

Background image source: Wisconsin DOT via [PBS Wisconsin](#)

A photograph of a multi-lane highway with several cars driving. In the center, a large black electronic message board displays the text "546 LIVES LOST ON WISCONSIN ROADS THIS YEAR" in bright orange, blocky capital letters. The background shows a clear sky and some roadside infrastructure like signs and trees.

546 LIVES LOST  
ON WISCONSIN ROADS  
THIS YEAR

# COVID-19 and Traffic Accidents in Milwaukee

Patrick Peng - DATA 512 Autumn 2021

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An aerial photograph of a city street during a COVID-19 lockdown. The street is mostly empty, with a few cars visible in the distance. On the left, there are brick buildings with arched windows. On the right, there are modern buildings with large glass windows. In the foreground, there is a construction area with a black tarp and several orange traffic cones. The text "COVID-19 lockdown orders caused traffic on usually busy streets to plummet" is overlaid in white on a semi-transparent dark background.

# COVID-19 lockdown orders caused traffic on usually busy streets to plummet

Background image source: still from [video](#) shot by Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel



**Traffic deaths increased during the pandemic. The toll fell more heavily on Black residents, report shows.**

**2020 Fatality Data Show Increased Traffic Fatalities During Pandemic**

**Risky driving: US traffic deaths up despite virus lockdowns**

**America's car crash epidemic**

**Motor Vehicle Deaths in 2020  
Estimated to be Highest in 13  
Years, Despite Dramatic Drops  
in Miles Driven**

An aerial photograph of a city street, likely in Milwaukee, showing tram tracks running down the center. On the left is a large, historic brick building with many windows. On the right is a modern building with a flat roof. In the background, a highway interchange and other city buildings are visible under a clear sky.

