

# **Questions Answered**

By gaining insight into how the storms and the onset of Covid-19 have affected our community geographically and socioeconomically, Nashville's Metro Emergency Communications Center can...

- 1. Prioritize dispatch to specific high-need areas hit hardest during a catastrophe
- 2. Revise and increase on-call staffing during storm season
- Provide insight into areas of focus for future budgeting and planning of emergency funds

#### **Event**

- A timeline of each storm:
   from beginning to the end
   of the event and times of
   stronger storm impacts,
   based on call volumes
- The geographic path of the storm generating reports of damage or impact

#### Location

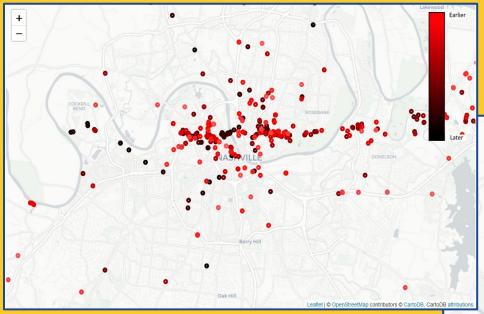
- Locations less impacted or not impacted, based on call volume (or lack thereof)
  - Locations of heaviest storm impact based on call volume

# **Community**

Drill down to
 demographic and
 economic status of
 specific neighborhoods
 hit hardest by each event
 by looking at property
 values, types of structures
 affected, and correlation
 with covid impact.

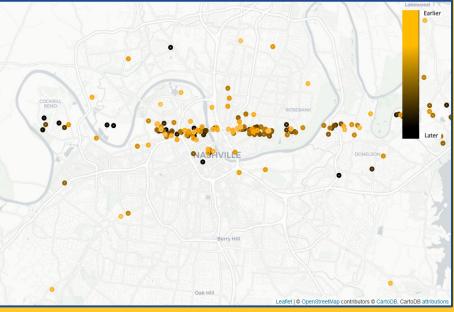
# **The Events**

#### Tornado 911 calls based on time



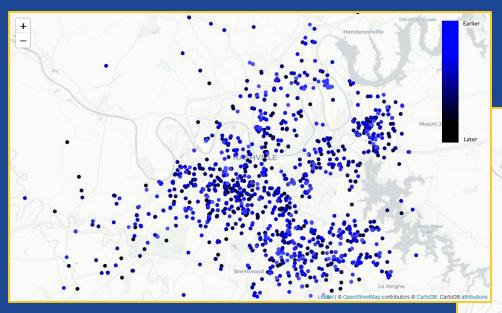
Tornado dispatch based on time

While we see the path of the storm, the pattern of calls does not create a clear timeline.



Click graph for interactivity

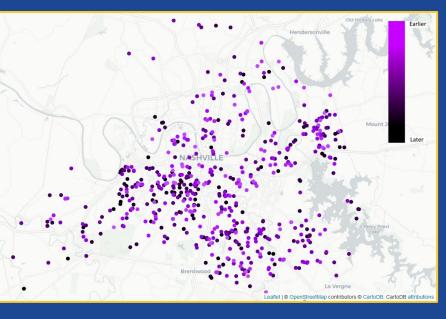
#### **Derecho calls based on time**



Derecho was much more widespread

Derecho was much more widespread without any clear path.

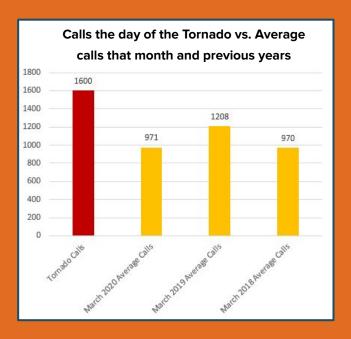
# Derecho dispatch based on time



# Tornado 911 Call Volume Comparison

**Day of Tornado** 

#### **1600 Calls**



When looking at staffing for future catastrophic events, 911 calls increased more than 1.5x the day of the tornado versus the average number of calls that same month. There is a similar result when looking at previous year call averages in March as well.

