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CRASH DATA DURING 2020 ILLINOIS STAY AT HOME ORDER

Springfield, IL (Date) – In the report, “An Interrupted Time Series Analysis of the Sociodemographics of Crash Victims during the Illinois Stay at Home Order,” research from the University of Illinois Springfield has revealed interesting statistics in 2020 as compared to previous years, which occurred during Illinois’ statewide COVID stay at home order.

While rates increased overall, the rate of Blacks involved in serious motor vehicle crashes outpaced that of Whites by a factor of 2. And, the typical cost of hospital treatment for those injured in a motor vehicle crash increased by almost 72%, or over \$6,000.

With regard to gender, females were 8 percentage points less likely, and males were 8 points more likely, to be in a crash in 2020. Within ethnicity, Hispanic males and females led the way with a 9 percentage point increase and decrease, respectively. And though year-over-year counts were down across the board during the order, Black and White males declined the first and second least. Meaning Black and White males were relatively the most likely to be involved in a crash during the stay at home order. Responsibilities at home and employment type probably contributed to females being off the roads and in fewer crashes.

Risky behavior on the part of those involved in motor vehicle crashes was also elevated in 2020 relative to the prior four years. Illinois saw a 2.4 fold increase in the proportion of personal injury crashes involving an impaired driver. Meanwhile, crashes involving unprotected travelers, either unrestrained or un-helmeted, increased from 3.9% (2016-2019) to 6% (2020). Crashes in which speeding was a contributing factor were also up in 2020 to 46.3%, compared to the prior 4 year mean of 43.6%

When comparing poverty status and crash victims, the home poverty rate of the typical injured crash victim rose to nearly 15%, an increase of more than 4 percentage points over previous years. This research shows that the distribution of crash incidences across sociodemographic groups in Illinois was not even during stay at home orders. Those in poverty, and racial and ethnic minorities, were disproportionately affected.

The cited report uses linked crash and hospital files aided by census data to investigate upon whom in Illinois, broadly speaking, the crash burden fell during the Illinois stay at home orders of 2020.

Disclaimer

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