

NEVADA'S TRAFFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

TREND In Focus: Nevada Non-Adjudicated Speeding Citations

A descriptive analysis of statewide citations for speed-related violations (2018-2020)

By Emily Strickler, MPH, Ana Reyes, MS, Emily Carter, Merika Charupoom, Laura K. Gryder-Culver, MA, and Deborah A. Kuhls, MD

Speeding is a dangerous driving behavior associated with increased risk of serious injury and fatalities. In 2019, speeding was associated with almost 9,500 deaths in the United States. [1] During the 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns, traffic safety data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicated that the prevalence of extreme traffic speeds increased. [2] Previously, our **TREND 10.2 Newsletter** analyzed crash and trauma outcomes for motor vehicle occupants involved in speed-related crashes and found that crashes on higher speed roads (70+ MPH vs. 55-65 MPH) resulted in worse patient injury severity, higher hospital charges, and longer hospital stays. [3] According to data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), **fatal speed-related crashes** are associated with drivers who are **males** and **under 35 years of age**. [4] Similar to crashes, existing research on speeding violation demographics notes that males and younger drivers are *also* more likely to be issued citations for speeding. [5,6] NHTSA encourages speed management through education campaigns and targeted enforcement efforts. These are better conducted when traffic safety partners have a clear understanding of the target population for prevention and intervention efforts [1]. This *TREND in Focus* analysis investigates the demographic information of Nevada speeding citations from 2018-2020 (N=576,407).

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Overview

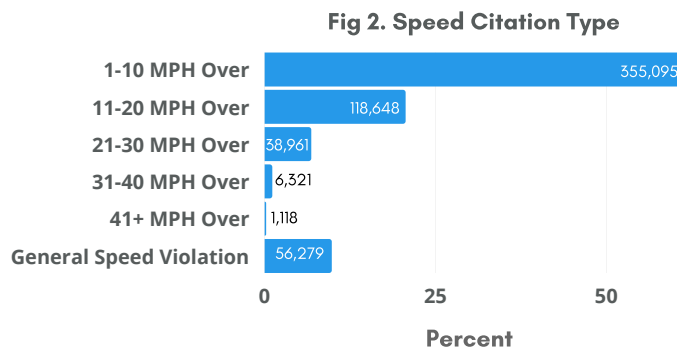
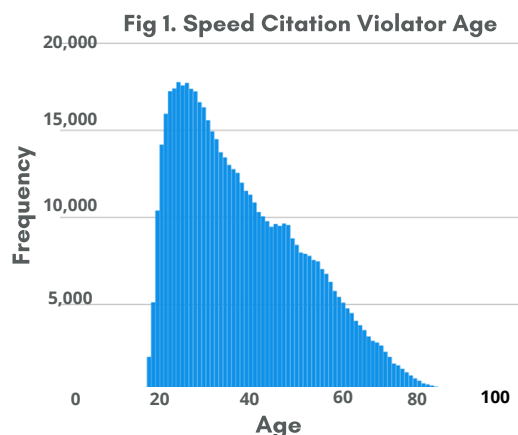
From 2018-2020 there were 1,107,774 traffic citations issued by law enforcement in Nevada. Of those, **576,407 (52%) were speed-related**. In Nevada, the maximum posted speed limit is 80 MPH, but nearly 34% of speed violations exceeded this figure as measured by law enforcement for actual speed traveled (N=198,931).

Demographics

Drivers issued a speeding citation were on average 35 years of age (median, IQR 26-49) and **50% of all speeding violators were issued to drivers ≤35 years old** (Fig. 1). **Men were more frequently cited than women** (63.2% vs. 36.8%), and the majority of citations were issued in Clark County, NV (60%). Of those who were cited, approximately 7 of every 10 drivers had Nevada driver's licenses and vehicles registered in Nevada. Approximately 7.9% of these drivers had expired vehicle registration. The race and ethnicity breakdown for speeding citations were: Asian (4.4%), Black (10.9%), Hispanic (9.5%), Indian (Native American) (0.6%), White (59.3%), with the remaining data missing (15.2%).

