

U.S. Vision Zero implementation

Vision Zero aims to reduce fatalities and serious injuries from road traffic crashes to zero through a Safe Systems approach. Little is known about the extent of uptake of Vision Zero in the United States, or the attributes and functioning of the initiatives. Vision Zero initiatives began as early as 2014.

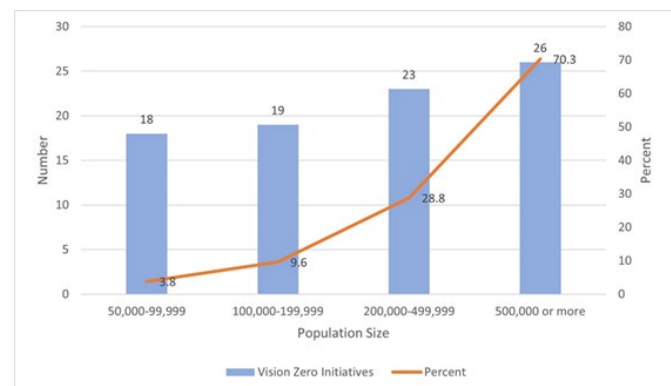
Using a mixed-methods design, our objectives were to describe the status of Vision Zero and characteristics of those initiatives among U.S. municipalities and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). Through systematic web-based searching, we identified 86 of 788 (11%) municipalities and 16 of 408 (4%) MPOs with a Vision Zero initiative.

A key finding was that having a champion of Vision Zero was important to many of the Vision Zero initiatives. The cross-sharing and support around Vision Zero between municipalities and their MPO are important and productive for both entities. Vision Zero began in larger-sized municipalities in the United States before reaching medium-sized municipalities

Among the municipal Vision Zero initiatives, about two-thirds record a vision statement and a little over half set a target year to reach zero deaths. Almost half of the municipal initiatives had published a Vision Zero plan, with another one-quarter working towards a plan. Almost one-third of the municipal initiatives shared resources across interested groups, such as funding or staff. Approximately half of the municipal initiatives had an established coalition, and one-fifth had proposed or were developing a coalition. While one-third of the municipal initiatives provided regular updates or evaluation on progress towards performance metrics,

only four initiatives had implemented a performance management system to regularly track progress on Vision Zero-related actions.

The interviews provided further context and a more detailed understanding of results. Documenting the characteristics of Vision Zero initiatives can contribute to an understanding of current practice, potential opportunities to support ongoing initiatives, and information to assist new initiatives. Ultimately, the impact of municipal- and MPO-level Vision Zero efforts should be evaluated with regards to traffic-related serious injuries and fatalities.



Percentage (orange line) and number (blue bars) of municipal Vision Zero initiatives in the United States by population size (n = 86 of 788 municipalities)

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