

Texas

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	
Texas	D 65/N 55	D 75/N 65	55	D 70/N 65	55	D 75/N 65	Y

Texas reported the limits noted above apply to all roadways, except roadways with 75 mph speeds. Those limits only apply to counties with fewer than 10 people per square mile. Texas is one of the few states with different speed limits for day and night driving. The state also has different speed limits for trucks. Daytime speeds for trucks are 70 mph and nighttime speeds are 65 mph on all roadways, except farm-to-market roads where the speed limits are 60 mph in the daytime and 55 mph at night.

Speeding-related Data

Texas collects speeding-related crash data, using speeding over limit and speed unsafe data elements. The state also collects data about aggressive driving (cell phone use and road rage.) However state statutes do not define aggressive driving.

Texas collects citation data, but only for the department of public safety and other agencies that have speeding-related law enforcement grants. The following tables represent speeding-related violations statewide:

STEP & Non-STEP Speeding Violations			
	2001	2002	2003
STEP	27,505	27,150	73,509
Non-STEP	527,165	500,941	505,468
Total	554,670	528,091	578,977

Texas reported 41,924 speeding-related fatal and injury crashes in 2001. Data for 2002 and 2003 have not yet been finalized. Texas has the ability to report and analyze speeding-related violation data for over representation in geographic areas, by race and by gender, however, the state did not provide conclusions about the data presented.

Efforts to Reduce Excessive Speeding

Texas includes speeding as a component in Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) activities. The majority of STEP grants that include a speeding-related component also address other components such as impaired driving, safety belt use and intersection violations. In fiscal year (FY) 2005, ten communities will operate a STEP with a speeding-related component only. Ninety-seven communities will operate a STEP that includes speeding and at least one other component.

Texas reported the following percentages as representative of Section 402 and Section 157a federal highway safety funding expenditures: FY 2003, 36.8 percent; FY 2004, 34.2 percent; and in FY 2005, 37 percent. In addition, the state department of transportation has a state funded STEP to increase speeding, impaired driving and occupant protection enforcement. The amount received in FY 2004 was \$8,667,000 with about the same amount again available in FY 2005.

Public Perception

Texas' state highway safety office felt the motoring public believes police typically give a 5 mph cushion in enforcing the posted speed limit.