

ACTION 1- Accident Research & Safety Analysis

The Action Plan Committee is undertaking a detailed, county-wide crash study to provide an understanding of traffic crash causes, contributing factors, locations, and roadway characteristics. This study should identify the “High Injury Network” (HIN) and provide the foundation for future Vision Zero initiatives.

An analysis of traffic accidents will provide a starting point for the County’s goals by identifying the number of crashes to reduce to zero as well as the unsafe behaviors to change, vulnerable transportation user types, and outreach needs of different community groups.

The traffic accident research began with the Action Committee combining City, County, and State auto accident reports (2016-2020) together into one document. Several long time serving elected officials believes this may the first time all three data sets have been combined into a single accident report.

An initial review of the local data reveals a concerning statically fact; George County’s accident fatality rate is 10 percent higher than the State’s average and considerably higher than the National average, per capita. This fatality rate was hidden in plain sight with accident reports divided among three government agency. The Action Committee’s efforts have identified vital crash numbers for planning and a starting point.

The accidents reports reveal a complicated set of factors for auto fatalities- speeding, state/federal highway accidents, auto passenger deaths, light truck crashes, and road departures (crossing the line). Further data collection and review by transportation professional is immediately needed. The following tables provide the number of crash fatalities by person in George County, Mississippi.

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Table 1 – Crash Fatalities in George County, MS

(Source: <https://cdan.nhtsa.gov/SASStoredProcess>)*

| Fatality Type | Fatalities | | | | | Fatalities Per 100,000 Population | | | | |
|--|------------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Total Fatalities (All Crashes)* | 9 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 38.05 | 50.13 | 29.12 | 28.65 | 28.66 |
| (1) Alcohol-Impaired Driving (BAC=.08+) Fatalities | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8.46 | 12.53 | 8.32 | 4.09 | 8.19 |
| (2) Single Vehicle Crash Fatalities | 2 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8.46 | 20.89 | 16.64 | 20.46 | 24.56 |
| (3) Large Truck Involved Crash Fatalities | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4.23 | 12.53 | 4.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| (4) Speeding Involved Crash Fatalities | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 8.46 | 4.18 | 0.00 | 12.28 | 4.09 |
| (5) Rollover Involved Crash Fatalities | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4.23 | 8.36 | 8.32 | 8.18 | 4.09 |
| (6) Roadway Departure Involved Crash Fatalities | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 12.68 | 33.42 | 8.32 | 20.46 | 20.47 |
| (7) Intersection (or Intersection Related) Crash Fatalities | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12.68 | 4.18 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Passenger Car Occupant Fatalities | 6 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 25.37 | 25.07 | 16.64 | 12.28 | 16.38 |
| Light Truck Occupant Fatalities | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 12.68 | 16.71 | 4.16 | 8.18 | 4.09 |
| Motorcyclist Fatalities | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0.00 | 4.18 | 0.00 | 4.09 | 0.00 |
| Pedestrian Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 8.32 | 4.09 | 8.19 |
| Bicyclist (or Other Cyclist) Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

(1) Crash Involved at Least One Driver or Motorcycle Rider With a BAC of .08 or Above

(2) Crash Involved Only One Vehicle In Transport

(3) Crash Involved at Least One Large Truck

(4) Crash Involved at Least One Vehicle Speeding

(5) Crash Involved at Least One Vehicle that Rolled Over

(6) Crash Involved at Least One Vehicle that Departed the Roadway (FHWA Definition)

(7) Crash Occured Within an Intersection or Within the Approach to an Intersection

*A Fatality Can Be in More Than One Category. Therefore Sum of the Individual Cells Will Not Equal the Total Due to Double Counting

****Table 1 does not included 3 fatalities recorded by the George County Sheriff's Department between the years 2016-2020 on three separate rural roads.***

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Table 2 – Crash Fatalities by Person Type and Race/Hispanic Origin in George County, MS

(Source: <https://cdan.nhtsa.gov/SASStoredProcess>)*

| Person Type by Race/Hispanic Origin | | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Occupants (All Vehicle Types) | White Non-Hispanic | 7 | 10 | 5 | 6 |
| | Black, Non-Hispanic | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | All Other Non-Hispanic or Race | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | <i>Total</i> | 9 | 12 | 5 | 6 |
| Non-Occupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists and Other/Unknown Non-Occupants) | | | | | |
| | White Non-Hispanic | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| | Black, Non-Hispanic | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | All Other Non-Hispanic or Race | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | <i>Total</i> | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Total | | | | | |
| | White Non-Hispanic | 7 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| | Black, Non-Hispanic | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | All Other Non-Hispanic or Race | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | <i>Total</i> | 9 | 12 | 7 | 7 |

