



National Coalition
for **Safer Roads**

Red Light Safety Cameras: Making Our Roads Safer

Every day across the nation innocent lives are lost because of someone else's reckless decision to run a red light. We must do everything in our power to protect our children, our families and our communities from the callous and reckless behavior of red light runners. Red light running is associated with the most dangerous types of collisions, and causes hundreds of unnecessary deaths and tens of thousands of injuries each year. In 2009 alone, **676 people were killed** and **113,000 were injured** in crashes that involved red light running. Of the **676 people killed -- two-thirds were occupants of a vehicle that did not run a red light, pedestrians and bicyclists.**

Life-saving Technology

A recent study from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)¹ looked at 99 large U.S. cities to analyze the impact of photo enforcement on intersection fatality rates. It found:

- Across the country, more than 150 lives were saved in 14 of the biggest U.S. cities over a five-year period
- Red light safety cameras reduced traffic fatalities by 24 percent
- Had cameras been deployed in all major cities between 2004 and 2008, more than 800 deaths could have been prevented

Changing Reckless Driver Behavior

Red light safety cameras change dangerous driver behavior and help protect everyone. Recent studies found:

- Reductions in red light violations by **40-96 percent** after the introduction of red light cameras²³⁴
- Reductions occurred not only at camera-equipped sites but also at signalized intersections without cameras, indicating community-wide changes in driver behavior

When the public sees a law being vigorously enforced, they will respect it and drive more safely. It's true with seat belt laws, and the same effect occurs with red light safety cameras.

- Almost 500 communities in the United States use red light safety cameras. That number is only going to grow

¹ Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2011

² Retting, R.A.; Williams, A.F.; Farmer, C.M.; and Feldman, A.F. 1999. Evaluation of red light camera enforcement in Fairfax, Va., USA. *ITE Journal* 69:30-34.

³ Retting, R.A.; Williams, A.F.; Farmer, C.M.; and Feldman, A. 1999. Evaluation of red light camera enforcement in Oxnard, California. *Accident Analysis and Prevention* 31:169-74.

⁴ Retting, R.A.; Ferguson, S.A.; and Farmer, C.M. 2008. Reducing red light running through longer yellow signal timing and red light camera enforcement: results of a field investigation. *Accident Analysis and Prevention* 40:327-33.