

ROAD CRASH DEATHS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN TRACKER

JUNE 2020

Introduction

Data was recorded for all four phases of the lockdown period, i.e., between March 25 - May 31, 2020.

Over 30 print and online media sources (accessible online) were scanned for the purpose of recording road crash deaths. This included scanning through national and regional media covering English, Hindi and other vernacular languages. A process of deduplication and multi-source verification was undertaken to avoid duplicate reports and unverified news.

NATIONAL - ENGLISH	REGIONAL - ENGLISH	HINDI/VERNACULAR NEWS
The Hindu	Deccan Chronicle	Dainik Jagaran
Times of India	Tribune	Amar Ujala
Hindustan Times	Deccan Herald	Navbharat Times
ANI News	Telegraph	Prabhat Khabar
PTI News	Telangana Today	Patrika
UNI India	The Sentinel	Dainik Bhaskar
India Times	Nagaland Post	Sambad Odisha
The Indian Express	The Shillong Times	Dina Thanthi
The Wire	Daily Excelsior	Vijay Karnataka
NDTV	Kalinga TV	Mathrubhumi
India Today	The Siasat Daily	
The Hans India	Daiji World	
Outlook	The Arunachal Times	

Table: Media Sources

Based on the news reports, fatalities were classified according to the road user category and further split into three specific categories: migrant deaths, essential worker deaths and general road user deaths (or other deaths).

- Migrant deaths refer to migrant workers dying in road crashes while commuting back home, mostly on foot. Only sources which specifically mentioned migrants, and people travelling on foot and cycling over long distances were counted as migrant deaths.
- General road user deaths mostly include people out on the roads during the lockdown for various reasons. This includes vulnerable road users like pedestrians, two wheelers and three wheelers dying in road crashes involving over-speeding, hit and run and distracted driving etc. Journalists and researchers are also included in this category.
- Essential road user deaths refer to essential workers and service providers like doctors, Police personnel, NGO workers supplying aid etc. meeting with a road crash while commuting to and from work.

Additionally, crashes and deaths were segregated State-wise as well.

Key Data Points

1. ROAD USER SPLIT OF ROAD CRASH DEATHS DURING LOCKDOWN

Overall, 750 road crash deaths in 1,461 crashes have been recorded in the country over a COVID lockdown period of over two months.

Migrant workers killed during their commute back home comprise 26.4% of the overall deaths during the lockdown whereas essential workers comprise 5.3% of the total deaths. 68.3% of the overall deaths involve general/other road users.

Since the lockdown began, migrants have been killed on roads while they were walking or cycling back home, while traveling in HMVs and LMV commercial vehicles and in mass fatality crashes involving state organized buses.

TYPE OF ROAD USER	NUMBER OF CRASH DEATHS	PERCENTAGE
MIGRANT WORKER	198	27
OTHER ROAD USERS	512	68
ESSENTIAL WORKER	40	5
Total	750	100%

Table 1: Road User Split of Road Crash Deaths

2. STATE WISE SPLIT OF ROAD CRASH DEATHS DURING LOCKDOWN)

The maximum number of road crash deaths have been reported from the State of Uttar Pradesh (245) followed by Telangana (56) and Madhya Pradesh (56), Bihar (43) and Punjab (38).

Uttar Pradesh accounted for 33% of the total road crash deaths during all combined phases of the lockdown followed by Telangana and MP around 7% respectively.

STATE	CRASH DEATHS
Uttar Pradesh	245
Telangana	56
Madhya Pradesh	56
Bihar	43
Punjab	38
Maharashtra	36
Jharkhand	33

Haryana	28
Rajasthan	28
Tamil Nadu	23
Gujarat	21
Andhra Pradesh	21
J&K	21
Karnataka	18
Himachal Pradesh	15
Uttarakhand	12
Chhattisgarh	11
Odisha	11
Kerala	11
West Bengal	10
Delhi	7
Nagaland	3
Arunachal Pradesh	2
Assam	1
Total	750

Table 2: State-wise Split of Road Crash Deaths

3. ROAD CRASH BY REPORTED CAUSE/INCIDENT TYPE

In terms of a causal analysis, the top causes are collisions and speeding. Vehicle on vehicle collisions constituted the single biggest incident-type responsible for 43% of all road crash deaths. Over-speeding was reported to be involved in 15% of the total deaths. Vehicle collision with roadside objects contributed to 9% of the total deaths. Pedestrian rundowns led to 9% of total deaths.