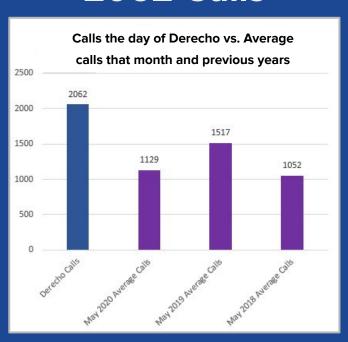
#### Percent Over Avg the Day of Tornado

March 2020	<b>165</b> %
March 2019	<b>132</b> %
March 2018	165%

#### **Derecho 911 Call Volume Comparison**

#### **Day of Derecho**

## **2062 Calls**

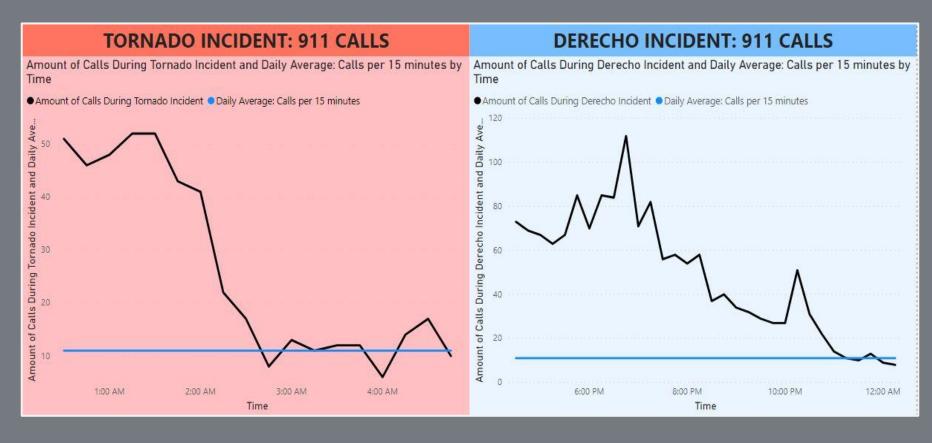


Even more significant, 911 calls increased by almost double the day of the derecho versus the average number of calls that same month.

#### Percent Over Avg the Day of Derecho

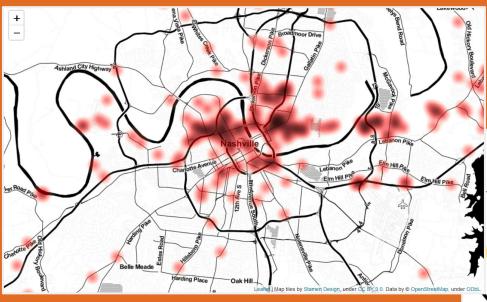
May	2020	196%
May	2019	136%
May	2018	183%

## Call volume during storms compared to daily average



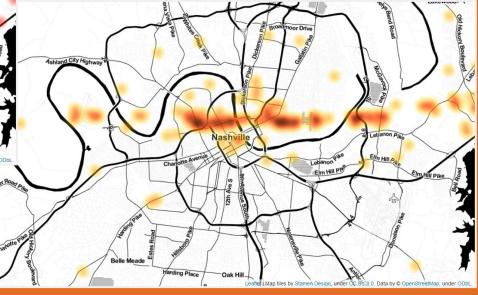


#### Tornado call areas

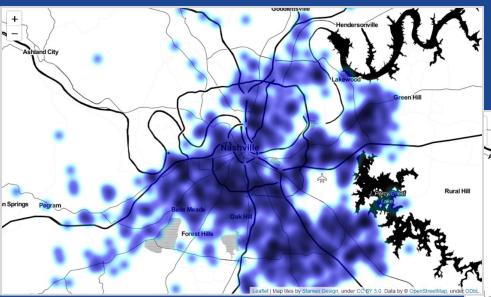


Tornado dispatch areas

While 911 calls were spread around Nashville during the Tornado, the dispatches clearly shows it's path.



