



## Wales 20mph: reduced speeds, fewer casualties & lower insurance costs

***The 20mph default speed limit on built-up roads in Wales has led to 882 (25%) fewer casualties in the first 18 months<sup>1</sup>. If the 20mph default had not been made, casualties would have been one third higher!***

*Lower than expected vehicle damage claims enabled esure Insurance Group and others to reduce premiums for Welsh drivers. The positive outcome in Wales enabled the firm to commit to reducing prices for customers within 3 months of identifying a new 20mph area in the rest of the UK<sup>2</sup>.*

The data is clear evidence of a sustained reduction in risk and danger on Welsh roads:

- 1) The fall in casualties of 25% on 20/30mph roads compares with a decrease of 2% on roads with higher speed limits (Fig 1).
- 2) Data is consistent across all quarters: the drop in casualties on 20/30mph roads ranged from 18% to 24% compared with the equivalent quarter<sup>3</sup> (Fig 2).
- 3) The marked downturn after September 2023 on 20/30mph roads – 5x the previous average annual reduction and larger than during COVID – was not seen on other Welsh roads (Fig 3).
- 4) All four police forces saw casualty reductions on 20/30mph roads, ranging from nearly 50% in North Wales to 8% in Gwent. Within North Wales, which saw the largest reduction in speed limits (94% of roads changed from 30mph to 20mph), all Highway Authorities saw the largest casualty reductions - ranging up to 60%.
- 5) 20 of the 22 Highway Authorities saw casualties decrease on 20/30mph roads; on other roads, half saw an increase (Fig 5).
- 6) Reductions of 25% are in line with those predicted by lower mean speeds (2.4mph<sup>4</sup> overall and 4.3mph on faster roads<sup>5</sup>).
- 7) Esure Insurance group report vehicle damage claims 20% lower than expected.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [StatsWales website](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/54yjmbm>

<sup>3</sup> The same quarter in the year before 20mph default introduced

<sup>4</sup> <https://agilysis.co.uk/2024/01/22/wales-20mph-3months-on/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://tfw.wales/about-us/transparency/publications/default-20mph-speed-limit>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.20splenty.org/welsh\\_accidental\\_damage\\_claims](https://www.20splenty.org/welsh_accidental_damage_claims)

***“These results show that the 20mph default continues to make roads safer for Welsh communities and reduces insurance costs for individuals.***

***“20's Plenty congratulates politicians, local authority representatives and community leaders as well as the vast majority of drivers who have altered their behaviour to make Welsh communities better places to be.  
Diolch am 20.”***

**Adrian Berendt, Director, 20's Plenty for Us commented**

**Rod King MBE**

[rod.k@20splenty.org](mailto:rod.k@20splenty.org)

07973 639781

[@20splentyforum](#)

**Jeremy Leach**

[jeremy.l@20splenty.org](mailto:jeremy.l@20splenty.org)

07415 243015

**Adrian Berendt**

[adrian.b@20splenty.org](mailto:adrian.b@20splenty.org)

07767 664999

[@adrianberendt1](#)

