


To the Mayor and Members of the City Council
June 2, 2020

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SUBJECT: TRAFFIC COLLISIONS & TRAFFIC FATALITIES

This Informal Report offers a comparison of Traffic Collisions and Traffic-Related Fatalities during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 with the same time frame (March 1st – May 18th) in 2019.

This chart shows the number of total collisions for March, April and May (through the 18th) in both this year and the previous year. Total collisions, including hit-and-run collision, are down significantly in 2020 compared to the same time frame in 2019. However, fatality collision increased in both April and May of 2020 over 2019.

Of the sixteen fatality collisions during this 2020 timeframe, speed and alcohol consumption were contributing factors in 6 of those crashes. However, the toxicology reports for some of the fatality collisions have not returned. Also, at least 3 of the fatalities are Hit and Run and many factors are unknown.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>% difference</u>
<u>March</u>			
Total	1376	1078	-22%
Collision (Non-hit and Run/Fatality)	981	769	-22%
Hit and Run	390	305	-22%
Fatality	5	4	20%
<u>April</u>			
Total	1456	746	-49%
Collision (Non-hit and Run/Fatality)	1036	574	-45%
Hit and Run	418	166	-60%
Fatality	2	6	200%
<u>May-Up to the 18th</u>			
Total	809	581	-28%
Collision (Non-hit and Run/Fatality)	593	439	-26%
Hit and Run	215	136	-37%
Fatality	1	6	500%



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<u>Contributing Factors for the Sixteen Fatality Collisions</u>	
Pedestrian-Failure to Yield Right of way to Vehicle	3
Auto-Pedestrian-Unknown Factors	3
Failure to control speed	2
Unsafe Speed	3
Failure to Yield Right of Way-Left Turn	2
Failure to Yield Right of Way-Stop Sign	1
Disabled Vehicle in Lane of Traffic	1
Wrong Way-One way-No Headlights	1

<u>Number of Fatalities Per Division Between March 1-May 18, 2020</u>	
North	4
South	3
West	3
East	2
Northwest	2
Central	2

Below is a summary of the findings:

- There were 6 pedestrian fatalities that occurred during this timeframe; 3 occurred in West Division, 1 in East Division, 1 in Central, and 1 in South Division.
 - 2 of the 3 in West Division were individuals walking on the freeway
 - 3900 West Freeway
 - 2400 W Loop 820 South
- There were 2 fatalities that occurred due to racing and they were both in Northwest Division. The first fatality accident occurred on April 17, 2020 at 11:16 pm at 2600 NE 28th Street and the second fatality accident occurred on May 17, 2020 at 9:06 pm at 300 N. University Drive.
- There were 2 fatality collision that involved motorcycles that occurred in North Division. The first fatality accident occurred on April 25, 2020 at 2:24 pm at 7700 Buttonwood Drive and the second occurred on May 7, 2020 at 1:47 pm at 6900 N. Beach Street.
- 13 of the 16 fatality collisions occurred on city streets, while the other 3 occurred on an interstate or state highway.