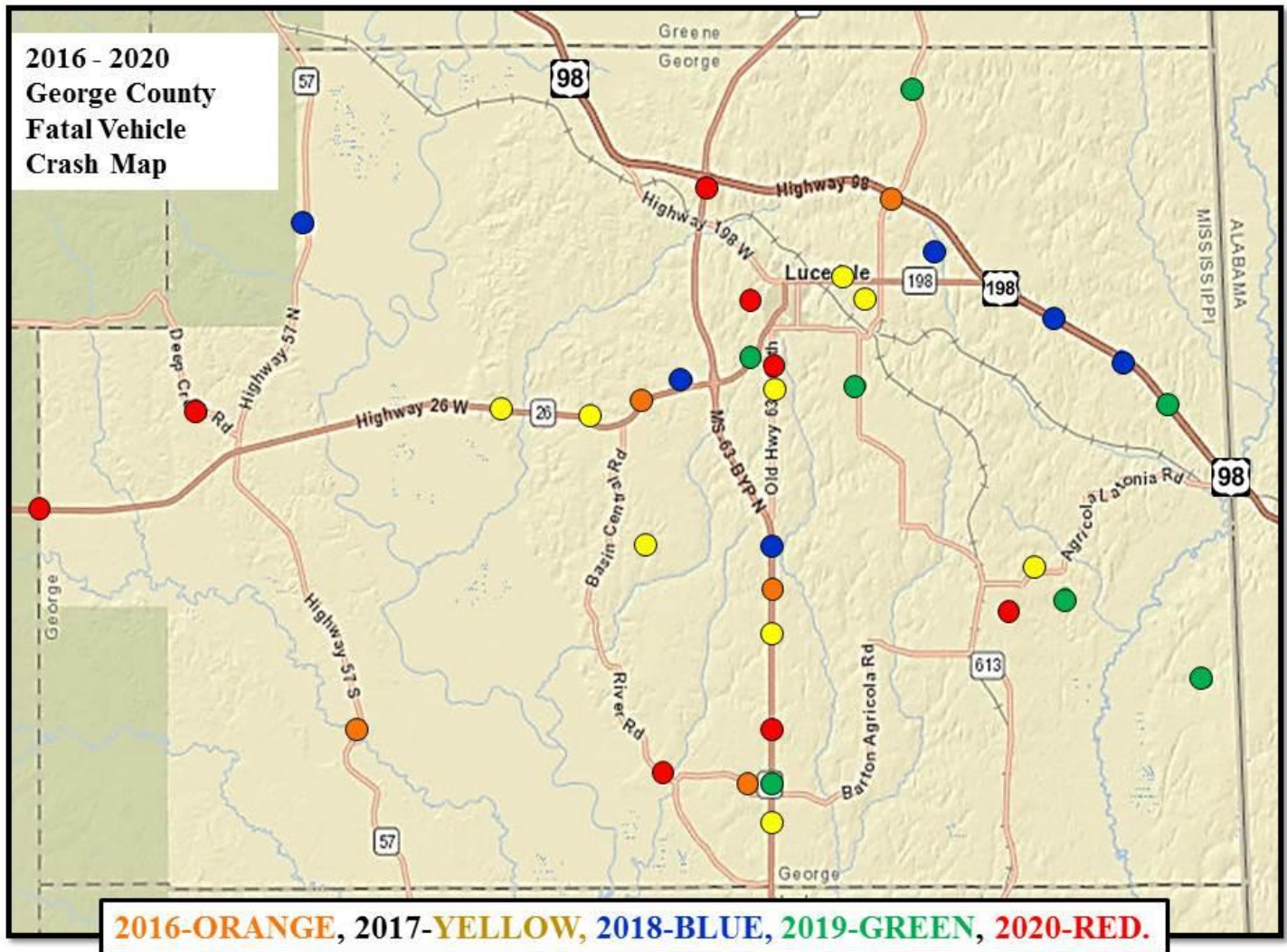
2020 Race/Hispanic Origin Data is Not Yet Complete

****Table 2 does not included 2 fatalities recorded by the George County Sheriff's Department between the years 2016-2019 on two separate rural roads.***

In comparison George County, MS crash fatality rate in 2020 was 28.66 per 100,000 populations; according to the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). The State of Mississippi's average fatality rate in 2020 was 25.35 per 100,000 population; one of the highest in the nation. The average fatality rate in the United States in 2020 was 11.78 per 100,000 populations. It is apparent using this standard matrix that George County, MS fatality rate is higher than the State of Mississippi and the National average.

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Figure 1 – Location Map of Fatal Crashes George County, MS



(Source: <https://cdan.nhtsa.gov/SASStoredProcess>) &

(Source: George County Sheriff's Department Accident Reports)

Figure 1 contains a location map of crash fatalities in George County, MS. The data includes crash fatalities ranging from 2016 to 2020. Fatalities shown by year are as follows: 2016 in **ORANGE**, 2017 in **YELLOW**, 2018 in **BLUE**, 2019 in **GREEN**, and 2020 in **RED**. For larger format map, see Page 26.

Figure 2 – Location Map of High Injury Network in George Co., MS