



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 113 Senate Committee on Transportation

Captain Travis Phillips
Kansas Highway Patrol

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The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony supporting Senate Bill 113, and we respectfully request the Committee consider our agency's concurrence.

Senate Bill 113 would amend the definition of reckless driving in KSA 8-1566 to add provisions that address excessive speeding. Because reckless driving is so broadly defined in this statute, it is often difficult for law enforcement to determine when exactly a driver's speed alone constitutes reckless driving. This bill clarifies that reckless driving would occur not only when a person operates a vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property but also when a person operates a vehicle:

- At a speed of 100 miles per hour or more; or
- At a speed of 35 miles per hour or more over the maximum posted speed limit.

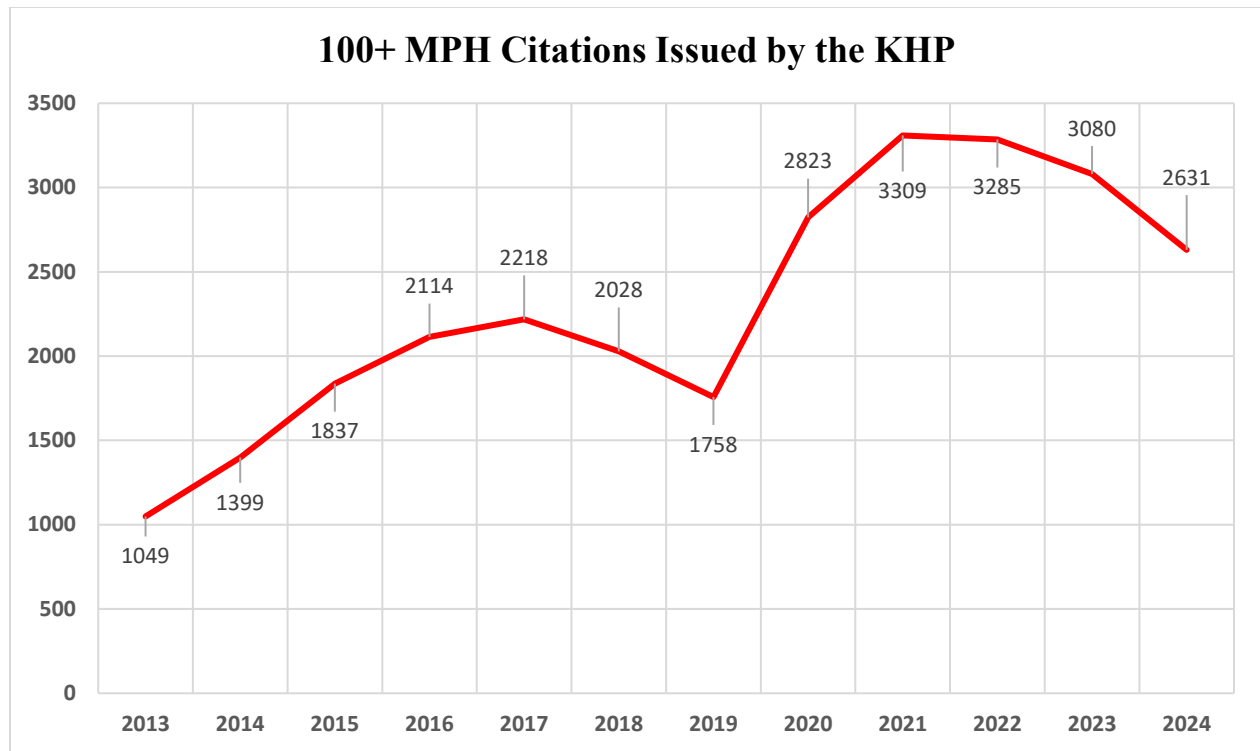
Senate Bill 113 would not change the current misdemeanor penalties for reckless driving, which are:

- First conviction: \$25-\$500 fine and/or 5 to 90 days imprisonment
- Second or subsequent conviction: \$50-\$500 fine and/or 10 days to 6 months imprisonment

However, the bill would exempt an individual from revocation of their driver's license under KSA 8-254 if the conviction was the result of speeding as defined above.

