

Illinois

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	
Illinois	65	65	55	55	55	65 or 55	Y

Illinois reported there is no actual “urban/rural” limit. The speed limit is 65 mph unless it is posted lower. In major metropolitan areas the speed limit is normally 55 mph. Some rural divided limited access highways are posted at 65 mph, otherwise the limit is 55 mph. State statute limits or restricts trucks over 4 tons, house cars, campers and all vehicles towing trailers to a maximum speed of 55 mph for all highway categories.

Speeding-related Data

Illinois collects speeding-related crash data for fatal crashes, and also collects both speeding-related citation data and data about aggressive driving. The Illinois Office of the Secretary of State defines aggressive driving as: the operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger persons or property.

Year	State Patrol Speeding Citations Issued	Speeding Convictions Added to Drivers Records
Calendar Year 2003	173,080	408,596
Calendar Year 2002	206,762	468,855
Calendar Year 2001	25,067	446,459

Efforts to Reduce Excessive Speeding

Illinois programs federal highway safety funds for enforcement of all traffic laws, and does not specifically target speeding. The state highway safety office reported the following fiscal year (FY) expenditures:

FY 2005

- Illinois Specialized Traffic Enforcement Project (STEP) (\$578,000) to conduct increased patrol and enforcement of all traffic laws with a primary emphasis on the maximum speed limit, occupant restraint and impaired driving laws.
- Speeding & Traffic Accident Reduction (STAR) project (\$76,100) to conduct increased patrols and enforcement to apprehend traffic law violators committing common traffic offenses with particular emphasis on speeding, safety belts and child restraint.
- Local Project – Integrated Mini-Grant Enforcement Program (IMaGE) (\$1,427,886) to conduct enforcement of all traffic laws with special emphasis on impaired driving violations.
- Local Project – Traffic Law Enforcement Project (TLEP) (\$975,151) to conduct enforcement of special traffic laws at selected high crash locations and to conduct public information and education campaigns.

FY 2004

■ STEP	\$ 567,100
■ STAR	\$ 51,700
■ IMaGE	\$ 929,663
■ TLEP	\$1,380,092

FY 2003

■ STEP	\$1,000,000
■ STAR	\$ 49,000
■ IMaGE	\$ 705,508
■ TLEP	\$ 652,700

Illinois reported efforts that address speeding and/or aggressive driving have been successful. Illinois traffic deaths fell to a 60-year low in 2004, the result of stricter safety-belt laws, safer vehicles, enforcement of traffic laws and tougher rules on teen driving and child passenger safety. Preliminary figures show 1,341 people died in traffic crashes in 2004, the lowest number of fatalities since 1943, when 1,328 people were killed. The figures represent an 8 percent drop from the 1,454 traffic deaths recorded in 2003.

Public Perception

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