

Fact Sheet: Vision Zero

Eliminating Transportation Injuries and Fatalities on Our Streets

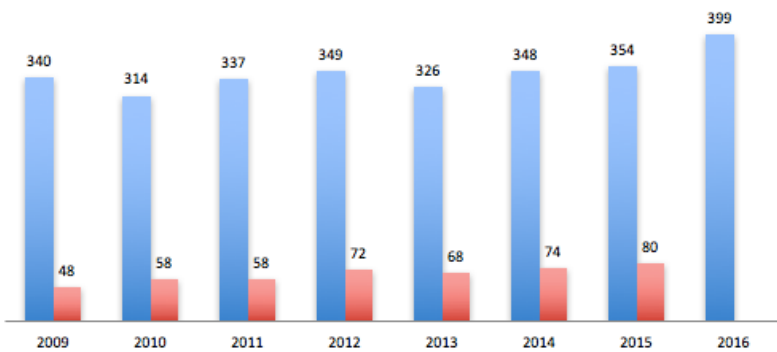
What is Vision Zero?

Vision Zero is an international transportation initiative aimed at reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries from traffic crashes to zero.

Deaths and injuries on our streets are on the rise.

Massachusetts Traffic Deaths 2009-2016

■ Number of Overall Traffic Deaths ■ Number of Pedestrian Deaths Only



Vehicles contributed to 37,461 crash-related deaths across the nation in 2016. In Massachusetts, drivers killed 38 pedestrians between January and June 2016, and 9 cyclists in 2015 alone. Children and the elderly are most at risk. However, Vision Zero is not just for pedestrians and cyclists -- it's meant to protect drivers as well. 399 people died in traffic crashes in Massachusetts in 2016, the majority of them being drivers.

Some of our most vulnerable road users are located in neighborhoods that are home to people of color and low-income residents. Due to decades of under-investment, these neighborhoods often lack safe transportation infrastructure, with broken or missing sidewalks and a lack of crosswalks at major intersections. Achieving Vision Zero helps make our transportation system more equitable.

There are many ways to prevent traffic deaths and serious injuries in all types of communities.

- The most effective way to reduce traffic deaths is to put bicyclists and pedestrians - our most vulnerable road users - first.
- Better roadway design can discourage unsafe speeds, a major predictor of crash survival.
- Wider streets may seem safer, but they also encourage faster driving and put all road users in danger.
- In rural communities, better enforcement of laws against distracted and impaired driving saves lives and reduces injuries.
- In suburban areas, designing and implementing “complete streets” that are safe for all road users saves lives and reduces injuries.
- In densely populated cities, protected bike lanes and curb bump-outs saves lives and reduces injuries.



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Vision Zero is an attainable goal in Massachusetts.

As of 2017, Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville have endorsed Vision Zero. There are 348 more cities and towns in the Commonwealth that can also take this initiative.

One step towards achieving Vision Zero is lowering the default speed limit to 25 miles per hour in order to prevent traffic deaths and serious injuries. Adopting 25 mph speed limits under new legislation makes our roads safer, while still getting everyone where they need to go.

Cities and towns that have already adopted 25 mph speed limits:

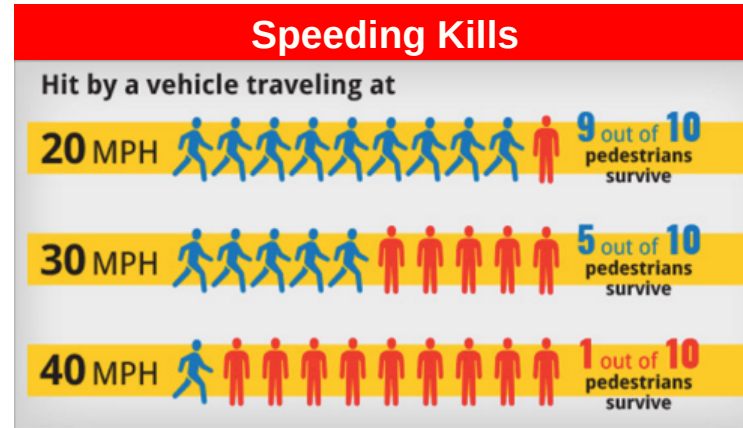
Arlington
Belmont
Boston
Brookline

Cambridge
Chelsea
Chicopee
Lexington

Lynn
Medford
Nantucket
Newton

Pittsfield
Randolph
Revere
Salem

Scituate
Somerville
Springfield
and more...



The momentum is there to make our streets safer. Here are a few reasons why Massachusetts needs to forge ahead:

- Safe streets and sidewalks are good for local businesses. Safety leads to more foot traffic, resulting in more new and repeat customers.
- Communities that make walking and cycling possible enjoy improved local air quality due to reduced pollution and traffic congestion.
- Access to various modes of transportation promotes healthy living. Increased walking and biking reduces preventable illness.

What's happening and how to get involved:

- Share this fact sheet with your legislators, and ask them to support S1905/H2877: An Act to reduce traffic fatalities.
- Sign up for Vision Zero action alerts from Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA) at www.t4ma.org.

For more information...

VisionZeroNetwork.org

VisionZeroCoalition.org

TinyURL.com/VisionZeroCambridge

VisionZeroBoston.org