Drivers who exceed the maximum posted speed limit endanger their lives and the lives of other motorists. Speeding presents a significant potential for losing vehicular control, particularly on wet or icy roads. Speeding reduces the effectiveness of occupant protection equipment, such as seatbelts and airbags, while also reducing the effectiveness of roadway safety measures, such as guardrails and median barriers. When one's speed doubles, the necessary stopping distance quadruples, making every increase in speed an exponentially more dangerous act. Speeding increases the degree of a crash's severity. As more force comes into the crash equation, there is a greater likelihood of injury or death. Speeding also puts the lives of our law enforcement personnel in peril as they must oftentimes exceed the speed of the violator's vehicle to initiate a traffic stop.

According to the latest published data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2022), speed was a factor in 29% of all traffic fatalities nationwide. In 2023, the Kansas Department of Transportation reported 4,354 speed-related crashes with an estimated cost to motorists of \$1,777,961,485. In the same year, 80 motorists lost their lives in speed-related fatality crashes, and 2,105 motorists were injured in speed-related crashes.



The KHP has observed a significant increase in citations issued to drivers traveling 100 miles per hour or more since 2019. That year, 1,758 citations were issued for triple-digit speeds. In 2024, KHP issued 2,631 citations for motorists traveling 100 miles per hour or more. In 2024, 66% of all citations issued by the KHP were for speeding. Citations for traveling 100 miles per hour or more comprised over 5% of all speeding citations and over 3% of all citations issued by the KHP last year.

The data is clear. The number of drivers operating their vehicles in Kansas at excessively high speeds has dramatically increased since 2019. Speeding, especially when traveling 100 miles per hour or more or 35 miles per hour or more over the maximum posted speed limit, is immensely dangerous and contributes to many fatality and injury crashes in our state. No matter the statistics, any speed-related death is unacceptable.

By including the operation of a vehicle at 100 miles per hour or more or 35 miles per hour or more over the maximum posted speed limit in the definition of reckless driving, our agency believes Senate Bill 113 will deter the dangerous behavior of excessive speeding. We sincerely thank the members of the Committee for considering our testimony and urge your support of this bill.

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Appendix

Current Kansas Speeding Fines

	Speed Limit	Speed Over the Limit	Fine	Typical Court Fee	Total Cost
If You Travel at 100 Miles Per Hour	75	25	\$150	\$108	\$258
	70	30	\$195	\$108	\$303
	65	35	\$270	\$108	\$378
	60	40	\$345	\$108	\$453
	55	45	\$420	\$108	\$528
	50	50	\$495	\$108	\$603
	45	55	\$570	\$108	\$678
	40	60	\$645	\$108	\$753
	35	65	\$720	\$108	\$828
	30	70	\$795	\$108	\$903
	25	75	\$870	\$108	\$978
	20	80	\$945	\$108	\$1,053

Speed Over Limit	Fine - K.S.A. 8-2118(c)
1-10 MPH	\$45
11-20 MPH	\$45 + \$6 Per MPH Over 10 MPH
21-30 MPH	\$105 + \$9 Per MPH Over 20 MPH
31+ MPH	\$195 + \$15 Per MPH Over 30 MPH

Additional Data

The KHP gathered data (2020 through October of 2023) of citations for motorists traveling 100 miles per hour or more to profile the average excessive speeder.