**Sue Nicholls**

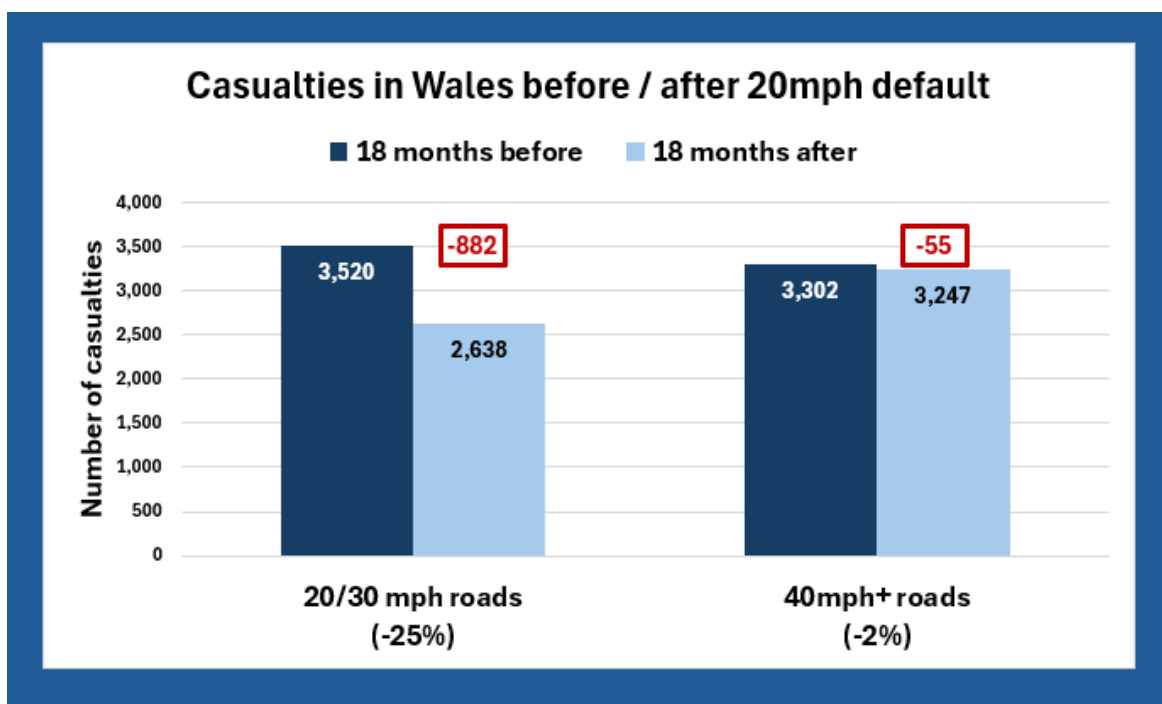
[sue.n@20splenty.org](mailto:sue.n@20splenty.org)

**Hannah Greenberg**

[Hannah.g@20splenty.org](mailto:Hannah.g@20splenty.org)

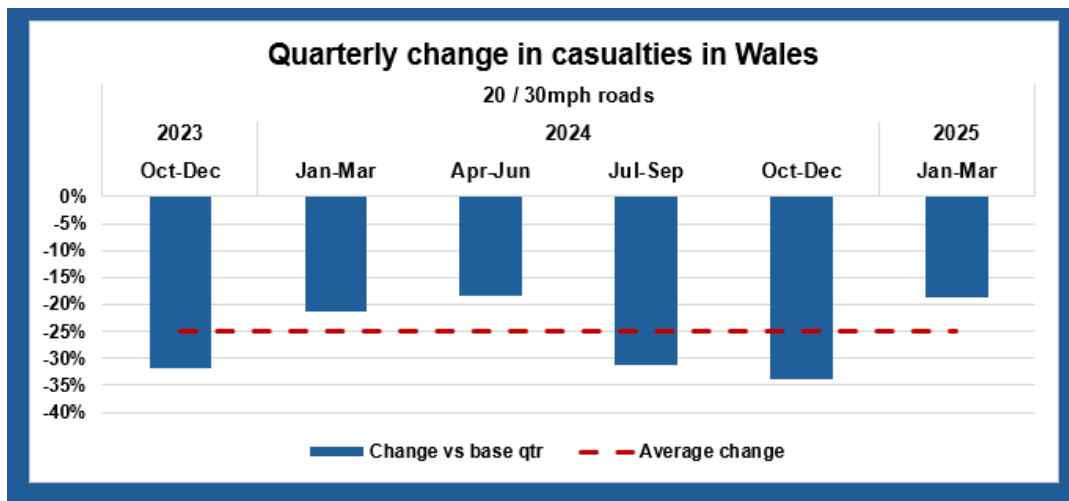
**Fig. 1 change in casualties 20/30 mph vs. other roads (table and chart)**

Road casualties in Wales 18 months before and after 20mph default				
Casualties by speed limit and severity	18 mths before	18 mths after	Change	Change (%)
<b>20 / 30 mph</b>	<b>3,520</b>	<b>2,638</b>	<b>-882</b>	<b>-25%</b>
Killed	53	39	-14	-26%
Serious	687	589	-98	-14%
Slight	2,780	2,010	-770	-28%
<b>Other speed limits</b>	<b>3,302</b>	<b>3,247</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Killed	91	89	-2	-2%
Serious	825	914	89	11%
Slight	2,386	2,244	-142	-6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,822</b>	<b>5,885</b>	<b>-937</b>	<b>-14%</b>