Citation Information

The majority of citations were issued between 8AM-4PM (57.9%), and 78% of citations were issued on a weekday. There were 8,190 citations issued for speeding in the presence of workers, and over 7,800 citations issued for speeding in a school zone. The traffic volume at the time of the speeding citation reveal that the **majority of citations were issued in light traffic (51.8%)** followed by medium or moderate traffic (45.4%). Most speed related citations were for violations of 1-10 MPH over the posted speed limit, however there are still thousands of drivers who were cited at extreme speeds (Fig 2). Between years 2018 and 2020, the number of violations for speeding in excess of 41 MPH over the posted speed limit nearly doubled (261 citations in 2018 vs. 556 citations in 2020).



TREND in Focus References

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7. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). (2021). Speed: Maximum posted speed limits by state. Retrieved from <https://www.iihs.org/topics/speed/speed-limit-laws>



Spotlight

Sharing the Knowledge: Nevada Traffic Safety Research presented at National and State Conferences

By Emily Strickler, MPH



Nevada Traffic Safety Summit (NVTSS) 2021

In October, the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Department of Public Safety - Office of Traffic Safety (NV OTS) hosted the Nevada Traffic Safety Summit in Las Vegas, NV. Our UNLV Traffic Safety Research (TSR) Team had the privilege of sharing our research with leaders in the traffic safety community. Dr. Deborah Kuhls, Traffic Safety Research Principal Investigator, participated in a multi-disciplinary panel in the *Fast and Furious: Let's Talk About Speed!* Dr. Kuhls was joined by Lacey Tisler of NDOT Traffic Safety Engineering, Sergeant Paul McCullough of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Fatal Detail, and Rebecca Kapuler of the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County. Presenters shared their experiences with speed-related traffic issues and the impacts and possible solutions from the perspective of their areas of expertise. Following this session, we received direct feedback from a young mother about to embark on a road trip with her daughter who stated she intended to drive the speed limit, showing the personal impact of this research.

Project Director Laura Gryder-Culver and student researcher Merika Charupoom joined Erin Breen of UNLV's Road Equity Alliance Project (REAP) to present during the Vulnerable Road Users Session on *Marrying Pedestrian and Bike Data with Court Education Data and Community Demographics*. L. Gryder-Culver also shared the team's research during the Safer Drivers and Passengers: Are We There Yet? session on *Occupant Protection Analysis of Use of Child Restraints by Age*.

American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting 2021

Also in October, Traffic Safety Research (TSR) staff virtually presented our research at the national level during the American Public Health Association (APHA) 2021 Annual Meeting. Research Assistant, Emily Strickler, presented during a virtual poster session on Nevada trauma registry data used by TSR to inform helmet use legislation. Merika Charupoom and Emily Carter, student researchers, presented during the live virtual session, *Innovations in Injury Research Methods*, on the "Pedsafe court class interactive dashboard: Survey analysis and geospatial mapping" and on "Increasing accessibility through an interactive dashboard presentation of injury prevention data", respectively. L. Gryder-Culver presented during the *Injury Control and Emergency Health Services* session on "Motor Vehicle Crashes (MVC) on 55+ MPH highways: An Analysis of linked Nevada trauma and crash records to inform speed legislation."

REMINDER:

New Child Passenger Safety Law Effective January 1, 2022

Children less than **57 inches in height and under 6 years of age** are now **required to be secured in a Child Restraint System (CRS)**

Children **under 2 years old must be secured in a rear-facing CRS** in the backseat of a vehicle.



APHA 2021
 ANNUAL MEETING & EXPO
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 CREATING THE HEALTHIEST NATION:
 STRENGTHENING SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

Community Outreach

By Emily Carter and Merika Charupoom

Trunk-or-Treat at University Medical Center Hosted by UMC-Health Living Institute

Our traffic safety research team hosted an informational table at the **Trunk-or-Treat** Event organized by the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada's Healthy Living Institute (**UMC-HLI**). At this festive event, families gathered in Halloween costumes to not only collect candy, but also traffic safety educational materials from our team's table.

