

Perceptions and Realities of Child Safety Risk

20mph limits are recommended by the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS).

20's Plenty



Where People Live

The PACTS Perceptions and Realities report (Sept 2010) is a closer look at the risks which children and young people face in Britain today and what can be done to reduce them.

It states that perceptions about risks to children have led to policies focused primarily on preventing violent assault. In reality children are far more likely to come to harm on the road. 28 children and young people are killed or seriously injured on British roads every day.

Failing to protect the well-being of children and young people is both costly and morally unacceptable. The biggest non-natural killers of children and young people are road traffic crashes. The value of prevention of road death and serious injury of people aged 0-25 alone was estimated to be over £3 billion in 2008.

Spending decisions should be based on the most effective resource allocation which will contribute to life saving and injury prevention objectives. PACTS recommend 20mph limits on residential roads citing Portsmouth data where limits were put in without physical calming. The 20mph speed limit, designed to protect pedestrians and cyclists became citywide by the end of March 2008. The first year evaluation looks positive and estimates the following reductions in children killed or seriously injured:-

Pedestrians 40% lower
Passengers 100% lower
Driver/Riders 100% lower
Overall 63% lower

Area wide 20mph residential limits in Portsmouth were extremely cost effective and 50 times cheaper per mile than conventional physical traffic calming.

Feedback

We welcome your response on this press release. We provide more information on our site www.20splentyforum.org.uk and can recommend experts on technical issues.

20's Plenty For Us campaigns for a 20mph default speed limit in residential streets without physical calming.

References

PACTS' Perceptions and Realities Report can be downloaded at www.pacts.org.uk/research.php?id=49
2008 road death prevention stats www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/

Anna Semlyen
Campaign Manager
20's Plenty for Us
anna.s@20splentyforum.org.uk
07572 120439

Rod King
Founder
20's Plenty for Us
rod.k@20splentyforum.org.uk
07973 639781