

Tennessee

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	
Tennessee	65	70	45-55	45-55	65	70	Some

Tennessee noted that speed limits shown above apply to all roadways within the state. For limited access urban interstates, speed limits varied from 45 to 55 mph, depending on population. Although there is no statewide differential truck speed limit, trucks have different limits on steep grades in certain areas of the state.

Speeding-related Data

Tennessee collects speeding-related crash data. These are reported as driver actions, and include speed too fast for conditions and speed too slow. The state also collects speeding-related citation data, but does not collect aggressive driving data. There is no state statute defining aggressive driving.

Proportion Speeding-related Crashes

Year	Speeding-related Fatal Crashes	Speeding-related Injury Crashes	Highway Patrol Speeding Citations	Speeding Convictions All Agencies
2004	Data Not Available	619	232,553	119,650
2003	Data Not Available	1,266	203,913	Data Not Available
2002	243	2,612	181,543	Data Not Available
2001	235	3,985	175,639	Data Not Available

The Number of Speeding Citations by Tennessee Highway Patrol
Speed Limits 65 & 70 MPH (All Roads)

	Speed Limit - 65			Speed Limit - 70			Total		
	Total	Over	% of	Total	Over	% of	Total	Over	% of
2001	12,747	6,055	47.50%	88,203	38,476	43.62%	100,950	44,531	44.11%
2002	9,443	3,973	42.07%	71,321	63,353	88.83%	80,764	67,326	83.36%
2003	8,903	4,152	46.64%	61,261	56,003	91.42%	70,164	60,155	85.73%
2004	8,525	4,348	51.00%	60,730	55,403	91.23%	69,255	59,751	86.28%

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Efforts to Reduce Excessive Speeding

The mission of the Tennessee highway safety office is to promote safety. An integral component of this mission is to rigorously enforce speeding-related laws. All troopers are highly trained in speeding-related enforcement and continuously take enforcement actions to decrease undesirable driving behavior. Through the administration of speeding-related grant programs or while on regularly scheduled patrols, troopers devote a considerable amount of time to speeding-related enforcement. The state patrol utilizes a Safety Education Division to promote safe driving habits. This division publishes pamphlets, conducts safety fairs, addresses various audiences and provides public displays - all in an effort to educate motorists of the perils of negligent driving. Crash reports capture causative factors such as speeding. Reports are shared with the state transportation department who routinely analyze crash data to determine locations of crashes. If an abnormally high number of crashes continue to occur at the same location on the same roadway, engineers might examine the location to determine if changes in roadway design might help alleviate the problem. Speeding-related enforcement is a practice in all of law enforcement overtime programs.

Public Perception

Tennessee's state highway safety office felt the average driver believes they have a 5 mph cushion above the posted speed limit. Some drivers, however, feel they are allowed 10 mph due to the volume of traffic and difficulty of enforcing speed in certain locations.