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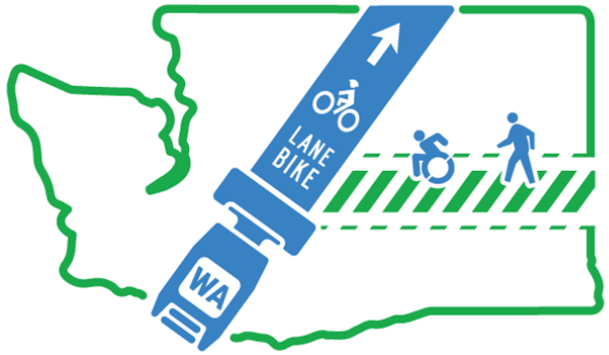

WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT

The Safe System Approach - Opportunities, Obstacles, and Resources

Jay Otto

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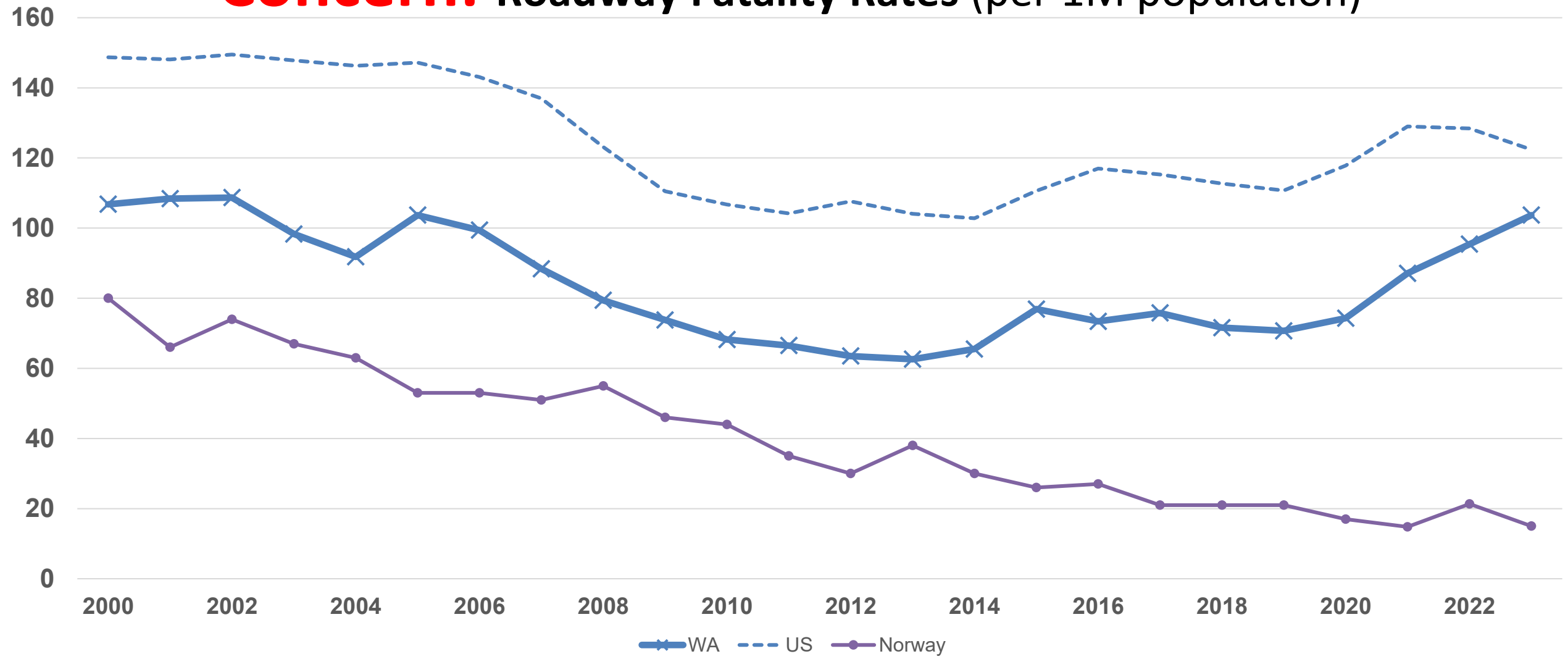
We work alongside our clients to create cultures where new ideas and actions emerge and take root, creating effective and lasting positive outcomes.

- Traffic safety
- Prevention of misuse of substances
- Improving child development

WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT

- A deeper understanding of the six elements of the Safe System Approach and how they can appear in community
- Opportunities, obstacles, and resources to grow ideal implementation of the elements

Concern: Roadway Fatality Rates (per 1M population)



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WA Target Zero Plan

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Washington's Safe System Approach

Safe System Approach Principles

- Death or serious injuries are unacceptable.
- We support safe road use.
- We work to reduce large crash forces because humans are vulnerable.
- We all work together with the philosophy of a shared responsibility.
- Safety is proactive.
- We strengthen all parts of the system to create redundancy.

