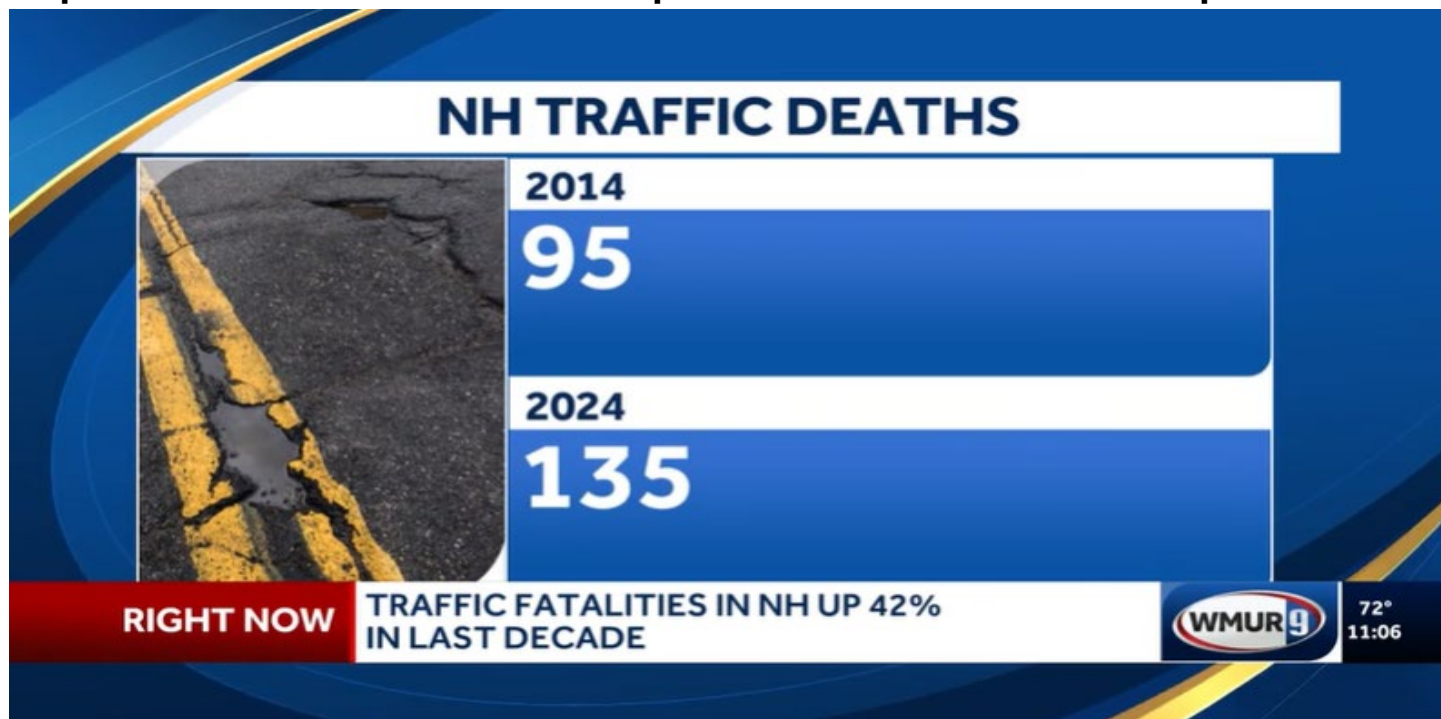




Report: Traffic deaths in New Hampshire rise more than 40% in past decade



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HOOKSETT, N.H. — A new report shows that traffic-related deaths in New Hampshire have gone up by more than 40% in the past decade.

Researchers are estimating that \$11 billion was lost in that same time frame because of serious and deadly crashes.

TRIP, the transportation research group that put together the report, said the numbers point to a transportation safety crisis, saying the rise in traffic deaths is largely due to an increase in distracted and impaired driving. "The bottom line is that it reflects largely on ourselves. It's more speeding, It's more impaired driving," said Rocky Moretti, of TRIP.

The researchers found that in New Hampshire, the number of traffic deaths from 2014 to 2024 went up by 42%, while the fatality rate increased 36%.

"I have an 11-year-old daughter. With her in the car, you know, it gets scary," said Alan Johnston of Concord. In 2014, there were 35 traffic deaths, while there were 135 deaths last year.

"The highway is probably the worst. You got people either going super fast or swerving in and out of lanes," Johnston said.

Using criteria from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, researchers found that in 2024, deadly and serious crashes cost New Hampshire \$11 billion in what researchers called "societal harm." That includes

almost \$3 billion in economic costs and more than \$8 billion in quality-of-life costs.

"I think it's a recognition within the transportation community that not only do we need to take the steps that are necessary, but we have to look more closely and think what else can we do," Moretti said. "Clearly, we're not doing enough."

Some possible solutions suggested by researchers include improving lighting and turn lanes at busy intersections and making sure bicycle and pedestrian lanes are clearly marked.

However, others said it will take a team to reduce traffic deaths.

"Put your phone down, I think that's a big thing. Speed limits there for a reason, abide by it," Johnson said.

In a statement to News 9, the New Hampshire State Police said:

"We are deeply committed to enhancing roadway safety and preventing serious crashes through a variety of strategic enforcement and public education efforts, including ongoing State Police patrol, the Office of Highway Safety's #ThinkAndDrive603 campaign, and collaborative initiatives conducted with our federal, state, county, and community partners."