

2020 CRASH DATA PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS

Five years' worth of Illinois Departments of Public Health and Transportation linked data are used to examine how the COVID-19 pandemic and Illinois stay at home order affected motor vehicle crashes and health outcomes of pedestrians and cyclists.

FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES GREW

Analysis suggests that during the 2020 stay at home order the rate of serious injury and death among pedestrians and cyclists struck by a motor vehicle rose significantly. It also suggests the rise may have begun in the years leading up to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



INCREASED SERIOUS INJURY

The rate of seriously injured pedestrians and cyclists was up 10 percentage points in 2020 relative to the prior four year mean. And the rate of fatalities was up by a factor of 2.3 compared to the previous four year average, and about twice the rate of 2019. Cycling appears to have gained in popularity in 2020 as struck cyclists increased their share of crash incidents, serious injury, and fatalities.



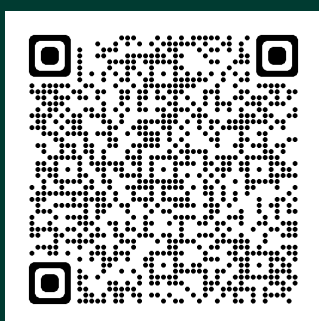
INCREASED STRIKING RATES

While the numerical count of struck pedestrians and cyclists was down in 2020 compared to previous years, the rate at which they were struck was up.



INCREASED IMPAIRED DRIVING

The proportion of cases involving an impaired driver increased by a factor of 2.4, and the proportion of cases involving an impaired pedestrian or cyclist increased by a factor of 1.9. The share of cases in which speeding was cited as a contributing factor has been on the rise since 2016 and increased again in 2020 by about 2.5 percentage points. While distracted driving cases had been on the rise since 2016, the data show that during the 2020 stay at home order incidences were slightly lower than previous years.



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