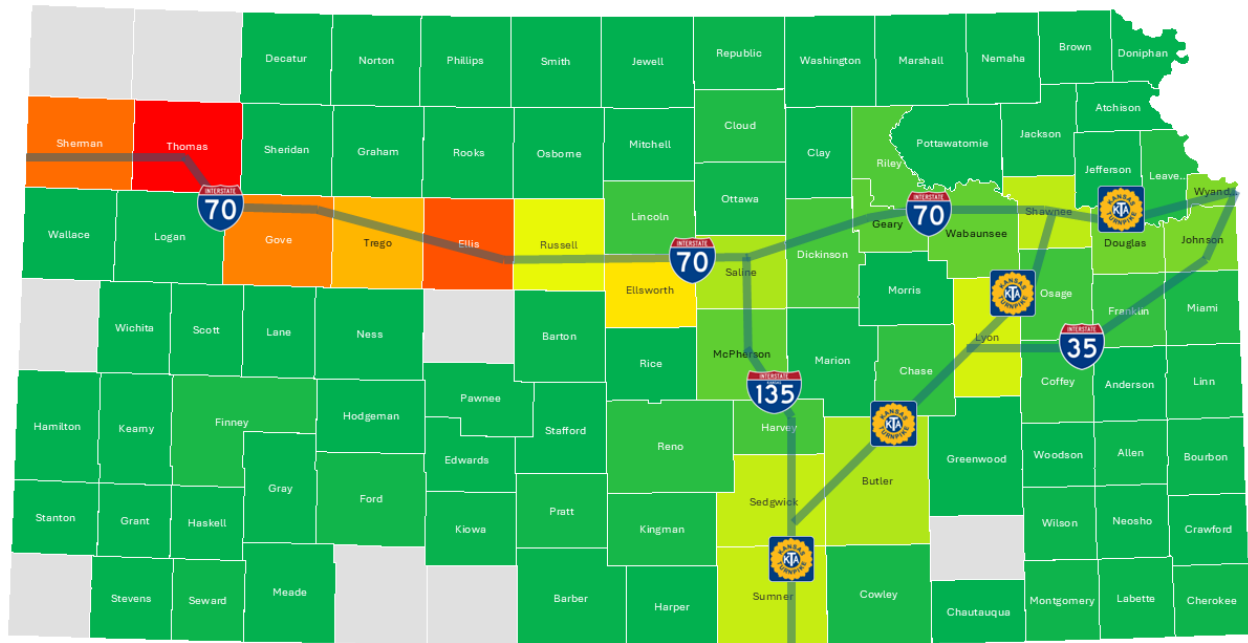
- The median age of an excessive speeder is 27, while the most frequently cited individuals are between 18 and 22 years of age.
- Approximately 70% of excessive speeders are male.
- The most frequently cited time of day was between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM for excessive speeds.
- Summer months mark the most frequent violations, with July having the highest prevalence of excessive speeders.

From 2020 through October 2023, 41% of all citations for traveling at 100 miles per hour or more included at least one other violation. The top coinciding violations were driving with an invalid driver's license, lingering in the left lane, driving with a suspended, canceled, or revoked driver's license, and failing to provide proof of liability insurance.

From 2020 through 2023, the KHP stopped 214 repeat offenders for multiple violations of traveling 100 miles per hour or more. Of those 214 repeat offenders, 11 were cited three times, while another two were cited four times for excessive speeding.

The following map of Kansas shows which counties experienced the highest number of 100 miles per hour or more speeding citations by the KHP in the same period. Most excessive speeders were located on Interstate highways, especially those in the western half of the state with long, flat, straight stretches of roadway.

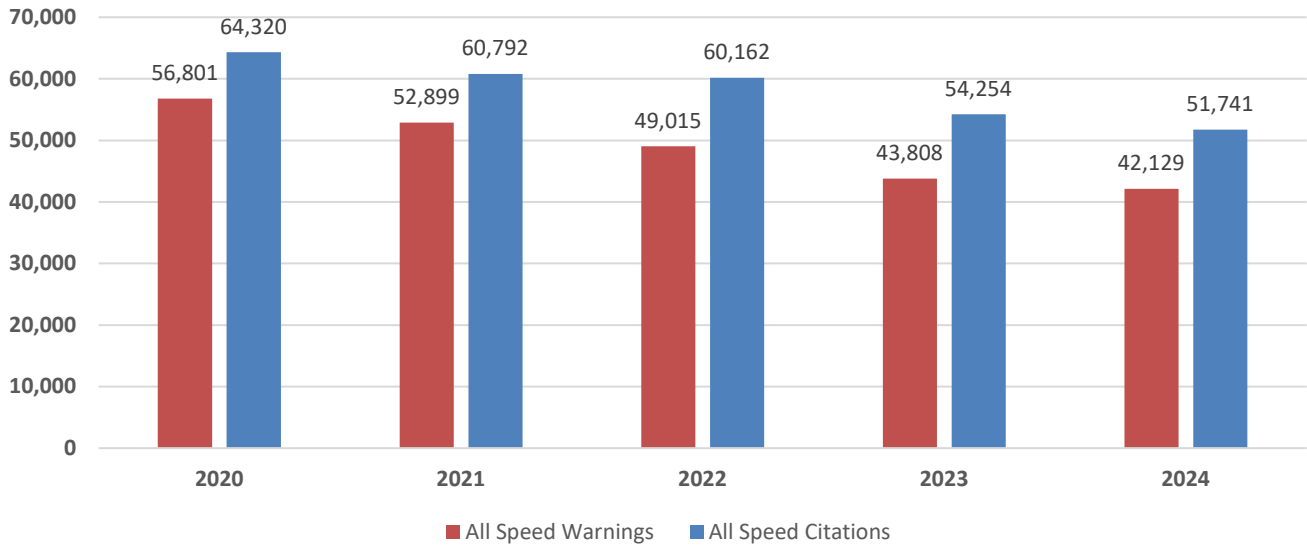
100+ MPH KHP Citations by County (2020-2023)