Role of Each Element

- Safer Road Users
- Safer Land Use
- Safer Vehicles
- Safer Speeds
- Safer Roads
- Post-Crash Care

Scenario #1

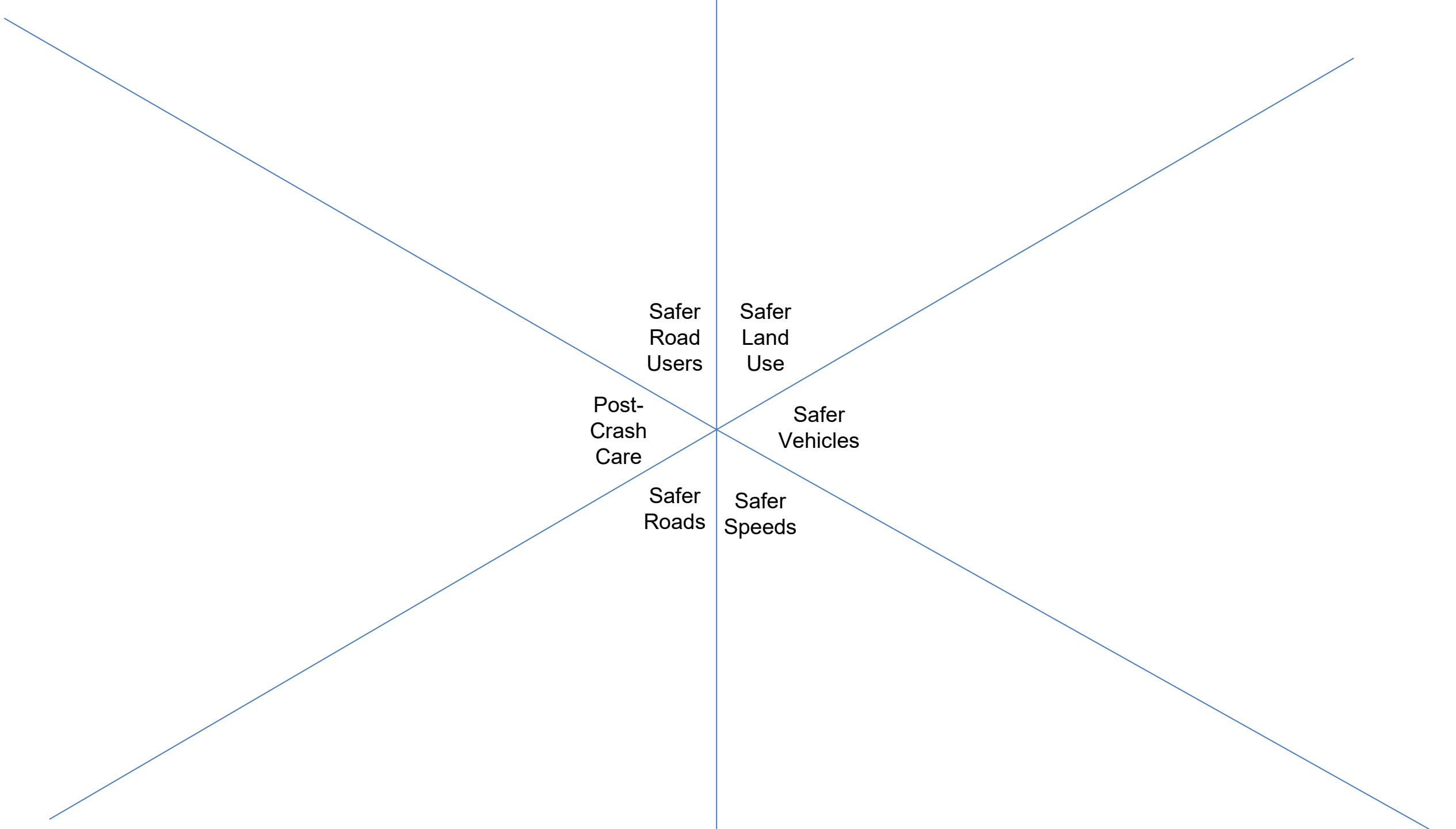
A pedestrian was crossing mid-block at night and was struck by a vehicle and died at the scene due to internal bleeding.

- The vehicle was traveling 43 mph in a 30 mph zone.
- The pedestrian had a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.12%

Scenario #2

A car was turning left at an intersection and was struck by an oncoming SUV.

- The light had just turned red – so both the turning car and the oncoming SUV went through a red light.
- Both the driver and a five-year-old child in the back seat of the turning car were severely injured. The child was unrestrained.
- The oncoming SUV was traveling 52 mph in a 40 mph zone. The driver of the oncoming SUV had a blood alcohol content of 0.06% and was 17.