Our team members Emily and Ana passed out informational fact sheets, with a particular focus on child passenger safety. As of Nevada's 81st legislative session, a new law requires children under fifty-seven inches (57") in height to be secured in a booster seat when riding in a motor vehicle. The law will become effective January 1, 2022. (Follow these links to access information about this law in **English** and **Spanish**)

Additionally, our team members answered questions and concerns from parents as they related to traffic safety. Our team member Ana graciously communicated with Spanish speaking families and provided our translated Spanish infographics. With the mission of our research to reach marginalized and diverse populations in our local community, Ana has been instrumental in sharing our research efforts beyond the English language.



Top: Traffic safety research team members handed out safety coloring sheets to parents and children.

Left: Team members educated parents and children on traffic safety and height requirements for children's car seats.

Safe Santa at the Boulevard Mall (Las Vegas, Nevada)



Our team members Laura and Ana attended the Safe Santa Event at the Boulevard Mall where children and families were provided traffic safety materials including: children's pedestrian safety and car seat safety coloring pages, and our RoadWise and TREND Newsletter infographics reporting on Nevada traffic safety statistical trends and laws. As the holiday season endures, traffic safety has become increasingly important due to shortened daylight hours and increased traffic on our community roadways. Families were educated on the new child passenger safety law (AB118) that will be in effect beginning January 1, 2022 that not only introduces height requirements for children to remain in boosters, but also that children under two must remain in rear-facing seats.



Top: Ana stands behind the table our team hosted at the event.
Right: Ana and Laura pose for the Safe Santa Event.



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Staff Feature

Kavita Batra, Ph.D., M.P.H., B.D.S.

Kavita Batra (PhD, Public Health) serves as a Research Biostatistician with the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine (KSOM) at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV). She provides statistical and research training and assistance to KSOM's faculty, residents, fellows, and medical students. Additionally, Dr. Batra contributes to projects related to traffic safety which include but are not limited to the following:

- Linked Nevada traffic database research
- Analysis of improper use of child restraints on roadside injuries and hospital outcomes
- The long-term impact of an impaired and distracted driving prevention program
- Investigation of trauma volumes during COVID-19

- Maintenance and expansion of our linked crash-trauma database.
- Secondary data sources include traffic hospital discharge data for all Nevada Road Users (UNLV CHIA) and Nevada traffic citations (NV OTS).
- Analysis of statewide Nevada Driving Under the Influence (DUI) toxicology arrest data.
- Providing data to community organizations to inform legislation and injury prevention practices.
- Evaluation of a court-ordered pedestrian safety intervention class.
- Creation and piloting of an evaluation readiness assessment toolkit among behavioral traffic safety intervention and prevention programs.
- Various traffic injury research projects with Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV faculty and students.
- Creation of injury prevention education materials for social media and print.

She recently published a manuscript in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, which described the positive outcomes (improving safe driving knowledge and attitudes) of a Nevada young driver advanced training program. Dr. Batra is an expert in qualitative and quantitative research and has presented her work in several state, national, and international public health conferences. She has published multiple peer-reviewed articles to investigate the far-ranging impact of COVID-19 among diverse groups. Additionally, Dr. Batra is an honorary member of Delta Omega-Delta Theta Chapter at UNLV and a member to the Sexual Misconduct Taskforce, Nevada System of Higher Education.

Our Team

Deborah A. Kuhls, MD, FACS, FCCM
Principal Investigator

Paul Chestovich, MD, FACS
Co-Investigator

Laura K. Gryder-Culver, MA
Project Director

Emily Strickler, MPH
Research Assistant

Ana Reyes, MS
Graduate Research Assistant
& English to Spanish Translator



KIRK KERKORIAN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNLV

Emily Carter & Merika Charupoom
Student Researchers

Brett V. Burnes, MPA
Database Architect

To see our full library of TREND newsletters, infographics, and other educational materials, visit <https://bit.ly/TrafficSafetyKSOMUNLV>

Mailing Address:
1701 W. Charleston Blvd, Suite 160 Las Vegas, NV 89102

Should you have any questions about the content presented within this newsletter, please contact us at: ksom.research.trafficsafety@medicine.unlv.edu

Let us know what you think and what you would like to see next! Scan the QR code to complete a quick survey.



Our Data Partners



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