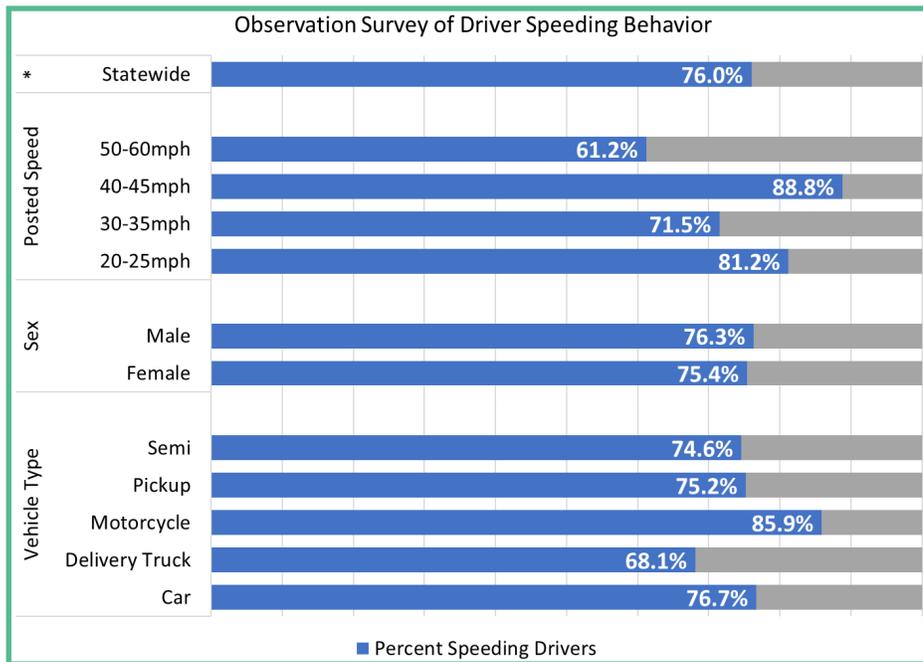




# Speeding Drivers: Results from an Observation Survey

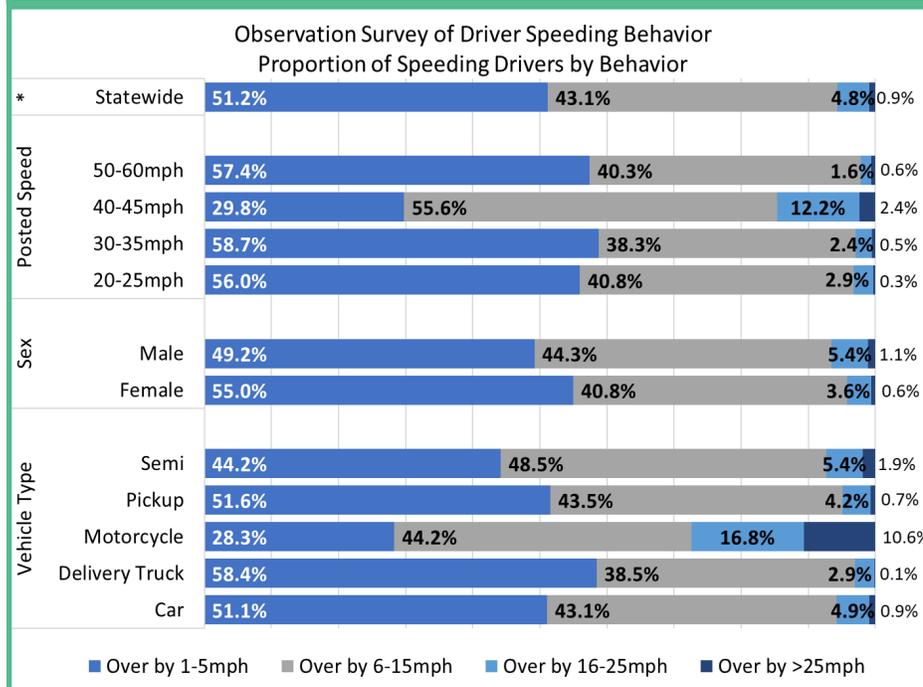
**Trends** show that since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, high-risk driver behaviors are on the rise. Anecdotal reports from law enforcement and the community indicate that speeding drivers have increased, and persist despite travel volumes returning to historic levels. In response, the WTSC conducted a speeding driver observation survey in March 2022.