Safer Road Users
Safer Land Use
Post-Crash Care
Safer Vehicles
Safer Roads
Safer Speeds

Systems Thinking

- Consider each element (e.g., Safer Road Users, Safer Land Use) and **identify factors or conditions** that may have contributed to the fatalities / serious injuries. Write these on your flip chart.
- **Identify potential stakeholders** that may have an influence on these conditions and factors. Add these to the flip chart.

Large Group Dialogue

Scenario #1

- What was a contributing Factor/Condition?
  - What element(s) are involved?
- What resources are available to address this factor/condition?

Large Group Dialogue

Scenario #2

- What was a contributing Factor/Condition?
  - What element(s) are involved?
- What resources are available to address this factor/condition?

Shifts in Thinking: Crash Causes

Driver-Focused

Crashes are caused by individuals or single events

System-Focused

Crashes are the result of interactions of multiple factors

Shifts in Thinking: Solutions

Driver-Focused

Change the driver.

System-Focused

Change the system.
Look for “levers” – structures, policies, etc.

Shifts in Thinking: Time-Frame

Driver-Focused

Short-term – looking for immediate results

System-Focused

Short-term AND long-term approaches

Shifts in Thinking: Approach

Driver-Focused

Focus on separated issues (i.e., emphasis areas)

System-Focused

Focus on the connections between the parts

Shifts in Thinking: Perspective

Driver-Focused

Single or limited perspective

System-Focused

Multiple perspectives

Shifts in Thinking: Emergence

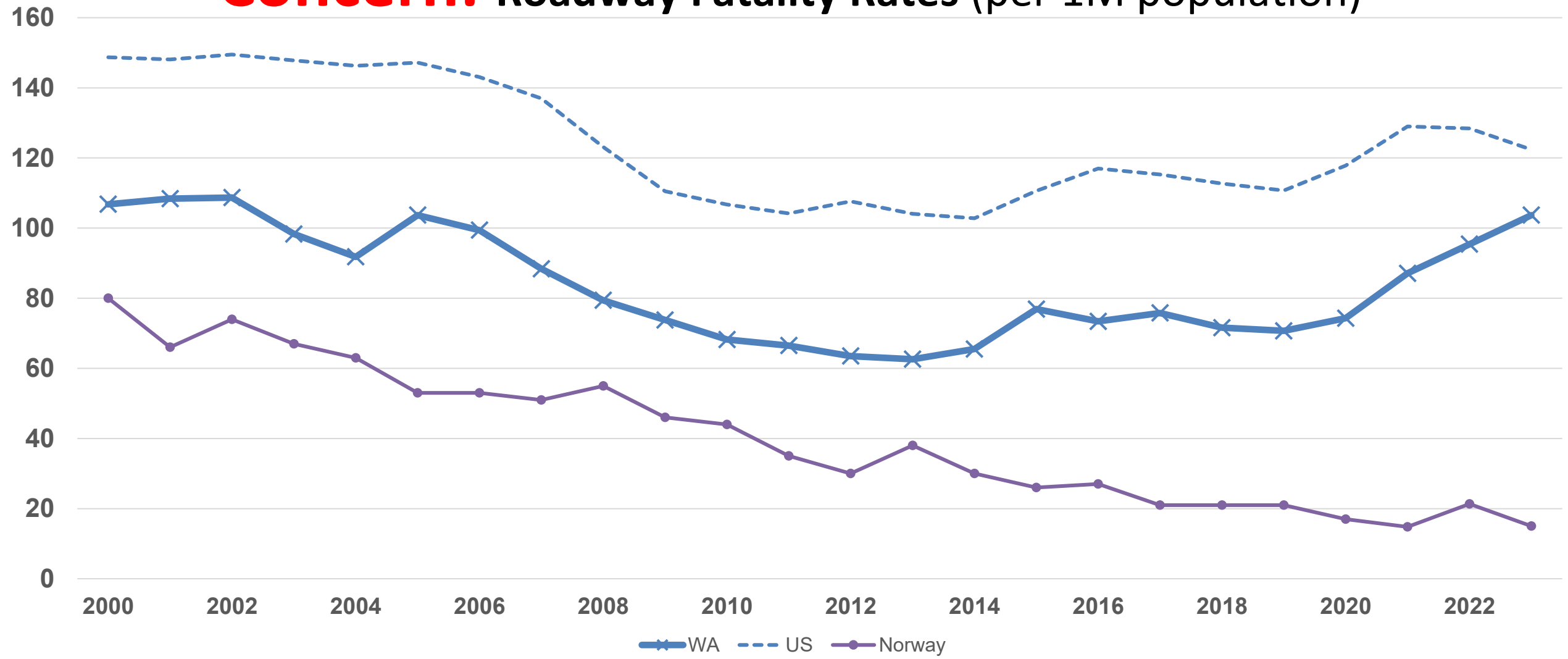
Driver-Focused

Traffic Safety is comprised of a sum of all the parts

System-Focused

The behavior of the system cannot always be predicted by its parts; novel behaviors of the system emerge

Concern: Roadway Fatality Rates (per 1M population)



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Brief Evaluation

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