November 2007. Page 9.*

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that fixed speed cameras **reduce injury crashes** by **20% to 25%**, and mobile speed cameras **reduced injury collisions** by **21% to 51%**, and that “automated enforcement systems can result in measurable safety improvements at high crash locations.”

*Source: Automated enforcement: a compendium of worldwide evaluations of results. Report No. DOT HS-810-763. Washington, D.C.: NHTSA. P.3.*



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