

# Speeding In N.C.



## Traffic Safety Fact Sheet

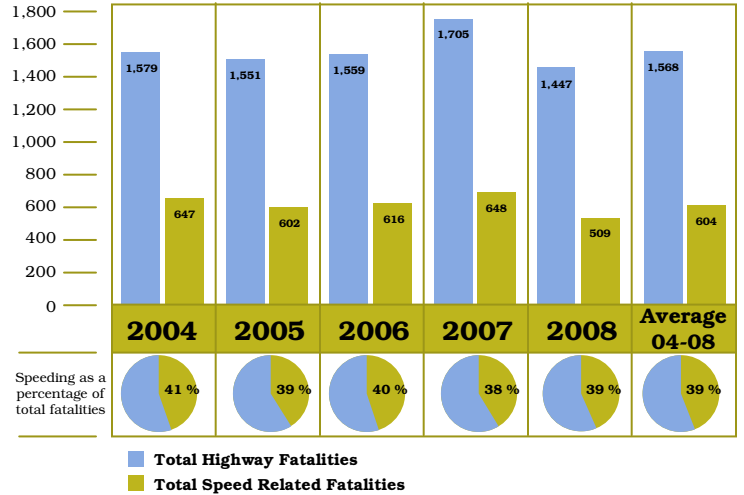


### Trends

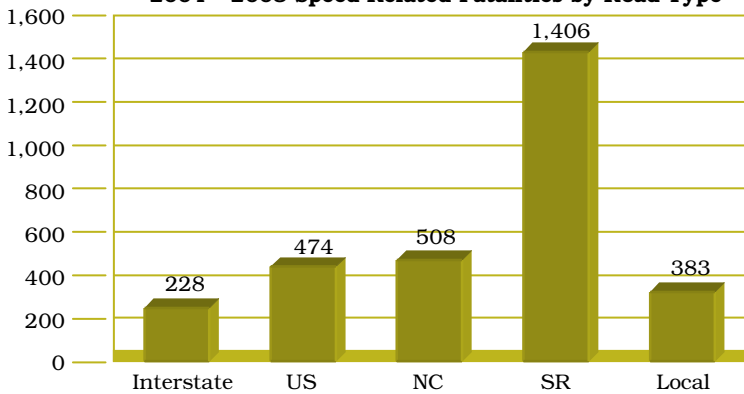
#### 2008 Speed Related Crashes in N.C.

- Speeding was a contributing factor in approximately 33 percent of all reportable motor vehicle crashes.
- 509 people were killed in speed related crashes.
- 42,434 people were injured, down from 46,106 in 2007 in speed related crashes.
- 81% of speed related fatalities were unbelted, compared to 31% of all fatalities who were unbelted.
- 53% of speed related fatalities occurred on a weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

#### Speed Related Fatalities



#### 2004 - 2008 Speed Related Fatalities by Road Type



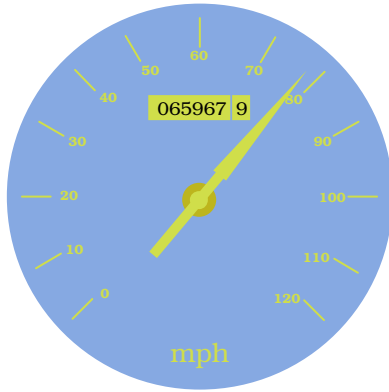
**Only 8 percent of speed related fatalities occur on Interstates**

**53 percent of vehicles involved in fatal crashes were exceeding the posted speed limit by more than 10 mph**

#### 2004-2008 Speed of Vehicles in Fatal Crashes

##### Posted Speed Limit

	25	35	45	55	65	70
0 to 4	11	143	342	823	118	53
5 to 9	1	12	36	110	20	11
10 to 14	2	23	66	244	17	13
15 to 19	4	34	96	236	19	11
20 to 24	2	31	78	138	10	9
25 to 29	4	48	78	127	11	1
30 to 34	3	15	38	70	3	3
35 to 39	10	36	45	45	4	0
40 to 44	2	7	22	14	0	0
45 to 49	2	16	26	37	1	0
>50	11	49	65	53	6	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>1897</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>104</b>



## Speeding & Safety

### How does speed affect road safety?

The faster you drive on the road, the more likely you are to be involved in a collision. As your speed increases:

- The distance you need in order to stop increases
- There is a greater possibility that you will be going too fast if you meet an unexpected change in road conditions
- There is a greater chance that other road users will misjudge how fast you are travelling.

The severity of injuries resulting from a crash is directly related to the impact speed of the vehicle – whether or not speeding was a factor in the crash.

## Safety Tips

- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance. Allow at least two seconds following distance in good weather and road conditions, and at least three seconds on high-speed roads.
- Slow down on wet roads, in bad weather conditions or on uneven roads. Increase your following distance to at least four seconds. Also increase your following distance when you are behind a large vehicle that could block your vision, or following a motorcycle that could stop very quickly.
- If a collision seems unavoidable, steer to the right. Head towards the least harmful option, preferably an object that will give way on impact, such as a bush. The most harmful option is a head-on crash, where the force of impact is doubled.
- Buckle up. This is the law for a good reason. Seatbelts will reduce your chances of being injured in a collision.

## Speeding

**Speeding** – defined as either exceeding the authorized speed limit, exceeding a safe speed for the given conditions or failure to reduce speed is the most frequently cited contributing circumstance in fatality and injury producing crashes as reported by law enforcement officers for crashes on North Carolina's highways. Drivers who frequently engage in this type of behavior unnecessarily put other motorists and themselves at risk. Slowing down, keeping a safe following distance, being more realistic about travel times and showing more tolerance for other drivers can have a tremendous impact on reducing crashes on our roads.

## Speeding & Stopping

### The faster you go, the longer it takes you to stop.

Total stopping distance is the distance your vehicle will travel from the moment you notice a hazard until the moment your vehicle stops. You need time to see and react before your brakes even begin to slow your vehicle.

Total stopping distance is longer than most drivers realize. Under ideal conditions, it takes you about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a second to see the hazard and another  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a second to react. Actual braking distance depends on a number of factors: the road condition, the condition of your brakes and tires and the speed at which you are traveling.

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**By increasing vehicle speed  
from 55 mph to 65 mph,  
stopping distance increases  
by over 18%**

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## Top Five Countermeasures

There are many viable countermeasures that have the potential to reduce injuries and fatalities associated with speed related crashes. The top five as prioritized by the Speed Working Group of the N.C. Executive Committee for Highway Safety are as follows:

1. Enact legislation enabling automated enforcement of speeding violations.
2. Establish the "Safe Speed Act" making the adjudication of speeding citations an administrative process.
3. Establish Safety corridors that have specific fines for speed violations with these fines being utilized to fund additional enforcement.
4. Utilize targeted CMV speed enforcement as a generalized deterrent to speeding motorists.
5. Establish a statewide Pace Car program.