



A note about the speed vehicles travel

The speed a vehicle is traveling is a key risk factor in road traffic injuries. Speed increases the risk of a road crash, and the severity of injuries that are a result of that crash.

Excess speed is exceeding the speed limit.

Inappropriate speed is driving at a speed that is unsuitable for the road and traffic conditions.

Control of vehicle speed **prevents crashes** and **reduces the impact**, lessening the severity of injuries sustained by victims.

The relationship between speed and injury severity is critical for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

- Pedestrians have 90% chance of surviving a crash when a vehicle is traveling 30 kms/hr or less.
- Pedestrians have less than 50% survival rate when a vehicle is traveling 45 kms/hr.
- Pedestrians have almost NO chance of survival when a vehicle is traveling 80 kms/hr.

At a higher vehicle speed there is less time for a driver to react to avoid a crash. In addition the vehicle will travel a longer distance before it will come to a stop.

- a car travelling at 50 kms hour takes 13 metres to stop.
- a car travelling at 40 kms hour takes less than 8.5 metres to stop.

An increase of average speed by 1 km/hr results in 3% higher risk of a crash involving injury with a 4 – 5 % increase for crashes that result in fatalities. Studies also indicate that a 1% reduction in speed would lead to a 2% reduction of crashes.

Excerpted from the **World Health Organization**, “*Road Safety is No Accident*”

This information can be very useful when you request enforcement at a school site. It is also very important, as part of your community education to identify speeding issues, ensuring that parents understand the requirement to respect speed limits. It can be useful to inform municipal staff, particularly traffic engineers, about your concerns so that they understand better the the risks of speeding in the context of school sites.

