

New Hampshire

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	
State	65	70	55	60	55	65	N

New Hampshire's motor vehicle crash report collects illegal/unsafe speed, improper passing/overtaking, improper/unsafe lane use, skidding, failure to yield right of way and disregarding traffic control devices. All of these data elements are used to identify speeding-related crashes. The state also collects speeding-related citation data.

New Hampshire does not collect aggressive driving data and state statutes do not specifically define aggressive driving. However, the State Police Aggressive Driver Unit recognizes the aggressive driver as that "individual who has a blatant disregard for motor vehicle laws, while displaying a flagrant disrespect for the safety of the motoring public." The unit targets the driver that commits two or more violations in one incident, where the safety of other motorists is at risk. Aggressive driving includes speeding, passing, right of way violations, following too close, hazardous moving violations, turning movements, and similar behaviors.

Proportion Speeding-related Crashes

Speeding-Related Fatal Crashes								
2001			2002			2003		
Total Fatal Crashes	Number of Speeding-related	Percent Speeding-related	Total Fatal Crashes	Number of Speeding-related	Percent Speeding-related	Total Fatal Crashes	Number of Speeding-related	Percent Speeding-related
124	15	12.1%	117	9	7.7%	116	14	12.1%

NH State Police Activity			
	2001	2002	2003
Speed Summonses	44,448	40,372	34,216
Speed Warnings	64,199	65,002	53,982

Efforts to Reduce Excessive Speeding

In fiscal year 2005 the state highway safety agency will implement saturation patrols dedicated to aggressively enforcing posted speed limits. Patrols covering 13 geographic regions are proposed for the summer months (July and August 2005) in areas identified as having high traffic/crash volumes. In calendar year 2004 the State Police Aggressive Driver Unit patrolled the more congested highways in the state using two, low-profile cars and one unmarked cruiser. The effort targeted rush hour traffic during the morning and evening commute hours. The activity resulted in 2,323 court convictions and 2,856 warnings for various violations.

New Hampshire reported expending 19.4 percent of federal highway safety dollars on speeding-related programs and activities in 2003, including the purchase of radar equipment. In 2004, the state reported expending 19.8 percent, and 23.5 percent in 2005.

Public Perception

The state highway safety office felt the motoring public believes police give a 10 mph cushion in enforcing the posted speed limit on the interstate system and 5 mph on other roadways.