

Alabama

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 | |
| Alabama | 65 | 70 | 55 | 60 | 55 | 65 | N |

Alabama noted these limits do not apply to all roadways within the state. In 2004, on unpaved county roads the maximum speed limit was placed at 35 mph. For paved county roads, the maximum speed limit is 45 mph. Additionally, on two federal and state highways, the maximum speed limit is 55 mph, and on four-lane highways, the maximum speed limit is 65 mph.

Speeding-related Data

Alabama collects speeding-related crash data from information provided on the state's motor vehicle crash report forms. Data elements include: over speed limit, under minimum speed and improper driving environment. Alabama also collects speeding-related citation data. State statutes do not define aggressive driving.

Proportion Speeding-related Crashes

| Year | Proportion Speeding-related Crashes | State Patrol Speeding Citations |
|------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2004 | Data Not Provided | 100,618 |
| 2003 | 0.111 | 105,368 |
| 2002 | 0.111 | 95,417 |
| 2001 | 0.110 | 105,792 |
| 2000 | 0.115 | 116,463 |
| 1999 | 0.116 | Data Not Provided |

The state analyzed over representation of speeding in crash reports from cities and counties and identified the problem as being in rural areas near the large cities. Alabama provided an analysis of speeding-related crashes for all attributes on the crash form. The following table presents some of the more interesting over representations.

| Group | Degree* |
|---------------------|---------|
| Single Vehicle | 2.4 |
| Off Roadway | 2.8 |
| Rural | 2.1 |
| Country Roads | 3.0 |
| Open Country | 1.9 |
| Curves | 3.0+ |
| Two Lanes | 1.6 |
| Darkness | 2.0+ |
| Segments | 1.4 |
| 7 PM-6 AM | 2.0+ |
| Alcohol Involvement | 3.1 |
| Age 16-21 | 1.7 |
| Male Driver | 1.2 |
| Weekends | 1.4 |
| Caucasian | 1.05 |

* Degree refers to the number of times over the expected, when compared with non-speed caused injury crashes.

Efforts to Reduce Excessive Speeding

Alabama includes speeding as an element of their Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) efforts. Although the state highway safety office did not fund a STEP in fiscal year (FY) 2004, law enforcement agencies did fund the program, using different sources of funding including Section 163 federal impaired driving incentive funds. The Interstate 20 project used state funding to support enforcement efforts on speeding, following too close and other crash causing violations. Additionally, the state includes a speeding component in school presentations on safe driving.

Since speeding is only one of several components of STEP, it was not possible for the state highway safety office to identify a percentage or amount of federal highway safety dollars committed to reducing speed.

Public Perception

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