



TEXAS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COALITION

TPSC Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2020



Agenda



10:00 – 10:10: Welcome, Introductions, and Virtual Meeting Overview

10:10 – 10:25: Update on 2020 Texas Pedestrian Safety Forum

10:25 – 10:55: Implications of Railroad Operations on Pedestrian Safety in Texas

- Carolyn Cook, Federal Railroad Administration
- Jessica Devorsky, Texas Operation Lifesaver
- Jeff Warner, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

10:55 – 11:15: Pedestrian Safety Updates from Local, Regional, and State Transportation Agencies

11:15 – 11:20: Stakeholder Updates

11:20 – 11:30: Prioritization Exercise for FY20/21 Coalition Activities

11:30: Adjourn



Virtual Meeting Best Practices



- Please stay muted unless you are speaking
 - This limits distracting sounds and noises that detract from the meeting
- Please use webcam if you can
- Actively participate in the meeting
 - Use WebEx chat
 - Use Poll Everywhere for communication
 - Participate in polls
 - Speak up!



Quick Refresher: Poll Everywhere

- Participate through:
 - smartphone application
 - cell phone text
 - web browser (smart phone or computer)

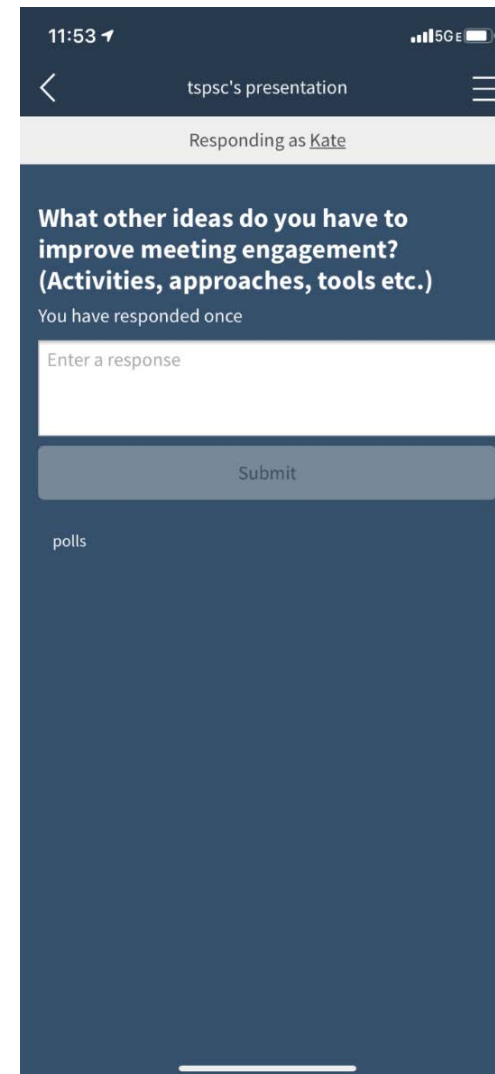
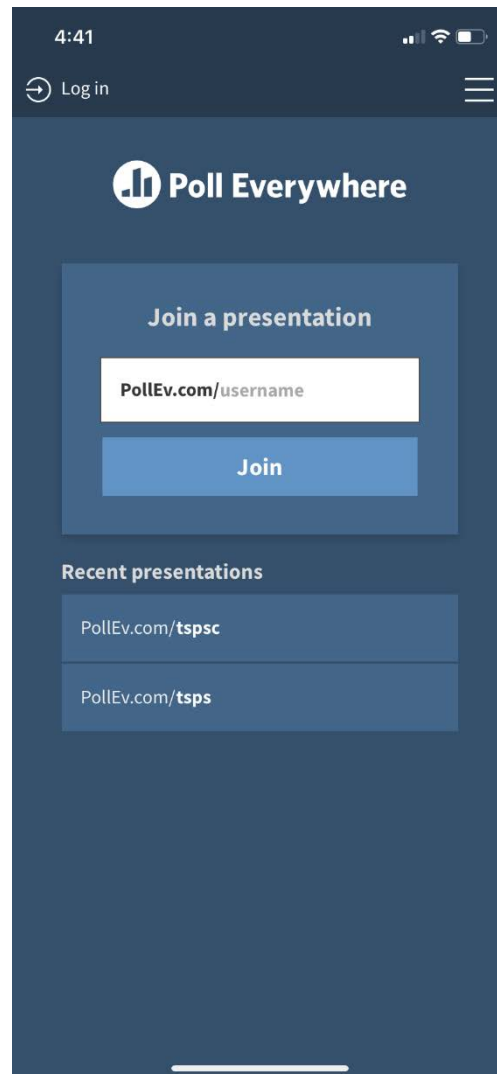
Respond at **PollEv.com/tspsc**

