

# Virginia

## 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	
Virginia	65	65	55	55	55	55-60-65	Some

Speed limits shown above apply to all roadways. Virginia notes the 60 mph speed on other limited access roads only applies in limited areas as defined by state code. Trucks are limited to 45 mph on secondary roads.

### Speeding-related Data

Virginia collects a variety of speeding-related crash and injury data. Data elements used to collect the data are: exceeded speed limit and exceeded safe speed limit (but not posted speed limit). The state also collects speeding-related conviction data from all police agencies. Virginia collects crash and conviction data for aggressive driving, and has defined aggressive driving in state code. A person is guilty of aggressive driving if:

- The person violates one or more of the following:
  - failure to observe lanes marked for traffic
  - passing on the right when overtaking vehicle
  - not giving way to overtaking vehicle
  - passing when overtaking a vehicle
  - not stopping or yielding right-of-way before entering certain highway
  - not heeding limitations on overtaking
  - not giving way to certain overtaking vehicles on divided highway; and
  - following too closely
  - evading traffic control devices
  - driving on right side of highways
  - speeding
  - passing/stopping on highways
- That person is a hazard to another person or commits an offense with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure or obstruct another person.

### Proportion Speeding-related Crashes

Year	Speeding-related Fatal Crashes (Percent)	Speeding-related Injury (Percent)
2003	346 (40%)	15,387 (28%)
2002	351 (42%)	16,082 (29%)
2001	360 (42%)	16,728 (30%)

Virginia noted that the speeding-related citation database information is maintained and available from the state police. All speeding citation data collected reflects age, gender and geographic area. This information is then used to determine crash severity scores and special needs, such as age specific safety projects and target enforcement areas.

### Efforts to Reduce Excessive Speeding

Virginia uses all crash and citation data collected to determine federal highway safety grant funding. The state does not have a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) per se, but notes many STEP activities fall under the adopted *Smart Safe and Sober*, *Click It or Ticket* and *Smooth Operator* programs, all of which have a speed and/or aggressive driving component.

Virginia received \$6,330,773 in total grant funding in 2003. Of that amount 2.2 percent was spent specifically on speeding and aggressive driving programs. In 2004 Virginia received \$29,539,300 in total grant funding, of which 3.5 percent was spent specifically on speeding and aggressive driving programs, and in 2005 Virginia received \$34,950,798 in total grant funding and anticipates expending 3.3 percent specifically on speeding and aggressive driving programs.

Virginia reported their efforts to reduce excessive speeding have been successful. In 2001, Virginia had a total of 360 speeding-related fatalities. In 2002, there were 351 speeding-related fatalities. That number dropped in 2003 to 346. From 2001 to 2003, speeding-related fatalities decreased by 14, or a 3.89 percent reduction. In 2001, Virginia had a total of 16,728 speeding-related injuries, with 16,028 occurring in 2002. In 2003, there were 15,387 speed-related injuries. From 2001 to 2003 speeding-related injuries decreased by 1,337 representing an 8 percent reduction.

### Public Perception

Virginia's state highway safety office has not conducted any formal or informal survey on the public's perception of a "speed limit cushion." The court systems in Virginia by statute may impose sanctions for any violation 1 mph and over of speed limit statutes.