S.NO	REPORTED CAUSES/ INCIDENT TYPE	DEATHS MIGRANTS	DEATHS GENERAL ROAD USERS	DEATHS ESSENTIAL WORKERS	TOTAL DEATHS
1	Vehicle On Vehicle Collision	70	237	17	324
2	Speeding	49	52	8	109
3	Vehicle Collison with Objects	2	60	6	68
4	Vehicle Overturn	32	29	5	66
5	Pedestrian Run Over	21	43	2	66
6	Vehicle Fell off	-	36	-	36
7	Driver Error	10	25	-	35

8	Others	7	17	2	26
9	Cyclist Run Over	7	13	-	20
TOTAL DEATHS		198	512	40	750

Table 3: Causal Split of Road Crash Deaths

4. MODAL SPLIT OF ROAD CRASH DEATHS DURING LOCKDOWN

In terms of the mode of transport, 31% of the road users who were killed in road crashes were two-wheeler or three-wheeler riders followed by 23% of the road users who were commuting in private cars at the time of the crash. 44% of migrant deaths involve an HMV goods road user.

Note: LCVs include pickups, tractors and DCM vans whereas HMV Passenger includes buses. 4 wheeler refers to private cars whereas HMV goods refers to trucks mostly.

SL.NO	MODE OF TRANSPORT	DEATHS MIGRANTS	DEATHS GENERAL ROAD USERS	DEATHS ESSENTIAL WORKERS	TOTAL DEATHS
1	Two W/3 Wheelers	26	185	20	231
2	4 Wheeler	7	156	8	171
3	HMV (Goods)	87	37	4	128
4	Pedestrians	37	51	1	89
5	LCV	8	30	2	40
6	Others	8	22	4	34
7	Cyclists	8	22	1	31
8	HMV (Passengers)	17	9		26
TOTAL		198	512	40	750

Table 4: Modal Split of Road Crash Deaths

5. MIGRANT DEATHS DURING THE LOCKDOWN

Since the beginning of the lockdown, 198 migrant workers have lost their while walking, cycling or commuting back home in a truck or bus etc. The crashes involving buses have been mass casualty and mass injury incidents.

In terms of migrant deaths, the top 5 States are Uttar Pradesh (94), Madhya Pradesh (38), Bihar (16), Telangana (11) and Maharashtra (9). 48% of all migrant deaths in the country have been reported from the State of Uttar Pradesh followed by Madhya Pradesh at 19%.

STATE	MIGRANT DEATHS
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Uttar Pradesh	94
Madhya Pradesh	38
Bihar	16
Telangana	11
Maharashtra	9
Haryana	6
Jharkhand	5
Odisha	5
Chhattisgarh	4
Andhra Pradesh	3
J&K	2
Rajasthan	2
Gujarat	2
West Bengal	1
TOTAL	198

Table 5: Migrant Road Crash Deaths

6. PHASE-WISE SPLIT OF ROAD CRASH DEATHS

750 deaths have been reported in the country in 1,461 crashes since the lockdown began on 25th March 2020.

Phase 4 has been by far the deadliest with 322 deaths (43%) reported followed by phase 3 that recorded 291 overall deaths (39%). Phase 2 witnessed 70 deaths whereas phase 1 witnessed 67 deaths.

In terms of the road user category, phase 3 recorded almost 60% of all migrant deaths followed by phase 4 that recorded 19% of overall migrant deaths.

Essential worker deaths and general road user deaths were also the highest during phase 3 at 30% and 27.5% of total deaths during all phases of the lockdown.

PHASE OF LOCKDOWN	ROAD CRASH DEATHS	MIGRANT DEATHS	GENERAL DEATHS	ESSENTIAL WORKER DEATHS	% OF TOTAL DEATHS
Phase 1: 25 March -14 April	67	25	36	7	9%
Phase 2: 15 April - 3 May	70	17	42	10	9%
Phase 3: 4 May -17 May	291	118	161	12	39%
Phase 4: 18 May - 31 May	322	38	273	11	43%
TOTAL	750	198	512	40	100%

Table 6: Lockdown phase-wise split of road crash deaths