Text **TSPSC** to **37607** once to join, then text your message

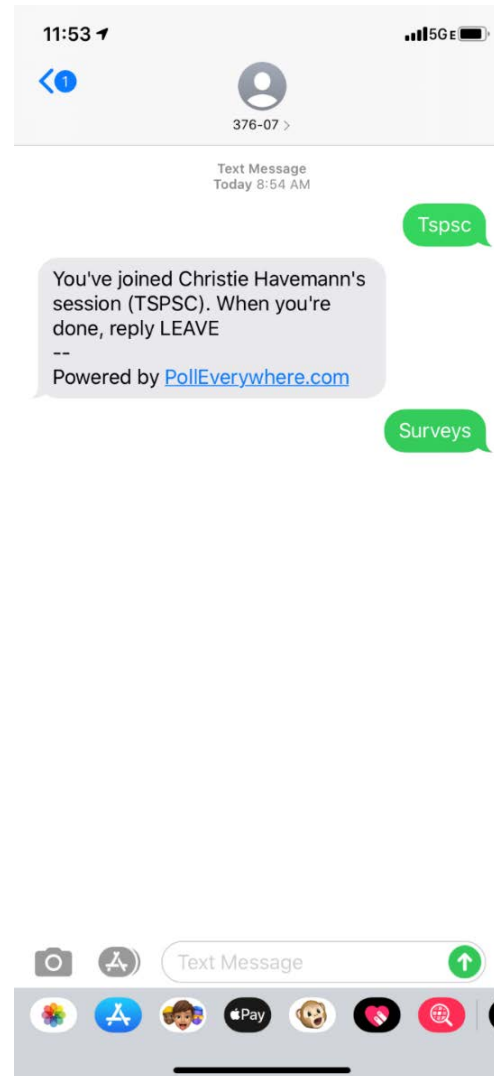
**What presentations, topics, sessions, and/or speakers would
you like to see at the 2020 Pedestrian Safety Conference?**



Poll Everywhere: Smartphone Application



Poll Everywhere: Cell Phone Text



Poll Everywhere: Web Browser



Secure | https://pollev.com/tspsc?_ga=2.82050261.2139576966.1574282118-1061770673.1574282118

Apps UT Is Mercury in Retro... The Beauty Look B... 5 Day Weather For... Facebook Nordstrom: Shoes,... RENT Twitter ConnectCarolina |... Pinterest Writing Posts « Wo... Other Bookmark

Christie H. Your presentation

Christie Havemann, this is your response page. Participants use this page to respond to your polling activities.

To make it your own, you can add a logo, change the colors, and customize the URL.

[Customize](#) [Don't show again](#)

Responding as [Christie H.](#)

Brainstorm Session: What ideas do you have to improve virtual meeting engagement?