# Derecho call areas



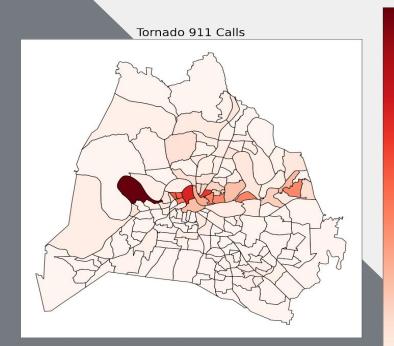
Derecho dispatch areas

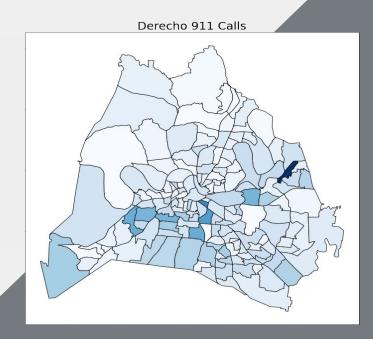
Ashland City

| Compared to the content of the cont

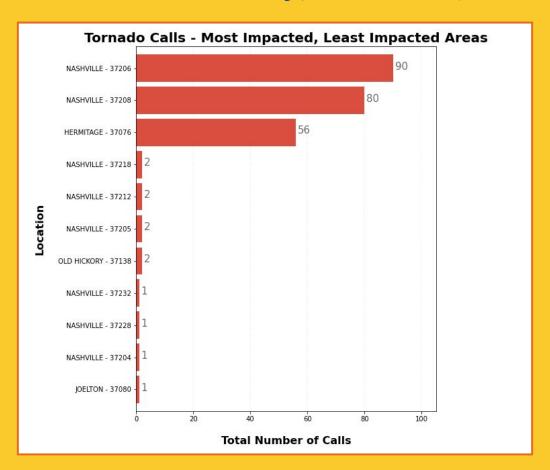
Dispatch locations match call locations with no clear pattern of variance