**I care, because** traffic fatalities involving a speeding driver rose 14 percent in 2020 and 19 percent in 2021 and continue to rise through 2022. Speeding endangers everyone. The WTSC recorded the speeds of 32,543 drivers at 206 sites across 30 counties in Washington. More detailed information is available here <https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/speed-observation-survey-dashboard/>.



## Did you know?

- ⇒ More than three-fourths of drivers observed in the survey were exceeding the posted speed limit.
- ⇒ Approximately half of speeding drivers were exceeding the posted speed limit by 1-5 miles per hour (mph) but that varied by posted speed and the type of vehicle.
- ⇒ Nearly 90 percent of drivers were exceeding the posted speed in locations posted for 40-45 mph limits, versus just over 60 percent of drivers in locations posted with 50-60 mph limits.
- ⇒ More than half of speeding drivers speeding in locations posted with 40-45 mph limits were exceeding the posted speed by 6-15 mph.
- ⇒ More than one-fourth of speeding motorcycle drivers were exceeding the posted speed by 16 mph or more, with one in ten drivers exceeding the posted speed by more than 25 mph.
- ⇒ Nine of the 206 locations comprised over 3,000 observations and more than 99 percent of drivers at these locations were speeding.



**Data Sources:**

**Washington Driver Speed Observation Survey, March 2022, Washington Traffic Safety Commission**  
For more information, please contact (360) 725-9860. <https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/>