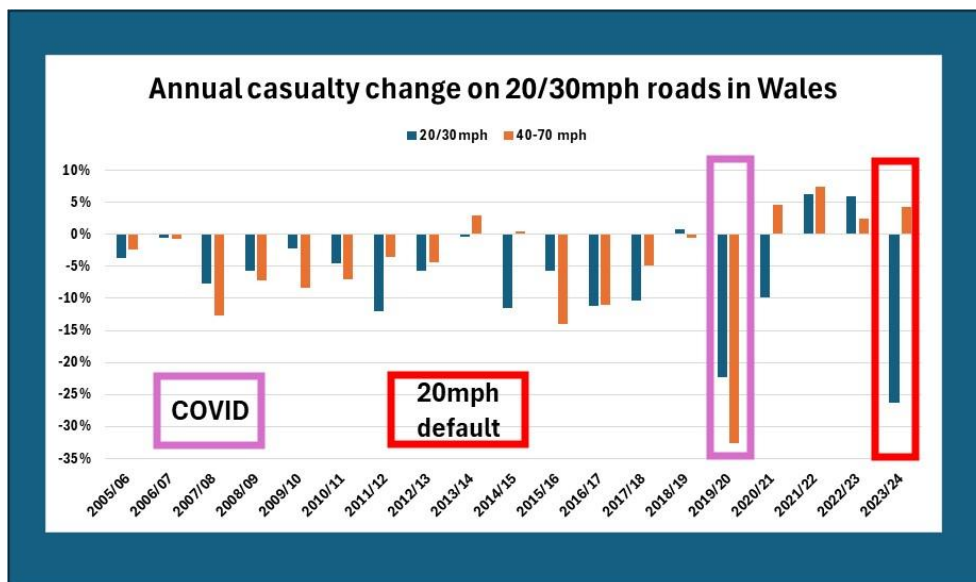


**Fig 2 Change in casualties by quarter**

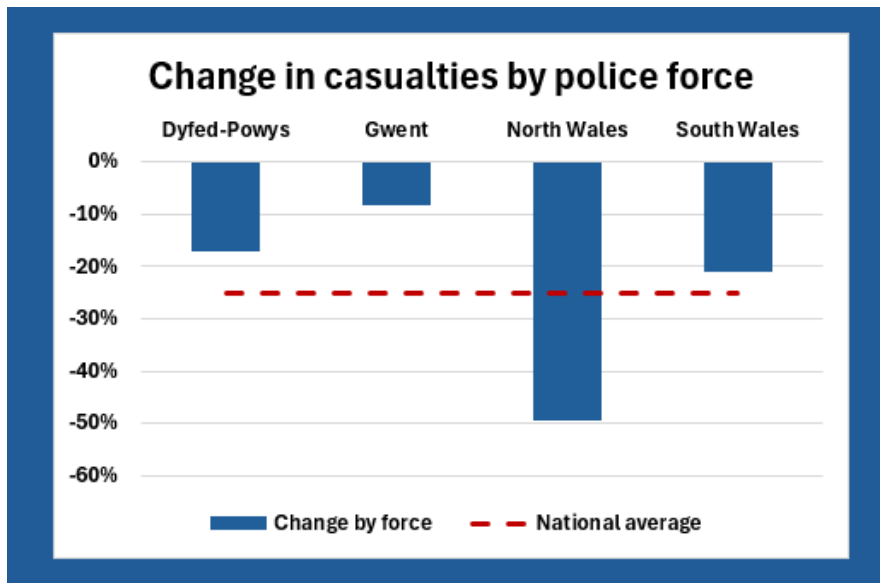
Road casualties on 20/30mph roads in Wales by quarter				
Quarter	After	Before	Change	
Oct - Dec '23 (vs '22)	464	681	-217	<b>-32%</b>
Jan - Mar '24 (vs '23)	401	510	-109	<b>-21%</b>
Apr - Jun '24 (vs '23)	476	584	-108	<b>-18%</b>
Jul - Sep '24 (vs '23)	431	627	-196	<b>-31%</b>
Oct - Dec '24 (vs '22)	451	681	-230	<b>-34%</b>
Jan - Mar '25 (vs '23)	415	510	-95	<b>-19%</b>



**Fig. 3 long term change in casualties by speed limit type**



**Fig. 4 change in casualties by police and speed limit type**



**Fig. 5 change in casualties by speed limit and local council**