# 911 Call Volumes by Census Tract Population

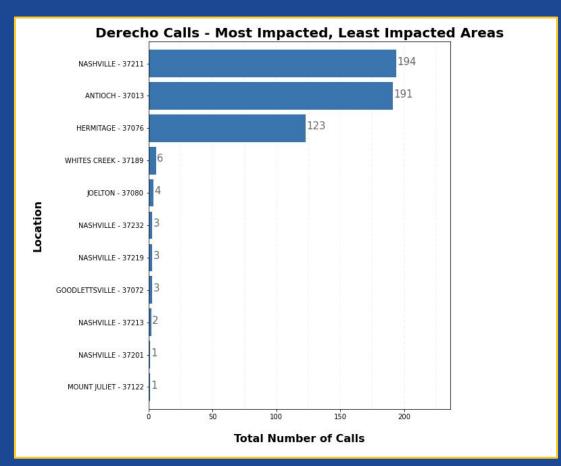




#### Tornado Calls - Total Number of Calls, Top 90th and Bottom 25th Percentile Areas

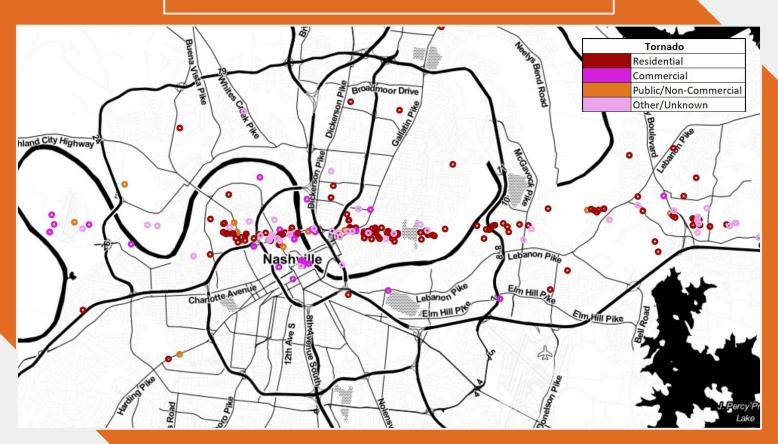


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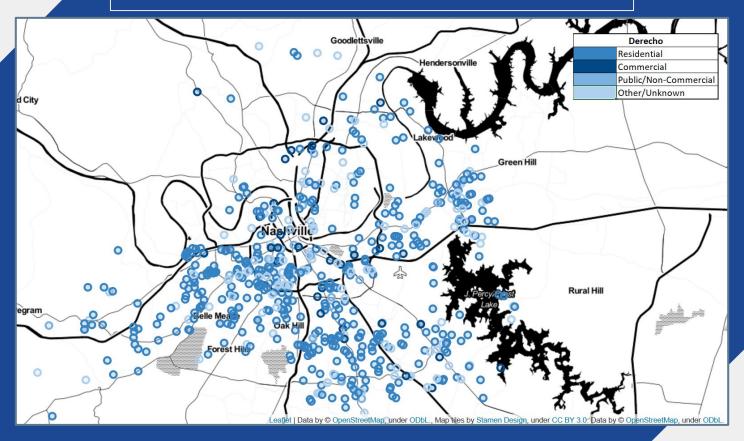


