

# Georgia

## Speed Limits: 1994 and 2004

State	Limited Access Rural Interstates		Limited Access Urban Interstates		Other Limited Access Roads		Truck Speed (Y or N)
	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004	
Georgia	55	70	55	55-65	55	65	N

Speed limits indicated above do not apply to all roadways within the state. Speed limits on state highways range from 45 mph to 65 mph, depending on the area. Most city streets are 30 mph to 45 mph. There are no separate speed limits for trucks.

## Speeding-related Data

Georgia collects speeding-related crash data, primarily from information entered on the motor vehicle crash report form. The state also collects speeding citation data. Although Georgia defines aggressive driving in state statutes, no specific data is collected about aggressive driving. Georgia's definition of aggressive driving states a person commits the offense of aggressive driving when he or she operates any motor vehicle with the intent to annoy, harass, molest, intimidate, injure, or obstruct another person, including overtaking and passing; traffic lane violations; following too closely; turn signals, changing lanes, slowing or stopping; impeding traffic flow; motorcycle violations; or reckless driving.

## Proportion Speeding-related Crashes

Year	Speeding-related Fatal Crashes	State Patrol Speeding Citations
2003	Data Not Available	204,128
2002	20%	189,690
2001	20%	173,743

Information relating to geographic area, race, ethnic, gender or age groups that may be over represented in crash data is not currently available.

## Efforts to Reduce Excessive Speeding

Georgia implements a number of law enforcement task forces around the state with a speeding component. Two initiatives specifically target excessive speed in the state. The first is a ten- agency task force primarily in the metro Atlanta area that addresses the occurrences of speeding and aggressive driving. The acronym for the task force is HEAT or *Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic*. The state initially funded eight local law enforcement agencies in the Metro Atlanta area and provided low profile police vehicles, all with the same markings and look with the exception of the agency's name. These units have become extremely successful in combating speeding as well as aggressive and impaired driving in the metro area. The concept is now spreading beyond the metro Atlanta area to other jurisdictions across the state.

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The second initiative was the extremely successful *100 Days of Summer HEAT* sustained speeding enforcement campaign conducted during the summer of 2004. The enforcement period lasted from the May *Click it or Ticket Mobilization* through the Labor Day *Impaired Driving Mobilization*. Law enforcement agencies around the state concentrated enforcement efforts, with massive corridor speeding-related enforcement occurring at pre-scheduled times. Paid media and state department of transportation message boards reminded the motoring public about the statewide enforcement and played a key role in the campaign's success. The campaign resulted in a 2.2 percent increase in the state's seatbelt usage rate (84.5 percent to 86.7 percent), a reduction in speeding-related fatalities from the same period in 2003 and a 14 percent reduction in overall fatalities from the same period in 2003. A considerable reduction in holiday fatalities during the period was also noted. During the three-month period, Georgia's law enforcement officers issued over 223,000 speeding citations and arrested almost 16,000 impaired drivers.

Georgia's state highway safety office includes a speeding component in Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) contracts. The state reported the combined total of speeding-related activities funded in 2003 at 16.33 percent and 21.04 percent in 2004. Georgia expects to expend 29 percent of their overall federal highway safety dollars in 2005 on speeding-related activities. There are no state funds available.

Georgia efforts to address the speed issue have proven successful, as evidenced by a reduction in speeding-related fatalities.

**Public Perception**

Georgia's state highway safety office felt the motoring public believes police give a 10 mph cushion in enforcing the posted speed limit.