**Q1: Is the COVID-19 infection rate correlated with the number of traffic accidents?**

**Q2: Is the daily change in the infection rate correlated with the number of traffic accidents?**

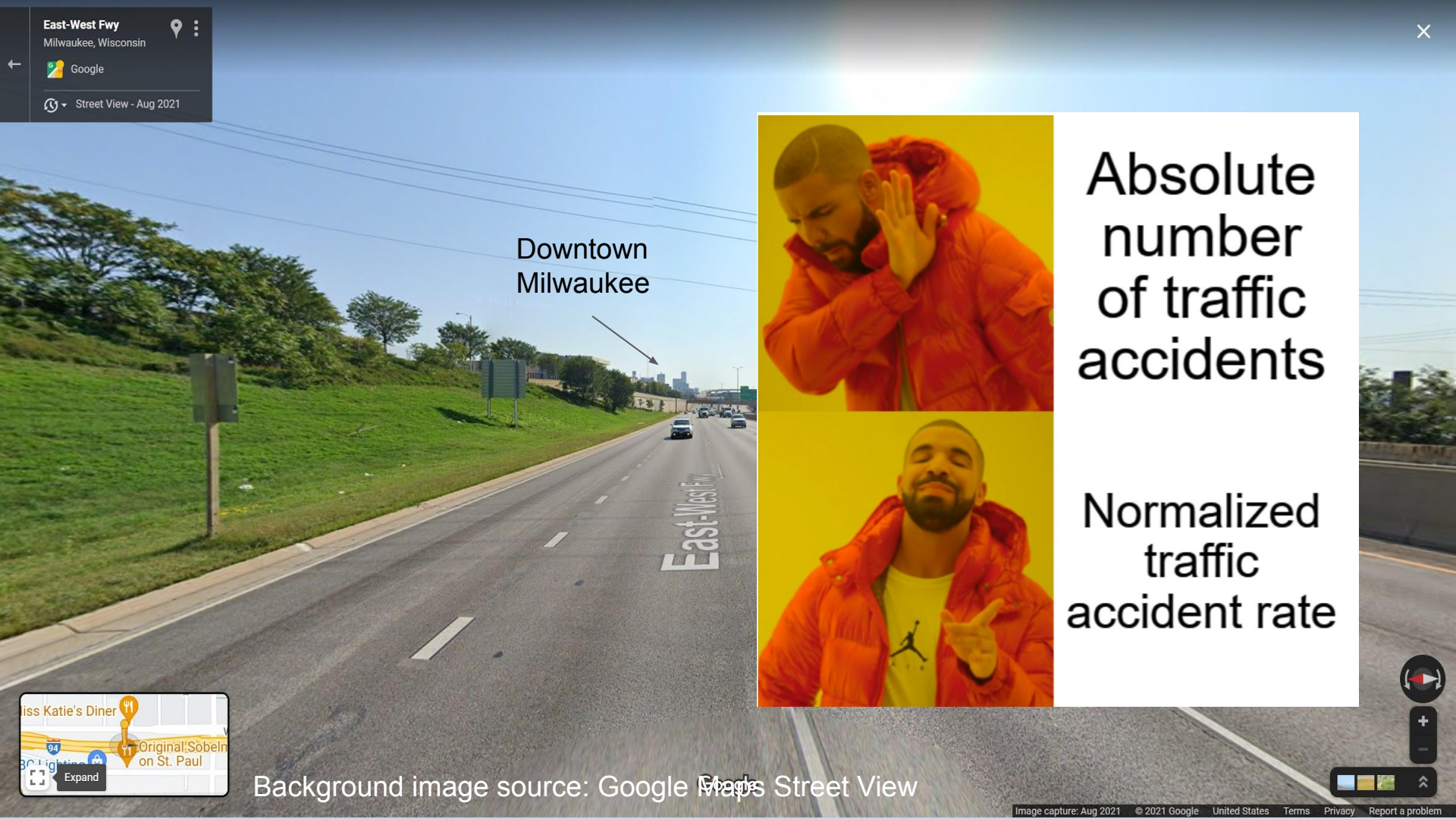


An aerial photograph of a city street scene. A wide, multi-lane road runs vertically through the center. To the right of the road is a large, multi-story brick building with a complex roofline, including a prominent octagonal tower. A green car is visible on the road. The surrounding area includes other buildings, trees, and a sidewalk. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark band across the middle of the image.

# Johns Hopkins COVID-19 case dataset City of Milwaukee Traffic Accidents dataset Wisconsin DOT Traffic Counter data

Background image source: still from [video](#) shot by Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel