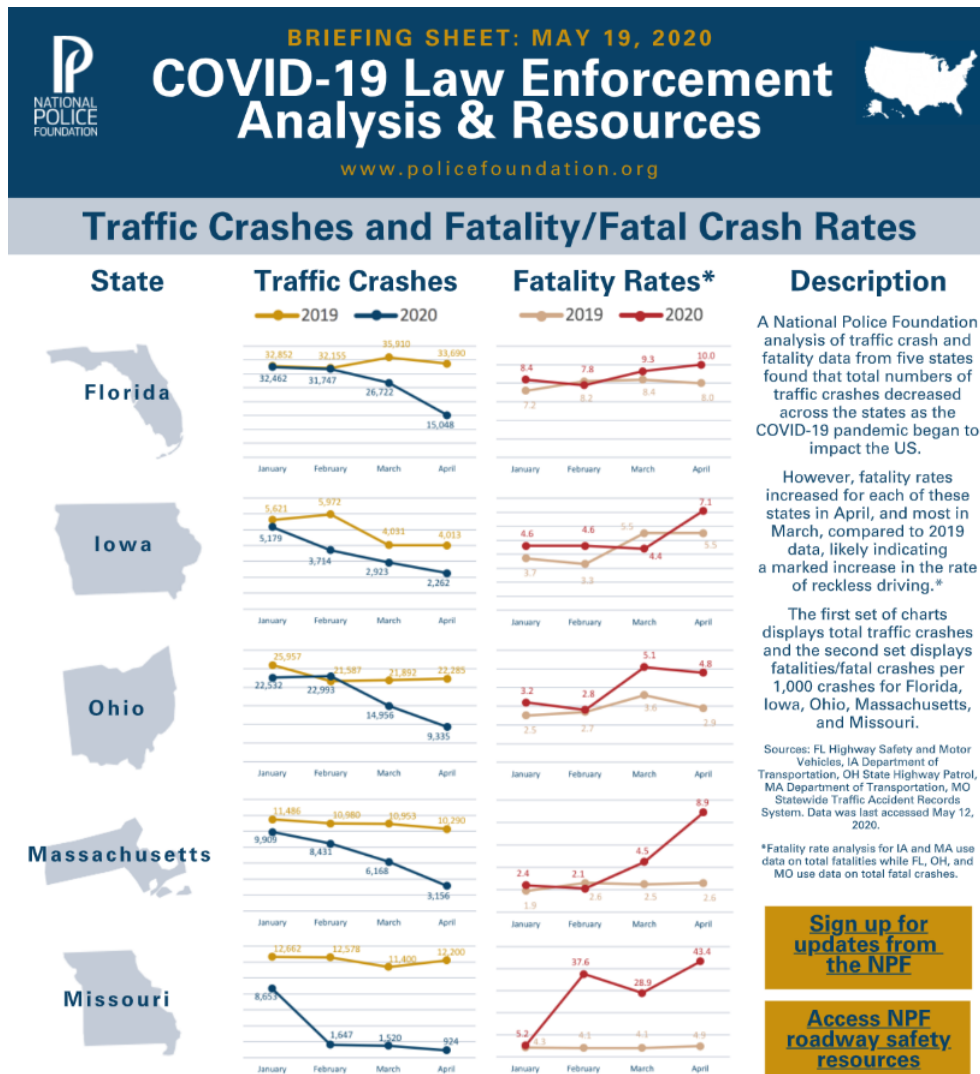
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On May 19th, the National Police Foundation (NPF) presented findings on traffic collision and fatality crashes in five other states, comparing data from 2019 to 2020. Their findings are similar to what we have seen in Fort Worth, with a decrease in the overall number of collisions, while fatality crashes increased this year over last year. Below is a summary page of the NPF study:



Additional Resources



[Real-Time COVID-19 Law Enforcement Impact Situational Awareness Dashboard: Add or Update Your Agency's Data](#)



[COVID-19 Research & Reference Search Tool for First Responders \(Created by NPF & Open Source\)](#)



[COVID-19 FAQs by Law Enforcement: View on the NPF's COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

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As seen in this report, Covid-19 as well as the subsequent state and city restrictions have had a direct impact on human behavior and has played a factor in the decreased number of collisions. Yet, those same limitations have contributed to an increased number of fatalities on our roadways. During this time, the Fort Worth Police Department has received numerous calls about increased speeds on every type of street in the City of Fort Worth. Many of the reports are hard to address because the violator has left the scene as soon as the call is dispatched. However, there are several factors that could have contributed to the increased number of fatalities:

- Citizens felt more comfortable driving at much higher speeds with fewer cars on the streets.
- Many drivers are willing to take more chances (driving reckless) due to the reduced number of cars on the streets.
- Driver inattention (on cell phone, social media, changing radio stations, eating, sightseeing, etc.,) has risen-fewer cars on the street means people are more willing to take their attention away from the road.
- Lastly, there has been an increase in the foot and bicycle traffic due to the shelter in place order. There are many more people trying to get out of their house for fresh air, exercise, or play which causes other issues for drivers on or beside the roadways.

The traffic collision/fatality information was shared with our patrol Commanders to increase enforcement efforts from patrol in their hotspot areas. Traffic Division will be increasing their enforcement efforts on the state highways and interstate system. We will working with our Public information office to send out a public service announcement about the dangers of speeding, reckless driving, and racing. Additionally, we will remind citizens to report reckless driving and work with their Neighborhood Police Officers on speeding issues in their community.

Each Division has the ability to run special details when traffic related issues are brought to their attention and due to the unique nature of each division, each Commander uses different tactics to addresses this problem. For example, Northwest is running a two week detail that specifically addresses speeding and reckless driving in and around the Stockyards and North Main Street area, while Central Division is utilizing the Skywatch for a problem location, and East has a weekend detail that addresses the variety of traffic issues on Miller Street near Hwy 287. In order to reduce the number of fatalities, we are committed to take a targeted approach that includes education and enforcement.

For additional information, please contact Ed Kraus, Chief of Police at 817-392-4213.

David Cooke
City Manager