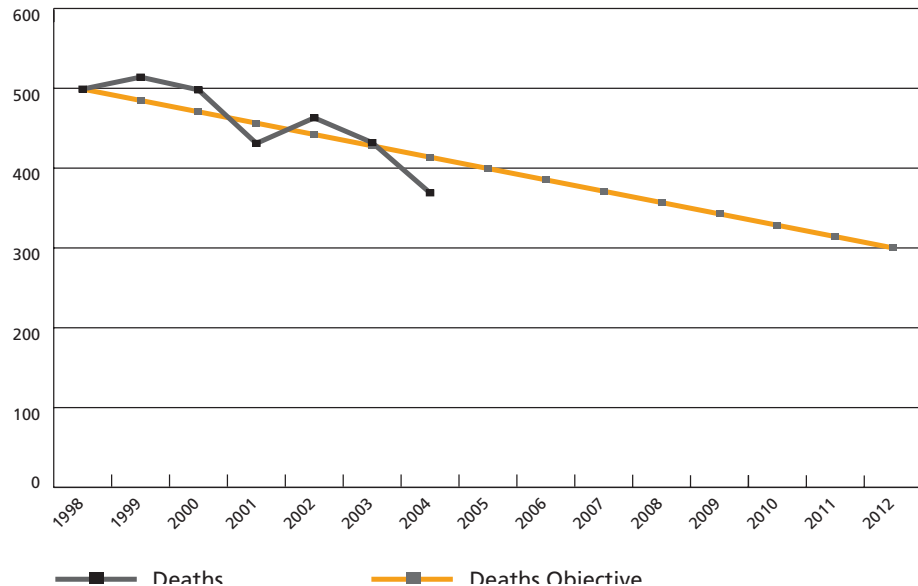


## 6.5 DENMARK



**General Road Safety:** Denmark's Road Safety Action Plan "One accident is one too many" set a target to reduce the number of deaths by 40% to 2012 on maximum 300. The Danish Ministry of Transport has established a Road Safety Commission which is composed of Members of Parliament, representatives of ministries, counties, local authorities and institutions with interest in road safety.

Denmark's traffic law enforcement is undertaken by the police, which consist of police patrols from the local police districts as well as the National Traffic police. Denmark's Second National Road Safety Action Plan 2000 mentions police enforcement as a very important factor, especially in combination with traffic safety campaigns. It emphasises a nation-wide introduction of automated speed checks, which was realised by 2003. The plan also proposes intensified police efforts targeting drink driving, speeding and seat belt use. Following this plan, the police has drawn up national strategies and targets.

**Speed:** In 2004 and 2005 higher fines and lower limits for disqualification were introduced. If drivers are travelling at, for example, 20% over the limit, they have to pay a 130 € fine. If drivers exceed the speed limit more than 30% they gain a penalty point and a fine. Drivers will be disqualified from driving if they exceed the posted speed limit by 60% (cars, motorcycles, vans) or 40% (heavy vehicles) - or if they drive at more than 160 km/h. There are no fixed cameras installed in Denmark. The police employ 13 video cameras in civilian vehicles and 27 laser devices for manual speeding control. At present there is no owner responsibility in cases of speeding offences. If the owner refuses to call the driver the police must start an investigation.

**Alcohol:** Since September 2005 drink-driving sanctions have been related to the offender's net monthly wage. Drivers exceeding the legal BAC from 0.5 mg/ml (up to 2,0mg/ml) have to pay a fine that arises from their net income multiplied with their BAC. If the BAC level is under 1,2 per mill, they furthermore have to re-sit a theoretical and practical driving test within three months and the driver is unconditionally disqualified from driving. Drivers with a BAC higher than 1,2 mg/ml are banned from driving for a period of minimum three years. All drink drivers have to take a mandatory course to learn about alcohol and traffic. Automatic tests of drivers without suspicion of drink driving have been undertaken since 2003. This has resulted in a significant larger number of charges for drink driving. In 2004, 28% of all deaths in road traffic were alcohol-related.

**Seat belts:** The fine for not using the seat belt is 65 €. The driver is responsible for the restraining of passengers under the age of 15. Since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 driving with unrestrained passengers under the age of 15 will redeem in one penalty point. Special controls on seat belt use and child restraints are undertaken each year at the beginning of the school year.

**Follow-up of offences:** Denmark has introduced a penalty point system in September 2005. Since then, 17 different traffic offences are worth one penalty point. If a driver incurs three points over three years, they must re-sit a theoretical and practical driving test. The driver pays the cost of the tests and, if they fails, they lose their license until they pass both tests. Even after passing the tests, the driver is on probation for three years. If they incur three more points during this period, they are normally banned for six months. Novice drivers lose their licence after two points during the first three years.

**Information:** The strategies of the nation-wide campaigns are based on the National Road Safety Plan. The Road Safety Council, the police, the local and regional safety councils frequently run campaigns about speed, alcohol and seat belts in the media. In 2003, 3 nationwide campaigns were carried out in co-operation with the police and the Danish Road Safety Council in relation to increased seat belt use, respect of speed restrictions and indication of traffic lane crossings on motorways. In 2004, 4 nationwide campaigns are carried out in co-operation with the police and the Danish Road Safety Council, relating to increased use of seat belts, speeds on motorways, speed in connection with road works and drink-driving.

**Recommendations:**

- Extend an automatic speed enforcement network.
- Implement owner responsibility for speeding offences.
- Continue a high level of drink-driving enforcement and introduce evidential breath tests.