East-West Fwy  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Google

Street View - Aug 2021

Downtown  
Milwaukee



Absolute  
number  
of traffic  
accidents



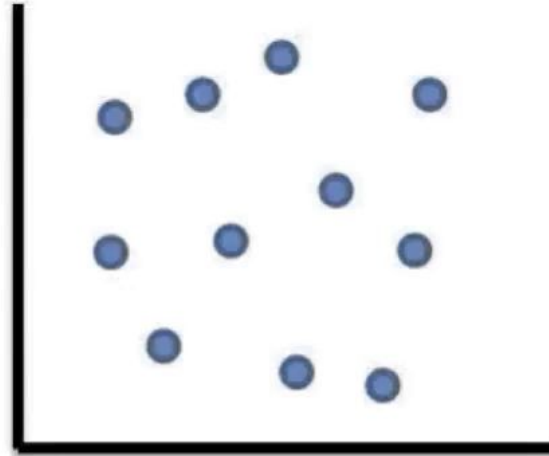
Normalized  
traffic  
accident rate

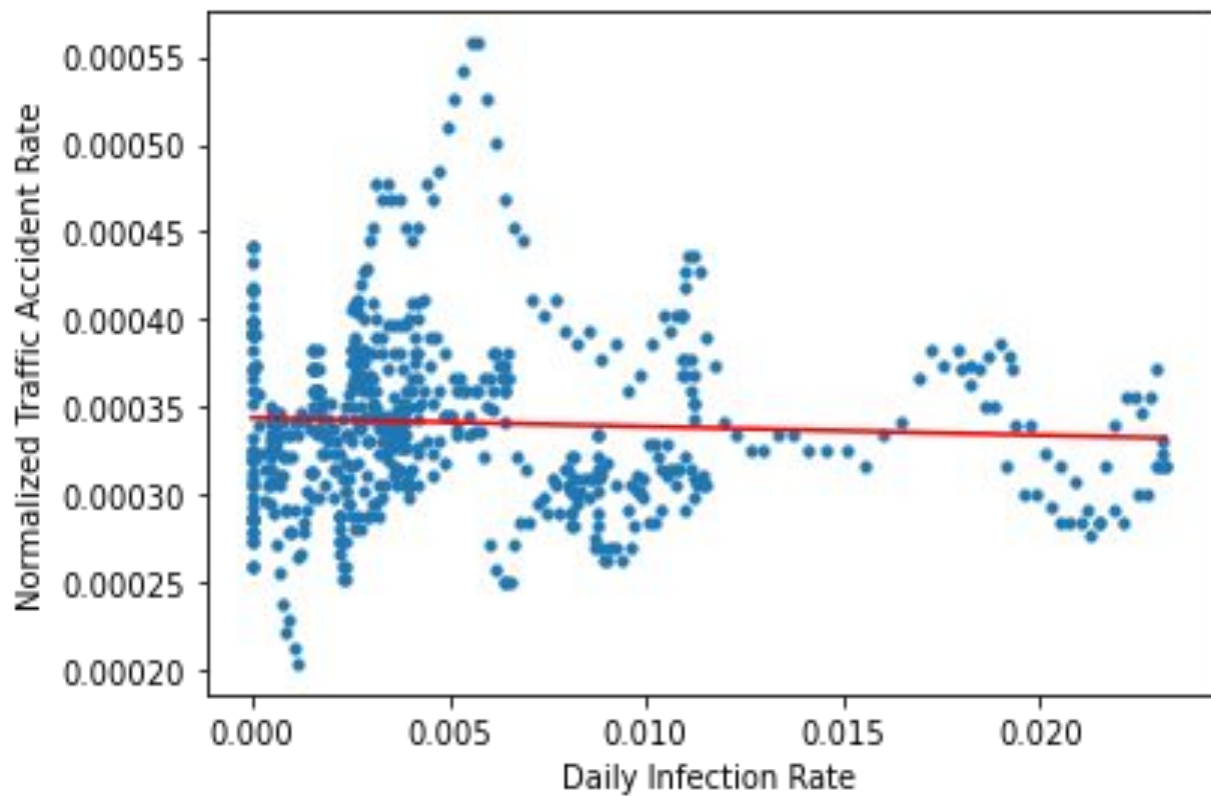


Background image source: Google Maps Street View



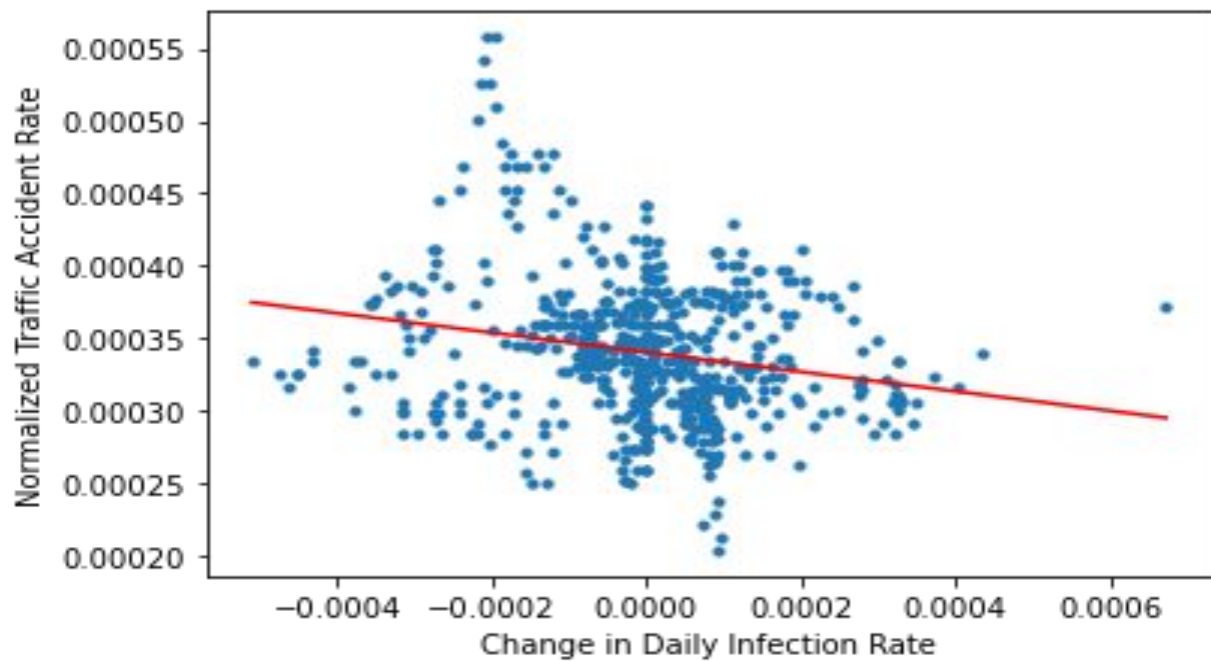
No Correlation





No correlation





Rising infection rate ~ lower rate of traffic accidents

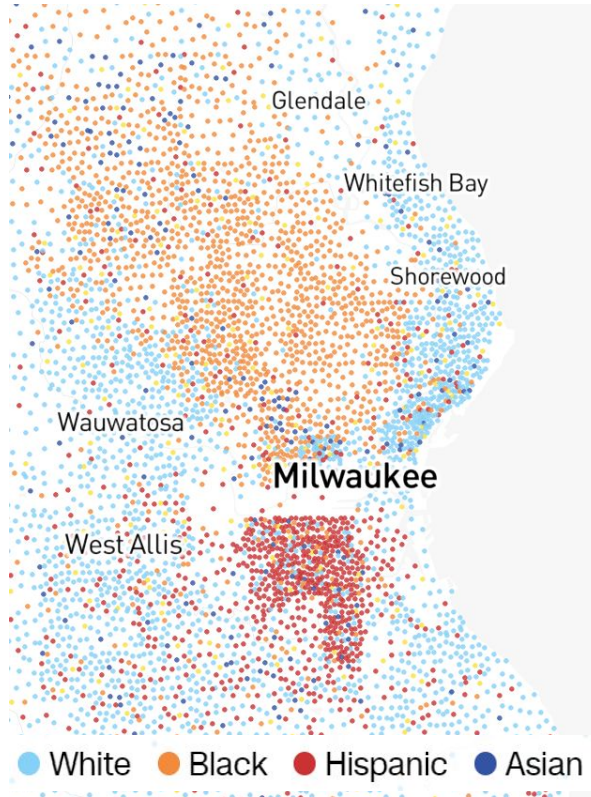
An aerial photograph of a city street, likely in Milwaukee, showing a mix of modern glass-fronted buildings and older, more classical structures. The street is wide with multiple lanes, and there are some cars visible. The lighting suggests it might be early morning or late afternoon. The text "Causality? Probably not" is overlaid in the center.

