

# The benefits of 20mph in London

## Summary of evidence

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Slower speeds are a key part of our goal to create Healthy Streets. Reducing vehicle speeds makes the street feel safer and more relaxed, which is likely to attract more people to walk, cycle and socialise in the street. London's boroughs and Transport for London (TfL) have implemented 20 miles per hour (mph) limits and zones on more than half of the capital's roads. There is strong evidence to support the introduction of 20mph roads in London and across the country:

## Collisions are less likely at 20mph

There has been a

**25% ↓**

reduction in road collisions on TfL's strategic roads since the introduction of 20mph limits, using data from 2020 to 2022



## 20mph limit helps to prevent the most severe injuries when collisions do occur

A person is

**5x**

more likely to be killed if hit by a vehicle travelling at 30mph, than at 20mph



## Travelling at excess speed is one of the main causes of collisions

Around

**half**

of collisions identified speed as a contributory factor in fatal collisions in 2022



## Children are safer



The number of children killed or seriously injured was reduced

**by half**

after 20mph schemes were introduced between 1986-2006

## 20mph limit does not increase journey times



Negligible impact on

**journey times**

as these are largely dictated by junction delays, not vehicle speeds

## Residents are in favour of these changes



**78%**

agree that 20mph is the right speed for the area in which they live

## 20mph limit enables more active travel as people feel safer

There is an

**increase**

in walking and cycling where 20mph limits have been implemented



## No adverse impact on air pollution

There has been

**no net increase**

in exhaust emissions on 20mph roads



## Streets are quieter and driving style improves

There is

**reduced noise**

when car speeds decrease from 30mph to 20mph, and driving style is smoother with less braking in 20mph areas in London



\*This infographic uses statistics from research into 20mph limits and 20mph zones by TfL, DfT, independent academics, city councils and transport consultancies





### Available evidence

As more 20mph limits and zones have been introduced in London and internationally, the amount of evidence and research relating to their impacts has grown. This data has been collected by independent academics, the Department for Transport (DfT), as well as TfL.

### Further research

TfL is continuing to implement 20mph limits on the roads it deems suitable and encouraging boroughs to do the same. An increasing number of cities are adopting 20mph limits in urban areas, with Wales recently introducing a default 20mph limit on restricted roads. As more data becomes available, we will continue to track the impacts of 20mph limits and zones.

### Positive outcomes

Evidence to date consistently demonstrates that 20mph limits and zones are having a range of positive impacts on the lives of people living and working in London, while supporting the Vision Zero goal of eradicating all deaths and serious injuries from our roads by 2041. Lowering speed limits to 20mph not only makes our streets safer by reducing the number of road casualties, but also has been shown to improve the quality of life for residents and enhance communities by supporting social cohesion and promoting increased physical activity, which faster speeds might otherwise inhibit.

### Maximising the benefits

To maximise the benefits of lowering speed limits to 20mph, physical measures, new technologies and enforcement can support compliance. The DfT, the Metropolitan Police Service and academic literature suggest that roads need to 'look and feel' like the speed limit set, so road speeds are 'self-enforcing'. Similarly, as Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) becomes more widely available as standard in cars, drivers will not be able to exceed the speed limit. Behaviour change is supported through speed enforcement in London, led by the police using a combination of on-street officers, fixed-site and mobile cameras, and mobile speed enforcement vans.

### Sources:

Collisions are less likely  
[Safe Speeds](#)

Children are safer  
[Effect of 20 mph traffic speed zones on road injuries in London, 1986-2006](#)

20mph limit enables more active travel as people feel safer  
[South Edinburgh 20mph](#)

20mph helps to prevent the most severe injuries when collisions do occur  
[Road Safety - 20mph in London](#)

20mph does not increase journey times  
[Research into the impacts of 20mph speed limits and zones](#)

No adverse impact on air pollution  
[An evaluation of the estimated impacts on vehicle emissions of a 20mph speed restriction in central London.](#)

Excess speed is one of the main causes of collisions  
[Casualties in Greater London in 2022](#)

Residents are in favour of these changes  
[20mph Research Study](#)

Streets are quieter  
[Noise Reduction by Urban Traffic Management](#)

Driving style improves in urban areas  
[An evaluation of the estimated impacts on vehicle emissions of a 20mph speed restriction in central London](#)

Enhanced communities  
[Transport, health and wellbeing](#)