You have not responded

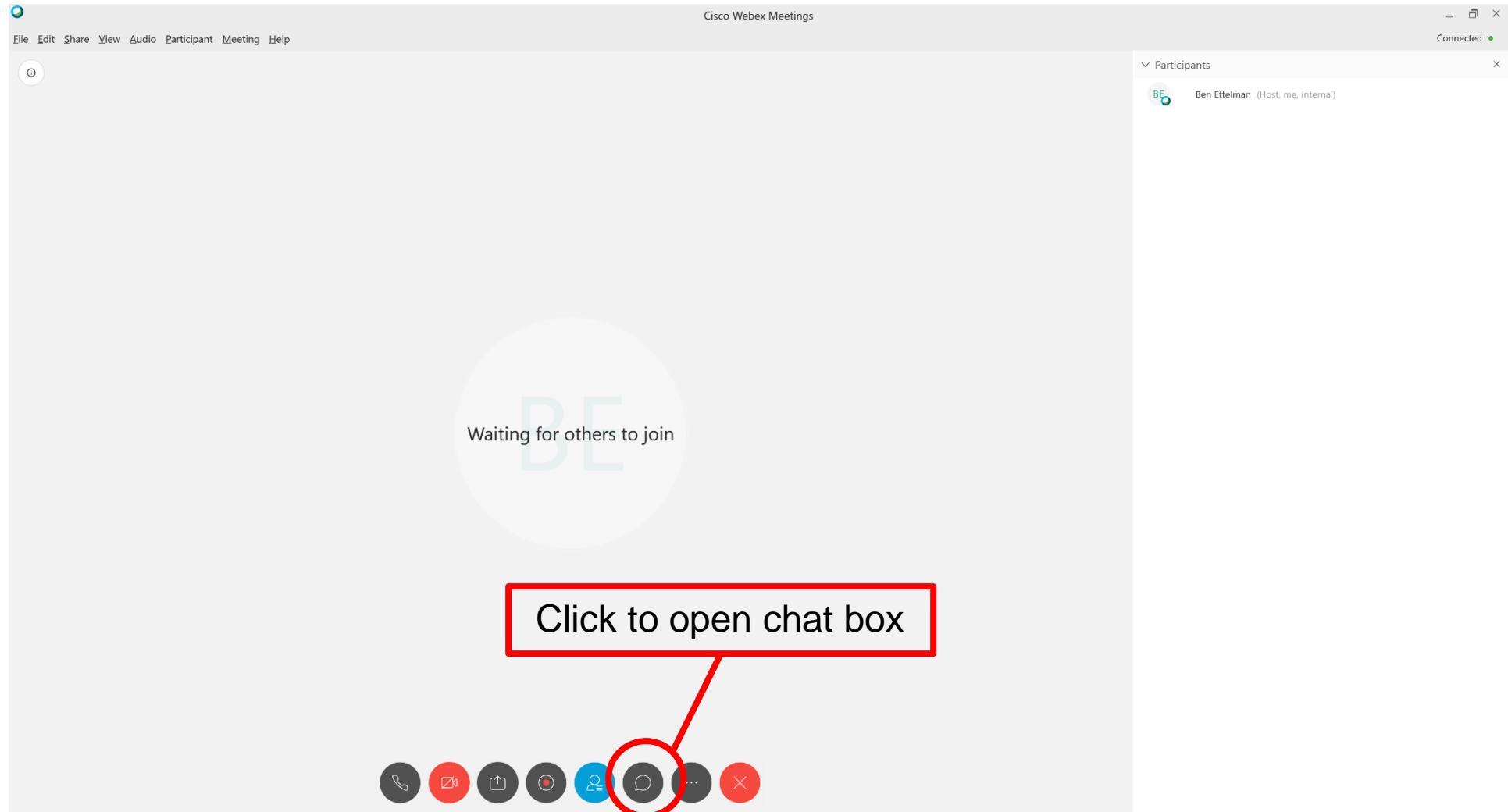
Enter a response

Submit

No responses submitted yet.



WebEx Chat Function



WebEx Chat Function

A screenshot of the Cisco Webex Meetings interface. The main window shows a large grey area with a large, faint "BE" watermark and the text "Waiting for others to join". The top bar includes a menu with "File", "Edit", "Share", "View", "Audio", "Participant", "Meeting", and "Help". The bottom bar contains icons for phone, video, screen share, recording, chat, and other controls. On the right side, there is a "Participants" panel showing "Ben Ettelman (Host, me, internal)" with a status of "Connected". Below the participants panel is a "Chat" window. Red annotations with arrows point to specific parts of the chat window: one points to the "To:" dropdown menu (labeled "Choose who you send chat to, will be either a specific user or everyone"), another points to the text input field (labeled "Enter text here"), and a third points to the chat message area (labeled "Chat will appear here").

Cisco Webex Meetings

File Edit Share View Audio Participant Meeting Help

Waiting for others to join

Participants

Ben Ettelman (Host, me, internal)

Connected

Chat

To: Everyone

Enter chat message here

Choose who you send chat to, will be either a specific user or everyone

Enter text here

Chat will appear here



2020 Texas Pedestrian Safety Forum



- Still planned for Thursday, August 6, 2020
 - Norris Center, Austin
 - Capacity: 225
- Decision will be made in June as to whether we transition to virtual event
 - Details TBD
- Actively developing agenda
 - Contact b-ettelman@tti.tamu.edu if you would like to present.



2020 Texas Pedestrian Safety Forum



- Brainstorming session:
 - What **presentations, topics, sessions, and/or speakers** would you like to see at the 2020 Pedestrian Safety Conference?
 - What **outreach strategies** (e.g., social media accounts, listservs, other coalitions, etc.) should we use to get the word out about the 2020 Pedestrian Safety Conference?



**What presentations, topics, sessions, and/or speakers
would you like to see at the 2020 Pedestrian Safety
Conference?**

What ideas do you have for outreach?

