

PEMCO Northwest Poll – Speeding 2025

PEMCO Mutual Insurance commissioned this independent survey, conducted by Qualtrics, that asked Washington and Oregon residents questions about attitudes toward current Northwest issues. The sample size, 420 respondents in the Seattle Metro (King, Snohomish, Pierce Counties) region, 402 respondents in the Portland Metro (Multnomah, Marion, Clackamas, Washington Counties), and 383 respondents in the Spokane area (Spokane and Stevens Counties) yields an accuracy of +/- 5.0% respectively at the 95% confidence level. In other words, if this study were conducted 100 times, in 95 instances the data will not vary by more than the associated error range.

When you drive your vehicle, how often (if at all) do you find yourself driving over the legal speed limit?

<i>Speed frequency</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
Often	22%	21%	27%	19%
Sometimes	37%	35%	36%	38%
Rarely	30%	33%	27%	30%
Never	11%	11%	10%	13%

When you find yourself speeding, how many miles over the legal speed limit do you allow yourself to go before you slow down?

<i>Speed miles</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
1-4 miles	34%	33%	31%	40%
5-9 miles	47%	49%	45%	47%
10-14 miles	14%	14%	16%	11%
15-20 miles	3%	3%	6%	2%
21 miles or more	2%	2%	2%	2%

There are many reasons a person might speed when driving. Which one of these best describes why you find yourself speeding most often?

<i>Speed reason</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
Everyone else is speeding	66%	70%	63%	65%
Not paying attention	22%	17%	25%	25%
Choose to go faster	5%	7%	4%	4%
Won't get caught	5%	5%	6%	3%



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Can afford the consequences	1%	1%	1%	1%
Other (please specify)	1%	2%	1%	2%

Do you personally believe that there is a “buffer speed” where even if you are clocked by police officer you won’t get pulled over?

<i>Speed buffer</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
Yes	72%	71%	73%	72%
No	28%	29%	28%	28%

On the freeway, do you think that buffer speed is:

<i>Speed buffer highway</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
1-4 miles	35%	26%	35%	44%
5-9 miles	53%	57%	53%	47%
10-14 miles	10%	15%	9%	7%
15 or more miles faster	2%	1%	3%	2%

Comparing the way you drive now to the way you drove before the pandemic, do you find that you speed:

<i>Speed pandemic</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
About the same	69%	74%	64%	70%
Less often	18%	17%	18%	19%
More often	13%	9%	18%	11%

PEMCO Northwest Poll – Speeding 2025

If you speed more often, why is that?

<i>Speed more reason</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
Less congestion	42%	37%	47%	36%
Less likely to be pulled over	40%	48%	33%	47%
In more of a hurry	9%	7%	11%	8%
Don't care about the consequences	6%	7%	6%	6%
Other (please specify)	2%	0%	3%	3%

If you speed less often, why is that?

<i>Speed less reason</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
In less of a hurry	29%	33%	28%	27%
Care more about the consequences	27%	15%	28%	38%
More likely to be pulled over	17%	15%	18%	18%
More traffic congestion	15%	22%	18%	8%
Other (please specify)	11%	15%	9%	9%

On residential neighborhood streets, what do you think is the appropriate speed limit?

<i>Speed residential</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
15 mph	19%	19%	18%	20%
20 mph	30%	31%	29%	28%
25 mph	38%	40%	35%	40%
30 mph	10%	6%	13%	9%
35 mph or faster	3%	3%	3%	2%
Other (please specify)	1%	1%	1%	0%



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Do you abide by that speed when you’re driving through a residential neighborhood?

<i>Total</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
Often	80%	85%	75%	80%
Sometimes	15%	12%	20%	14%
Rarely	3%	2%	4%	5%
Never	1%	1%	1%	2%

Do you observe other drivers abiding by the appropriate speed for a residential neighborhood?

<i>Total</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
Often	30%	27%	29%	33%
Sometimes	50%	52%	50%	48%
Rarely	17%	18%	15%	16%
Never	3%	3%	5%	2%

In your opinion, what do you think is the most effective way to encourage drivers to abide by the speed limit on residential neighborhood roads?

<i>Speed restriction motivator</i>	Overall	Portland	Seattle	Spokane
Traffic circles or speed bumps	41%	46%	40%	37%
Signs or cones	40%	37%	39%	45%
Gesture to them	14%	11%	18%	13%
Other (please specify)	5%	6%	3%	5%