# Causality? Probably not

Background image source: still from [video](#) shot by Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel

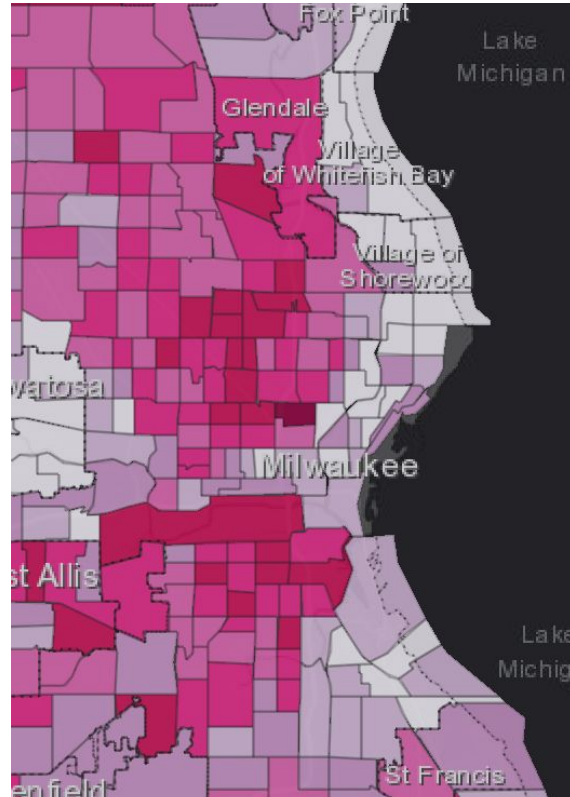


# There's only one kind of map



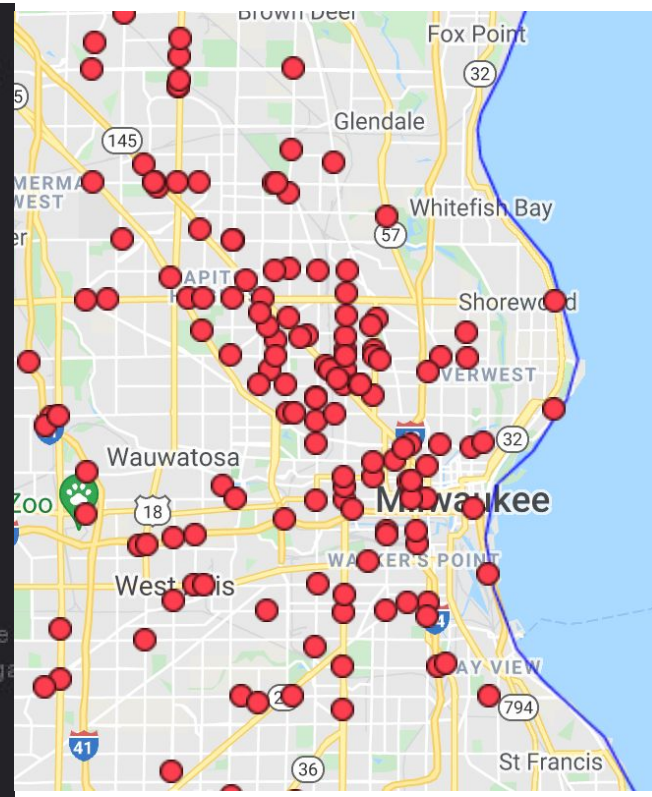
Racial Demographics

From [CNN's 2020 census racial dot map](#)



COVID-19 Hospitalizations

From [Milwaukee County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)



Traffic Fatalities

From [Wisconsin DOT interactive crash map](#)

An aerial photograph of a city street, likely in Milwaukee, taken during the "golden hour" of sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, hazy atmosphere and long shadows. The street is wide and appears mostly empty, with a few small vehicles visible in the distance. On the left side of the street, there are several buildings, including a prominent one with a flag on top. On the right side, a large, dark building with a tall, pointed steeple is visible. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey rectangle in the center, which contains the text "Thanks for listening" in a white, sans-serif font.

# Thanks for listening