IMPLICATIONS OF RAILROAD OPERATIONS ON PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN TEXAS

- Carolyn Cook, Railroad Safety Specialist, Federal Railroad Administration
- Jessica Devorsky, Executive Director, Texas Operation Lifesaver
- Jeff Warner, Associate Research Scientist, Texas A&M Transportation Institute



Federal Railroad Administration

Moving America Forward

Railroad Crossing and Pedestrian Trespass Casualty Data 2010-2019

Texas Statewide Pedestrian Safety Coalition Meeting
April 8, 2020 – updated 4/10/2020 with Suicide Reports from Railroads

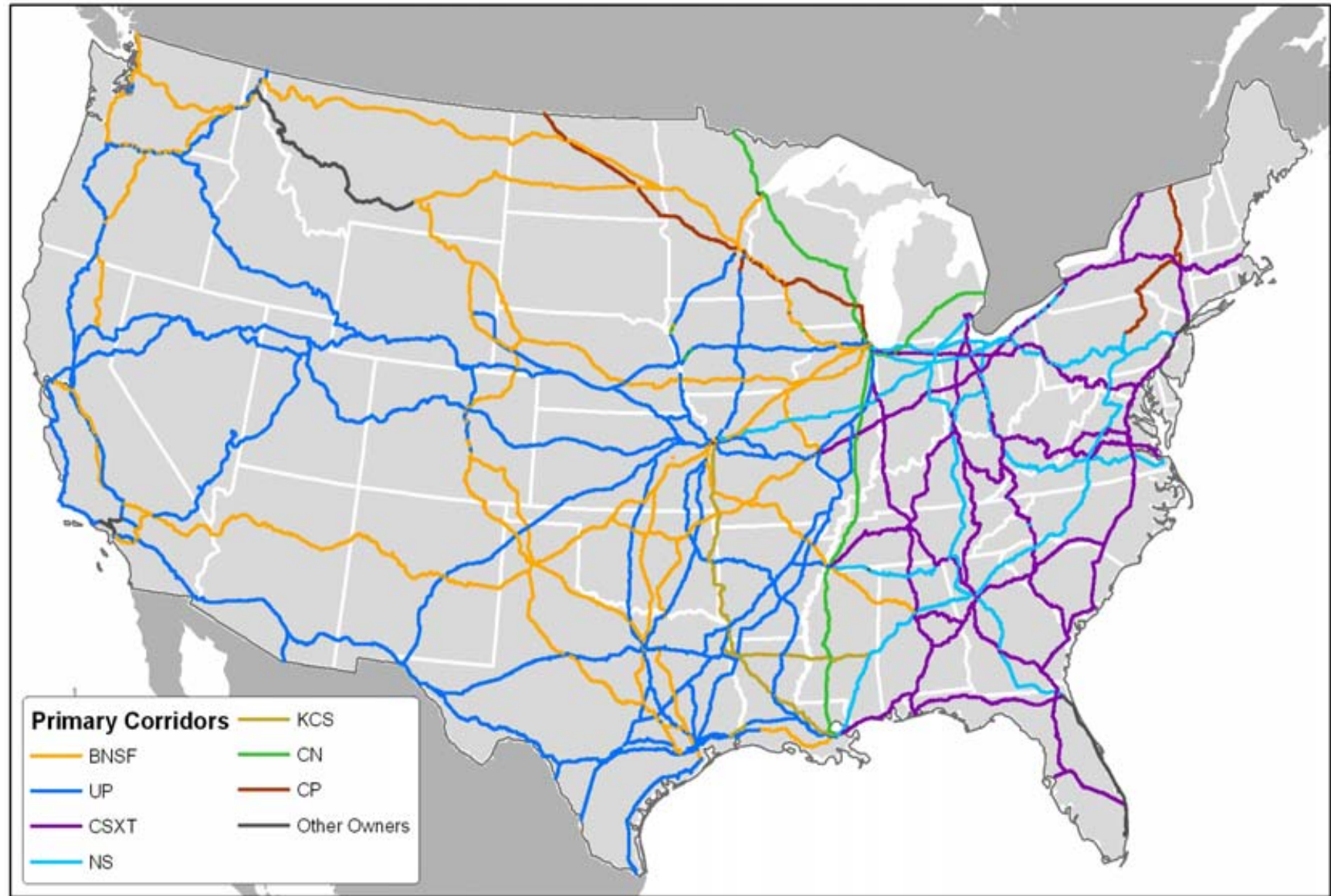