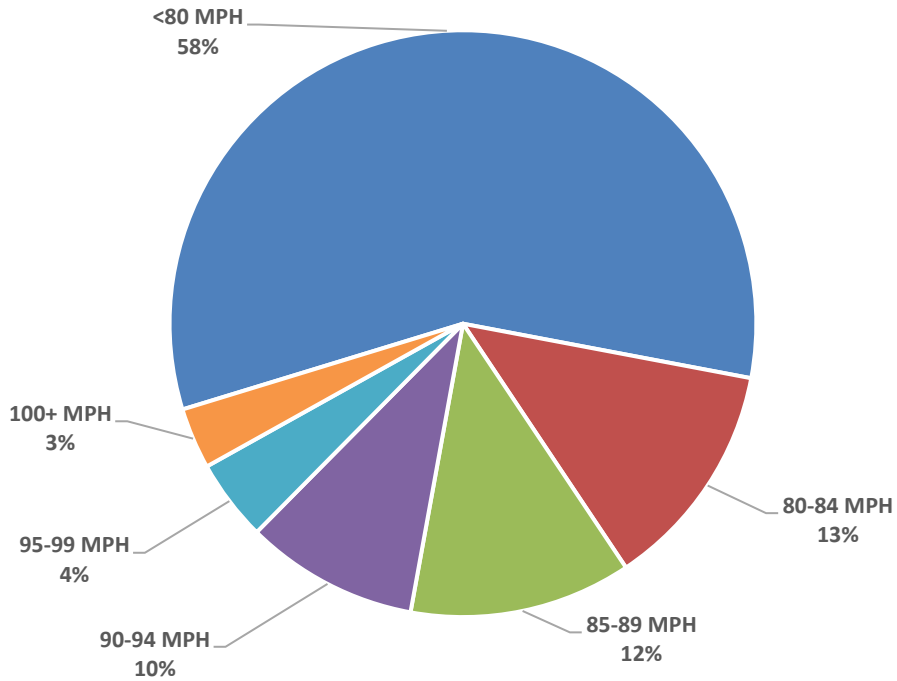
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Top 24 Counties	100+ MPH Citations	Top 24 Counties, Cont.	100+ MPH Citations
Thomas	1197	Saline	404
Ellis	1005	Wyandotte	297
Sherman	943	Johnson	288
Gove	892	Douglas	264
Trego	769	Wabaunsee	232
Ellsworth	661	McPherson	224
Russell	548	Geary	214
Lyon	500	Riley	187
Sumner	464	Dickinson	165
Sedgwick	460	Harvey	162
Shawnee	446	Osage	146
Butler	412	Lincoln	136