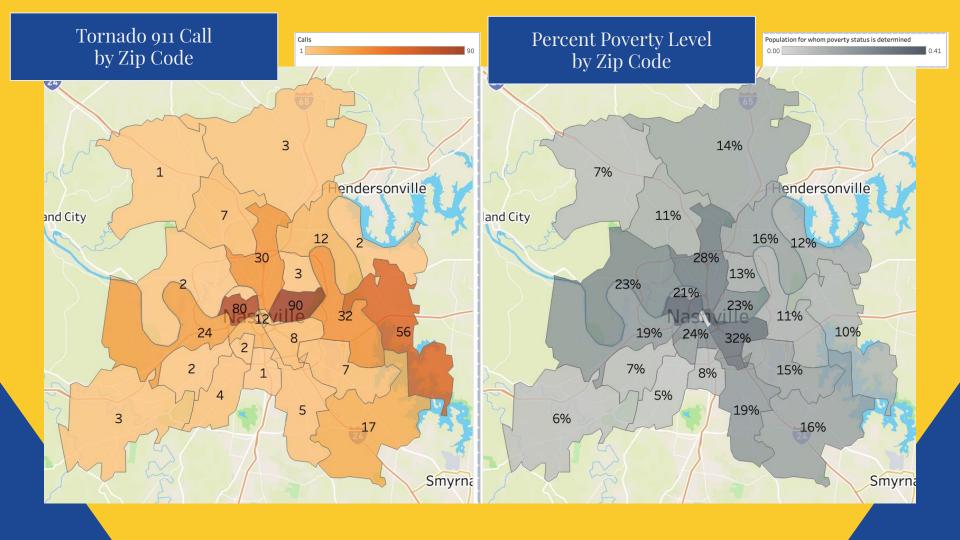


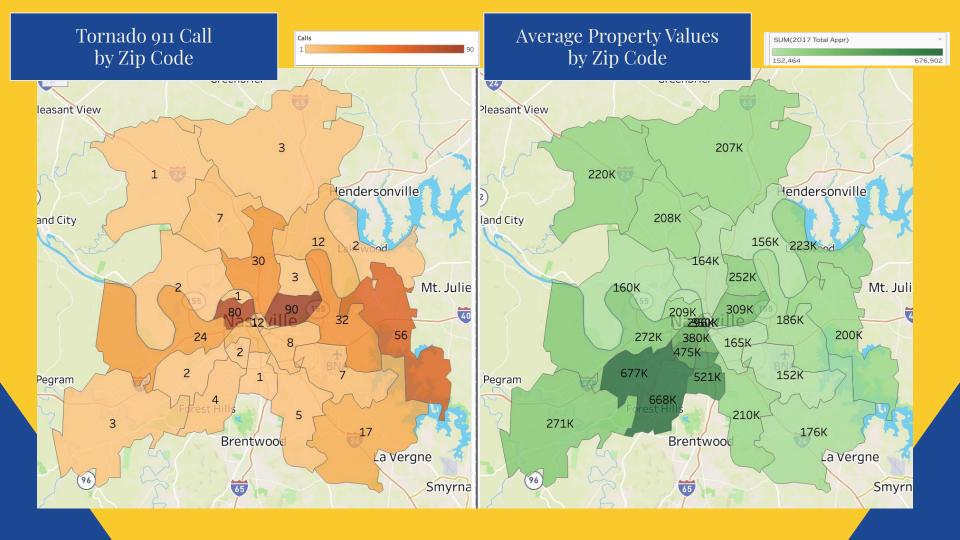
### **Structural Impact from Tornado**

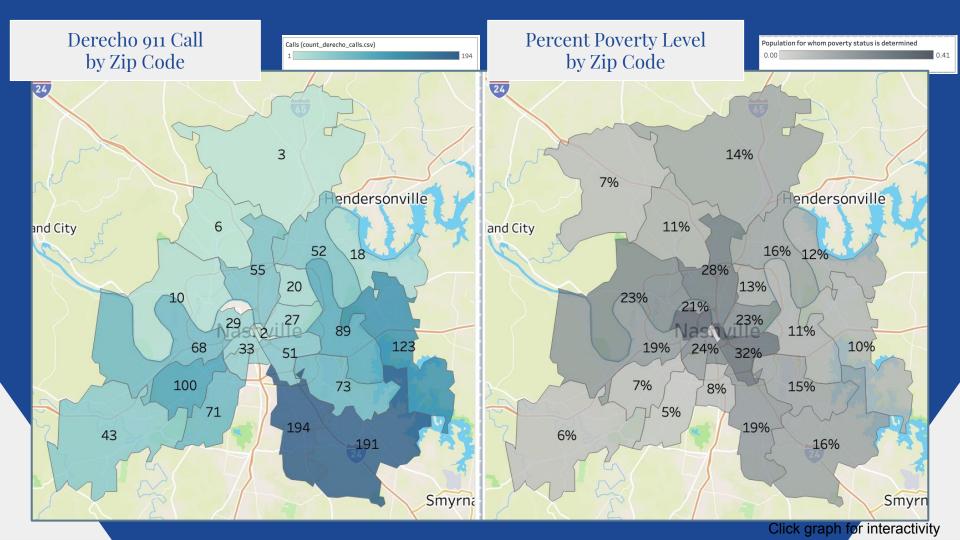


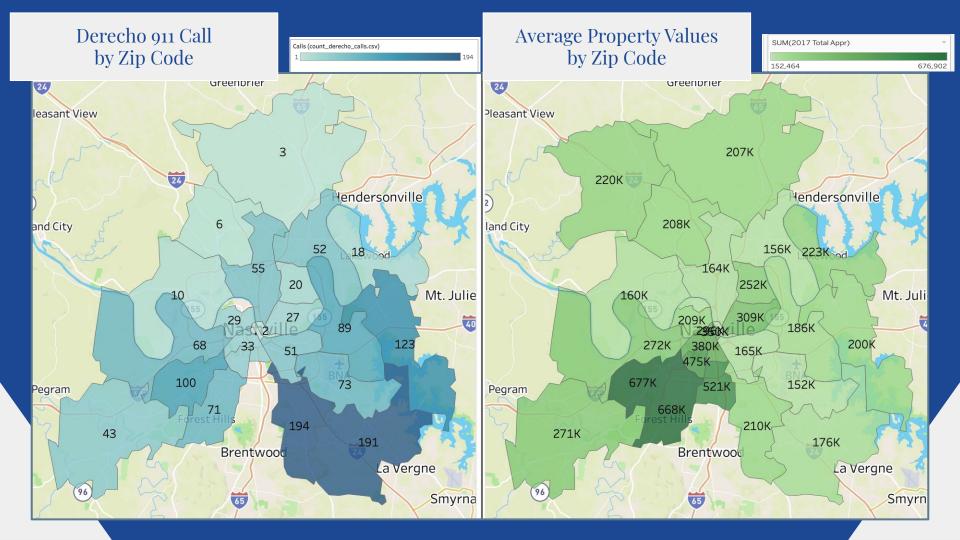
# Structural Impact - May 2020 Derecho





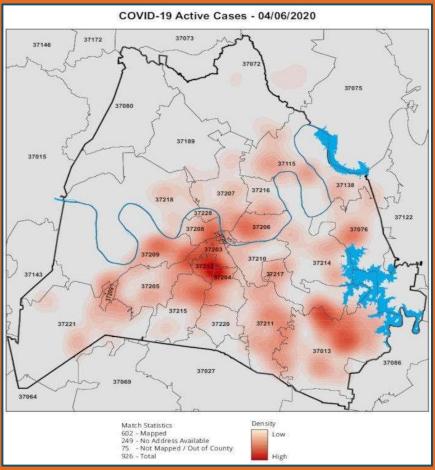






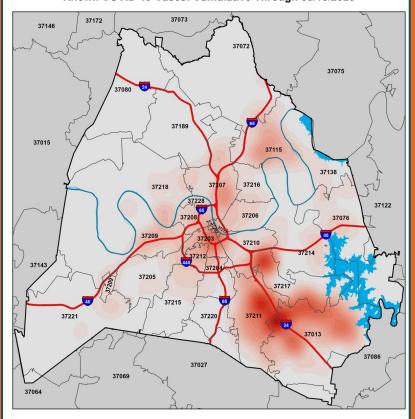
# Impact of the Tornado on COVID-19 Hotspots





#### COVID-19 New Cases, for Week Ending 05/02/2020 37146 37075 37189 37015 37138 37216 37218 37122 65 37209 37210 37205 37215 37220 37211 37027 37064 490 New Cases Mapped (Excludes Previous Weeks) Density Density layer created from kernel density estimation using the following guidelines: 1.5 mile search radius, equal interval classification (20 classes). Source: Data provided by Metro Public Health Department. Based on reported home locations, not locations of tests. For informational and planning purposes only. Nashville Metro Government is not responsible for the misuse or misrepresentation of the data.

#### Known COVID-19 Cases: Cumulative Through 05/18/2020



Density Lo

Lower

Density layer created from kernel density estimation using the following guidelines: 1.5 mile search radius, equal interval classification (20 classes).

<u>Source</u>: Data provided by Metro Public Health Department. Based on reported home locations, not locations of tests. For informational and planning purposes only. Nashville Metro Government is not responsible for the misuse or misrepresentation of the data.



- The call volume almost doubled for each storm event.
- The increased call volume supports increasing staffing during storm season.
- Storm path cannot be determined solely by the time of call.

