IIHS HLDI | SAFETY SOLUTION

Speed safety cameras

Research shows safety cameras reduce speeding, which helps to prevent and mitigate crashes.

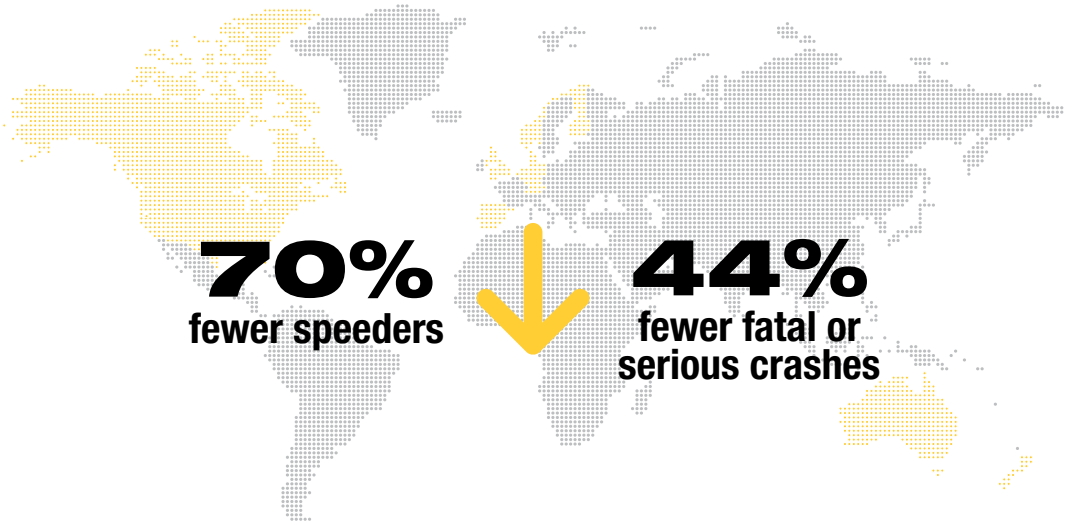
Speeding is one of the most common contributors to fatal motor vehicle crashes. In 2023, nearly 12,000 people were killed in speeding-related crashes, representing 29% of all traffic fatalities, federal data show.

Using safety cameras to enforce speed limits, along with speed management practices like setting safe speed limits and installing traffic calming features, can reduce this toll.

Evidence from around the U.S. and the world

Studies are clear that speed safety cameras reduce speeding, resulting in fewer severe crashes.

- A large-scale implementation of speed safety cameras in New York City school zones resulted in a 14% reduction in crashes at camera sites during the hours they were operating.[1] Speeding tickets issued in connection with the program fell 75% within two years.
- On a high-speed roadway in Arizona, residential roads in Maryland and city streets in Washington, D.C., speed safety cameras spurred reductions of 70% or more in the proportion of vehicles traveling more than 10 mph over the posted limit.[2,3,4]
- In Montgomery County, Maryland, IIHS found speed safety cameras reduced the likelihood of incapacitating or fatal injuries by 39% after introducing a corridor approach, in which the cameras were periodically moved to different locations along the roadway.[5] The likelihood of such injuries was 27% lower on similar roads nearby thanks to a spillover effect.
- Dozens of studies of speed safety cameras in other countries have found similar reductions in speeding violations and the severity of crashes. Crashes with fatalities or serious injuries dropped by as much as 44%.[6]



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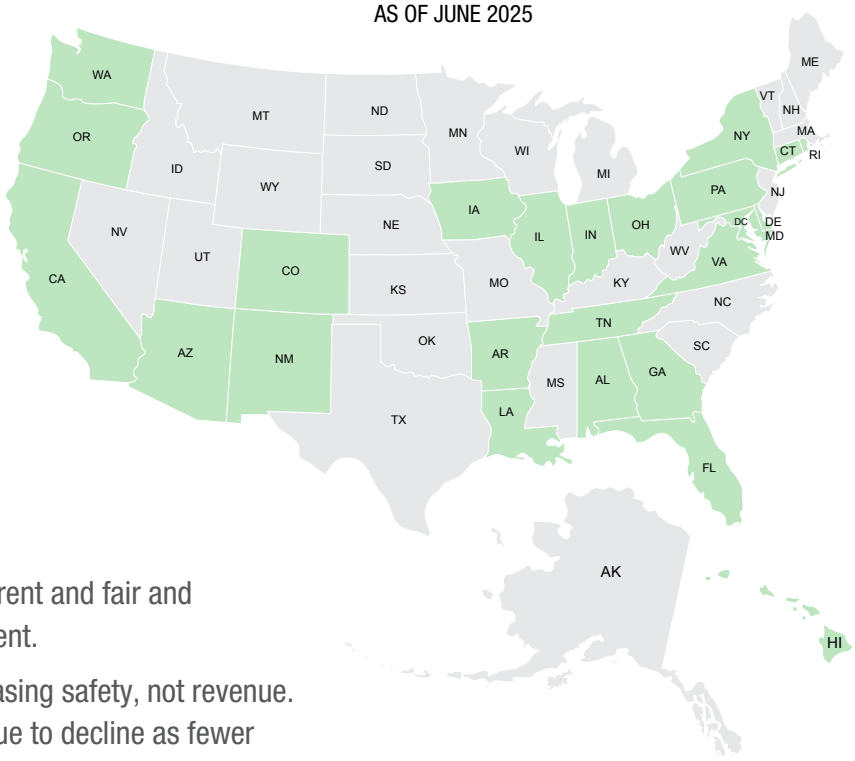
Use and acceptance

Speed safety cameras are increasingly recognized as an effective tool to prevent crashes and save lives.

- More than 300 communities in 25 U.S. states and the District of Columbia are already using cameras to control speeding.
- Though media reports often focus on vocal opponents, IIHS has found approval rates for speed safety cameras of 62%-77% in communities where they're used effectively.[2,5,7]

STATES WHERE SPEED SAFETY CAMERAS ARE USED, AS OF JUNE 2025



Principles for success

- Successful camera programs are transparent and fair and have a strong public information component.
- Programs should be geared toward increasing safety, not revenue. In fact, communities should expect revenue to decline as fewer drivers violate the law.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Facts and figures related to speeding
iihs.org/research-areas/speed

Safety camera laws
iihs.org/research-areas/red-light-running/safety-camera-laws

U.S. communities using speed safety cameras
iihs.org/research-areas/speed/speed-camera-communities

Checklist for creating successful automated enforcement programs developed by AAA, Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety, the Governors Highway Safety Association, IIHS and the National Safety Council
iihs.org/ae-checklist.pdf

GHSA Report: Automated Enforcement in a New Era
ghsa.org/resource-hub/automated-enforcement-new-era

Vision Zero Network recommendations for creating equitable programs
visionzeronetwork.org/new-resource-fair-warnings

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[5] Hu, W., & McCartt, A. T. (2016). Effects of automated speed enforcement in Montgomery County, Maryland, on vehicle speeds, public opinion, and crashes. *Traffic Injury Prevention, 17*(sup1), 53–58. doi.org/10.1080/15389588.2016.1189076

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