

Maine officials tell drivers to slow down as traffic fatalities rise

[Allyson LaPierre](#), WGME | Wednesday, July 23 2025



Traffic on the Maine Turnpike (WGME)

PORTLAND (WGME) -- Maine's roads are becoming more dangerous, with a new report showing traffic fatalities are going up.

The 10-year trend shows traffic deaths are on the rise, with the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety issuing a blunt advisory, telling people to just slow down.

The TRIP report states that in the last decade, Maine traffic fatalities have increased 37 percent.

That has Maine officials especially concerned as we head into the heart of summer, with more tourists on the roads.



Traffic on the Maine Turnpike (WGME)

"Too many people are getting into crashes and dying because they are driving too fast," AAA Northern New England Manager of Public Affairs, Traffic and Safety Dan Goodman said.

A report from TRIP, a national transportation research non-profit, shows from 2021 to 2024, the number of Maine traffic fatalities increased 17 percent.

"We've seen a steady increase over the past couple of years, really since COVID," Goodman said. "Where more people are doing more dangerous behaviors behind the wheel on our roads."

This week, the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety called on all drivers to recognize speeding as aggressive driving.

Meanwhile, York County Sheriff Bill King says drivers should stay alert, especially this time of year.



Drivers on a Maine highway (WGME)

"As law-enforcement, to warn people to slow down, even the people that live there and are used to the roads, to slow down during the summertime, because there's just different road conditions than normally," King said. "There's a lot of visitors that are here that aren't used to the roads and not used to the nuances."

King says drivers need to stay cautious and follow traffic laws, no matter what.

"The summer is extremely short, and I understand, and we have a nice day in Maine, we want to get up and enjoy it," King said. "But all we're asking is that you take your time, and you get to that destination."

State officials say young drivers and motorcyclists have a higher chance of being involved in speeding-related crashes.

Goodman has some advice for parents of young drivers.

"There's apps out there where you can watch their driving behavior," Goodman said. "You can see how fast they're going, and it's really important for parents to have a conversation with their kid about safe driving and model safe driving behavior."

Law enforcement suggests people should leave earlier if they're driving somewhere this summer.