

Reckless driving on the rise during COVID-19 pandemic

April 23 2020



Sparse traffic on U.S. roads during the coronavirus pandemic has

spawned a spike in speeding and other types of reckless driving, the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) says.

Here are some examples.

Police in Colorado, Indiana, Nebraska and Utah have clocked drivers going more than 100 miles per hour on highways.

In Los Angeles, cars are going as much as 30% faster on some streets, prompting changes to traffic lights and pedestrian walk signals.

In New York City, automated [speed cameras](#) issued 24,765 speeding tickets on March 27—nearly double the number issued daily a month earlier—despite far fewer cars being on the road.

Some states have lower [crash rates](#) but more serious crashes. Car crash death rates are on the rise in Massachusetts, and pedestrian deaths are on the rise in Nevada and Rhode Island.

Car crashes and related deaths in Minnesota are more than double what they were at the same time period in previous years, and half of the deaths were due to speeding or careless/negligent driving.

"While COVID-19 is clearly our national priority, our [traffic safety laws](#) cannot be ignored," GHSA executive director Jonathan Adkins said in a news release from the association. "Law enforcement officials have the same mission as health care providers—to save lives."

If you must drive, he said, "buckle up, follow the posted speed limit and look out for pedestrians and bicyclists." Adkins noted that many emergency rooms are at capacity "and the last thing they need is additional strain from traffic crash victims."

Pam Shadel Fischer, GHSA's senior director of external engagement and special projects, said Americans nationwide have shown during the pandemic that they are willing to do the right thing to protect one another.

"We must maintain that same sense of urgency when it comes to the road," she said in the news release. "Drivers need to respect the law and look out for other road users, so that we can prevent the needless loss of life now and moving forward."

More information: The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has more on [road safety](#).

Copyright © 2020 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Reckless driving on the rise during COVID-19 pandemic (2020, April 23) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-04-reckless-covid-pandemic.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--