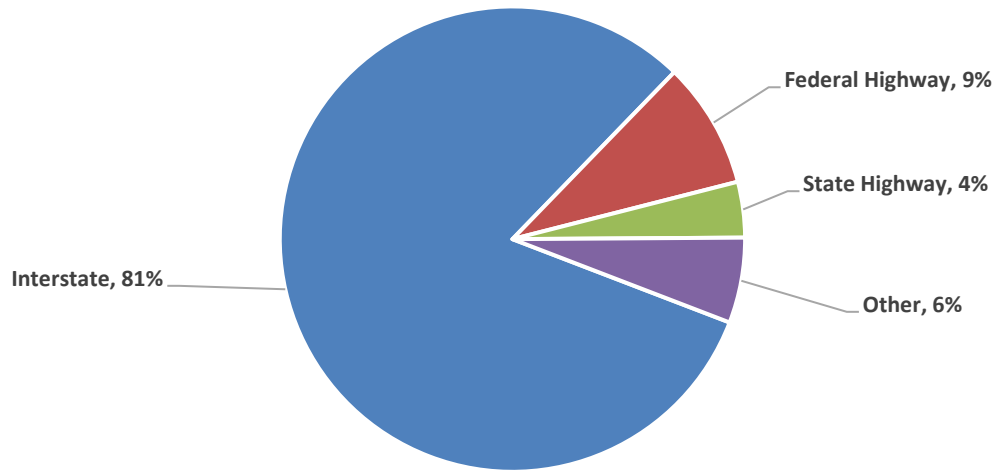
Speeding Citations and Warnings by the KHP



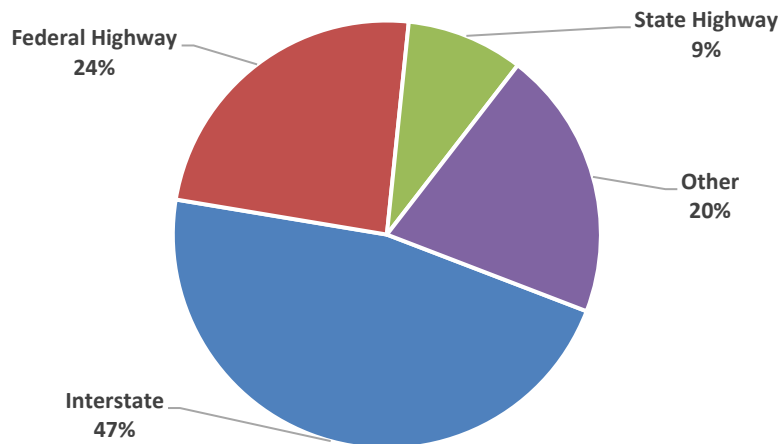
KHP Speed Citation Violator MPH Range - 2024



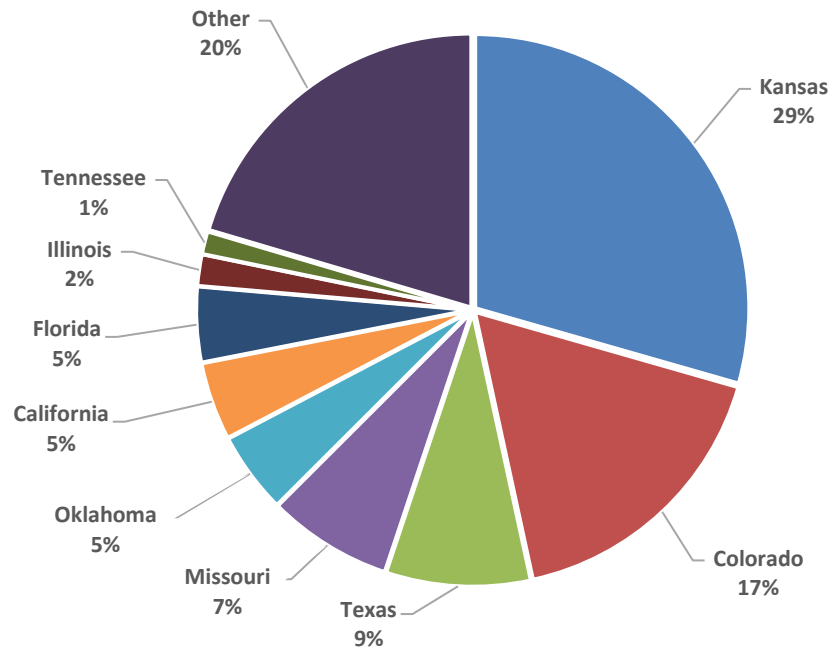
100+ MPH KHP Citations by Highway Type 2020-2024



35+ MPH Over Speed Limit KHP Citations by Highway Type 2020-2024



100+ MPH KHP Citations by State of Registration 2020-2024



KHP Reckless Driving Citations (2020-2024)

