

# ***NZIDE Conference***

## ***Main Contributors to Road Trauma***

***Inspector Peter McKennie***

***Co-Director: NZ Road Safety Partnership***

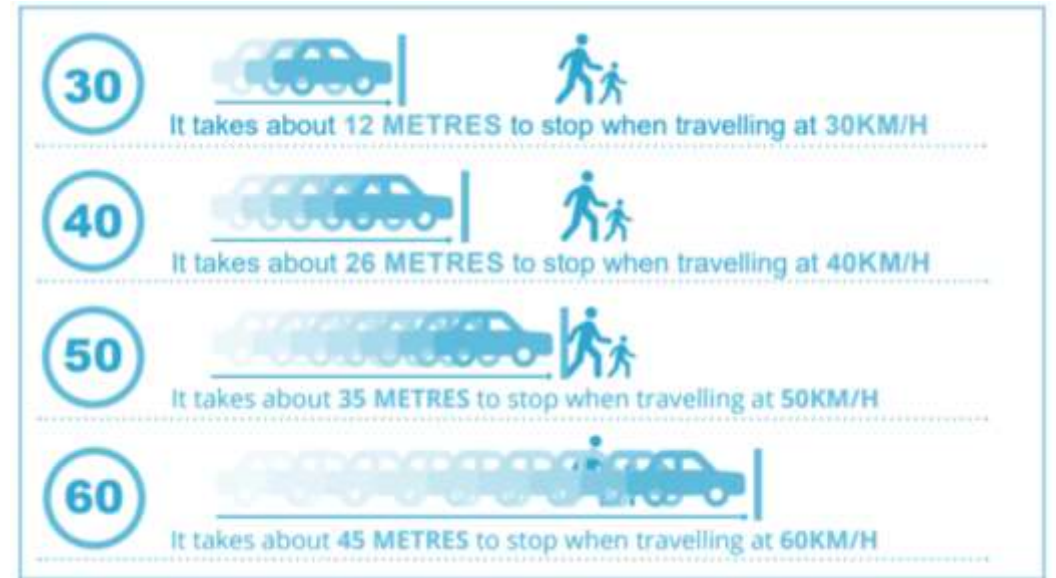
26 August 2022



# Speed

## *Salient and persisting problem*

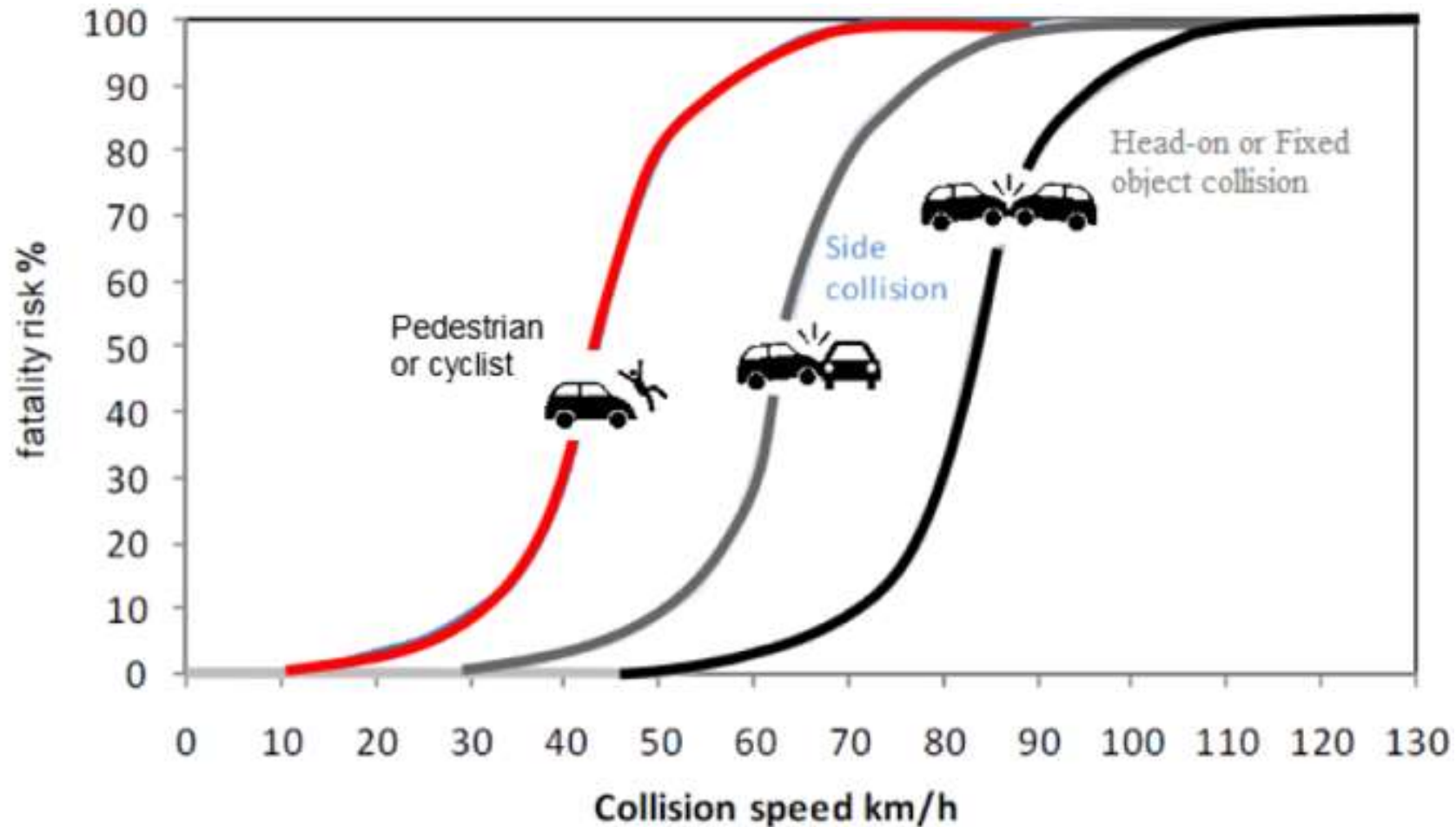
- ❖ A small change in speed has a large change in stopping distance
- ❖ Poor understanding of risk of speed and impact on crash outcomes



Speed vs stopping distance (GRSP, 2020)

# Speed vs Injury

*Probability of fatal injury as a function of collision speed*



# Distraction

*Equal to driving under the influence with a BAC >0.05*

- Primary focus on mobile phones, can also be talking to passengers, reaching for objects, using GPS/Maps, eating & drinking.
- In 2020, distraction was a factor in 23 deaths and 25 serious injuries



*“Drivers using mobile phones are approximately **4 times** more likely to be involved in a crash than drivers not using a mobile phone. Using a phone while driving **slows reaction times** (notably braking reaction time, but also reaction to traffic signals), and makes it **difficult to keep in the correct lane**, and to **keep the correct following distances**.”*



–World Health Organization report on distracted driving

# Impairment

## *Drug involved driving a growing concern*

- Rate of alcohol involvement in severe crashes dramatic fallen in past decade
- Repeat drink drivers and high-risk groups still high
- Rise in drug-involved crashes
- Alcohol and drug use increases severe traffic crash risk
- In New Zealand there has been a reduction in drink driving among youth since the lowering of the youth limit at low levels, but not for high BAC levels



# Restraints

*A leading, but preventable, factor in road deaths*

- One in 33 front seat occupants are unrestrained
- On in 14 rear seat passengers not wearing their seatbelt
- Child restraints used 93-95% of the time
- In 2019, non-use of restraints about 90 deaths
- Over half would have survived on average in their seat belt had been worn
- Strong relationships between substance impairment and not using a seat belt



# ***Discussion / Questions***



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