# **Location Conclusions**

- Studying storm patterns could help the department know what to expect when a storm strikes.
  - In the case of the tornado, the pattern of dispatch records shows the response to calls and location of the storm pathway.
- Based on call volume, the following locations were the hardest hit:
  - North and East Nashville during the tornado
  - South Nashville during the derecho



- Residential structures generated the highest number of calls for the tornado and derecho.
- The storms affected all economic groups.
- There were some parallels between both the derecho and COVID, but one could not say that there was a correlation between the two.

# **Further Analysis**

- Were some communities lesser represented in the call data actually some of the hardest hit?
  - Possible lack of calls due to lack of electricity or cell towers being down.
  - Could look at targeting areas known to have cell towers down first.
- What data is needed to consider alternative methods of notification?
- If dropped calls are able to be tracked to their origin, does the rate of dropped calls vary by location in an extreme weather scenario?
- Can we assess response times of initial calls by neighborhoods or zip codes to observe equity?

# References

Poverty Level Statistics and Population Source:

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Property Values:** 

Davidson County Assessor's Office '2017 single family\_final\_with\_sqft.txt'

COVID-19 Maps:

Metro Public Health Department, Nashville and Davidson County

Residential/Commercial Building Designation:

Nashville Planning Department: https://maps.nashville.gov/ParcelViewer\_TextOnly/