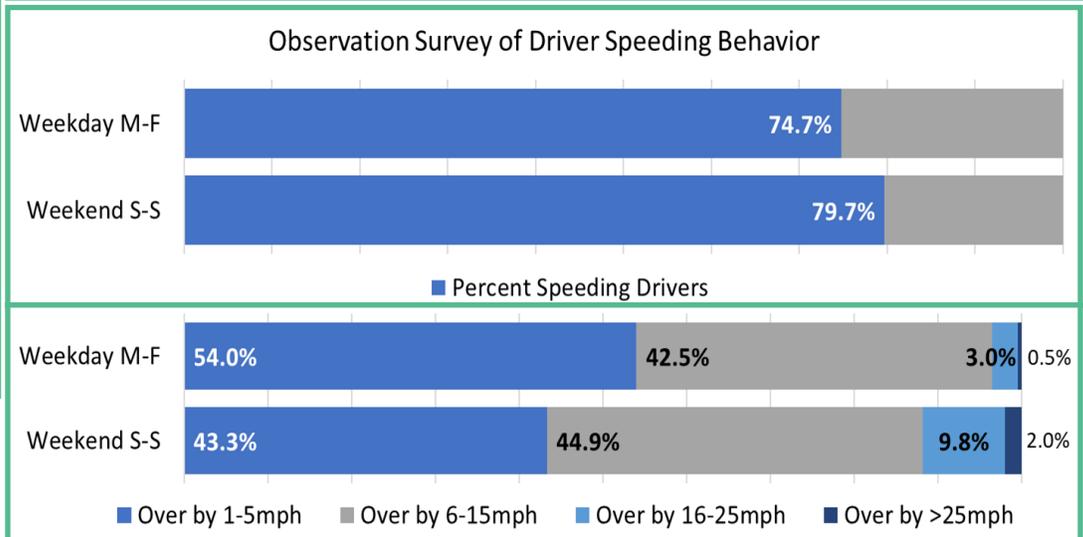
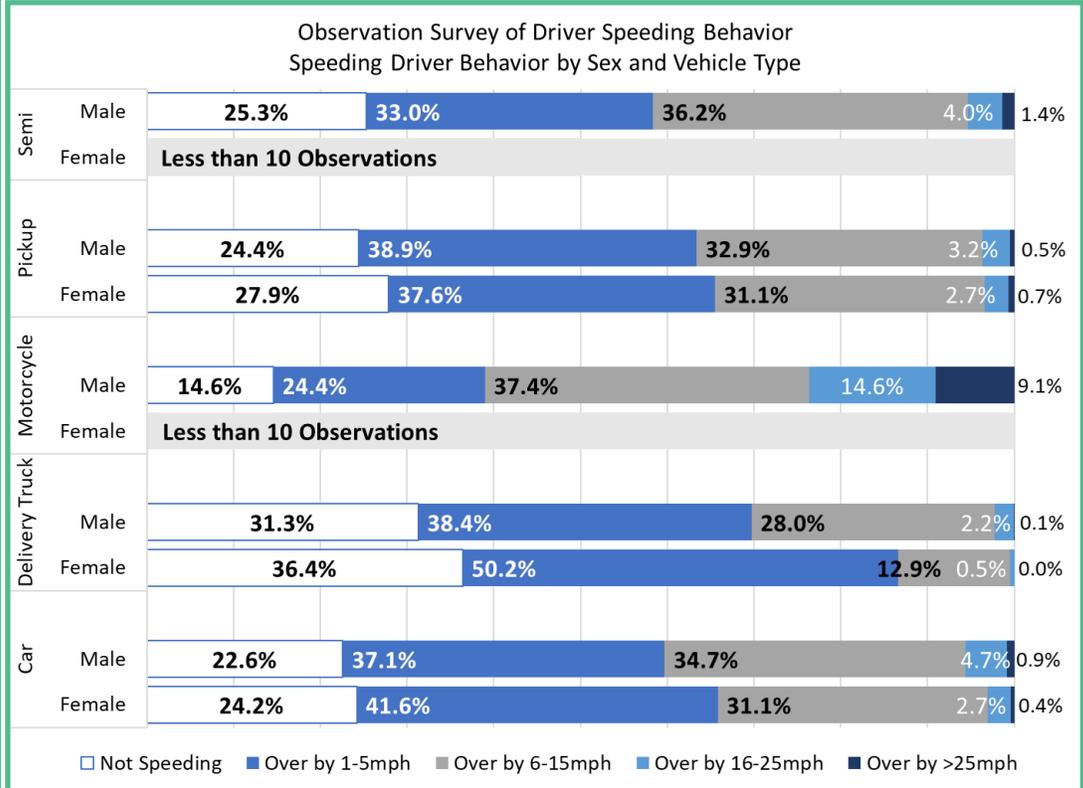


# Speeding Drivers: Results from an Observation Survey

**Speeding** leads to greater potential for loss of vehicle control, increased stopping distances, and more severe crashes. Speeding endangers everyone. Making daily deliberate choices to slow down and drive the posted speed limit or lower depending on conditions makes our roads safer for everyone. Together, we all get where we are going safely.

## Did you know?

- ⇒ Overall, female drivers were just as likely to be speeding as male drivers (see page 1). However, male drivers had higher rates of exceeding the posted speed by 6 or more mph.
- ⇒ Delivery truck drivers were least likely to be speeding and were more likely to be speeding by 1-5 mph compared to drivers of other vehicle types.
- ⇒ More drivers were speeding on weekends than weekdays.
- ⇒ At greater speeds, vehicle safety airbags and structural safety designs are compromised resulting in serious injury and death (IIHS, 2021).



## Resources

Washington allows for the limited use of automated

speed enforcement. The WTSC has developed an [Automated Speed Enforcement Readiness Guide](#) to help local jurisdictions establish successful automated speed enforcement programs. In 2022, [RCW 46.61.415](#) was modified to allow local jurisdictions or the secretary of transportation to establish maximum speed limits of 20 miles per hour on nonarterial highways or parts of a nonarterial highway without the need for an engineering or traffic investigation.

*Data Sources: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), 2021. New crash tests show modest speed increases can have deadly consequences. <https://www.iihs.org/news/detail/new-crash-tests-show-modest-speed-increases-can-have-deadly-consequences> Washington Driver Speed Observation Survey, March 2022, Washington Traffic Safety Commission*