Region 5 Crossing and Trespass Prevention Program



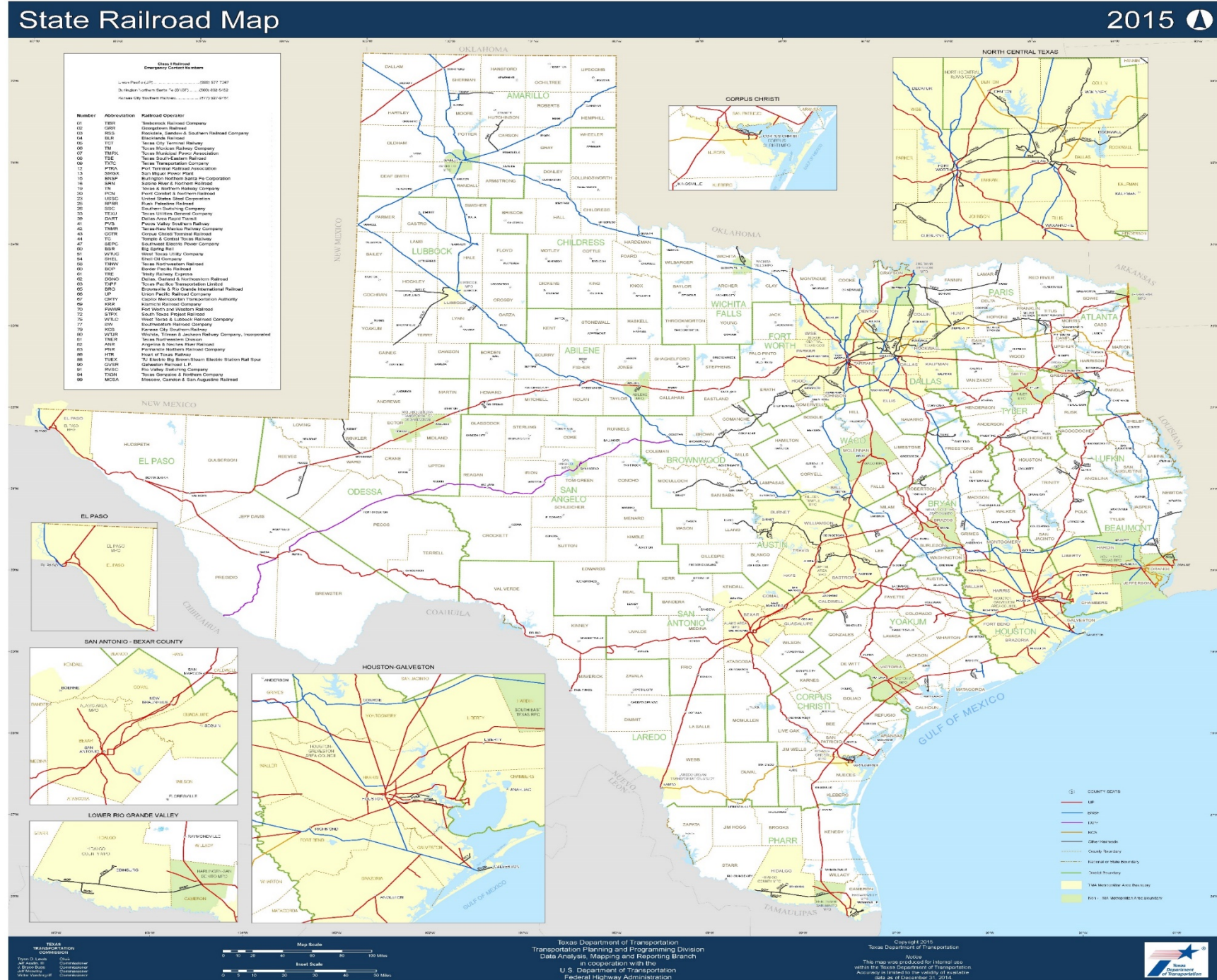
U.S. Rail Transportation System

- ❑ 140,000 miles of mainline track
 - 600 freight railroads including 7 Class I railroads, Amtrak and many local commuter railroads
- ❑ 205,568 total railroad crossings
 - ❖ **At-grade railroad crossings**
 - 126, 511 public highway
 - 76,259 private roadway
 - ❖ **At-grade pedestrian/pathway and station crossings**
 - 1503 public
 - 1227 private
 - ❖ **Grade separated railroad crossings**
 - 34,968 public highway
 - 2,777 private roadway
 - 981 public pedestrian/pathway and station
 - 169 private pedestrian/pathway and station



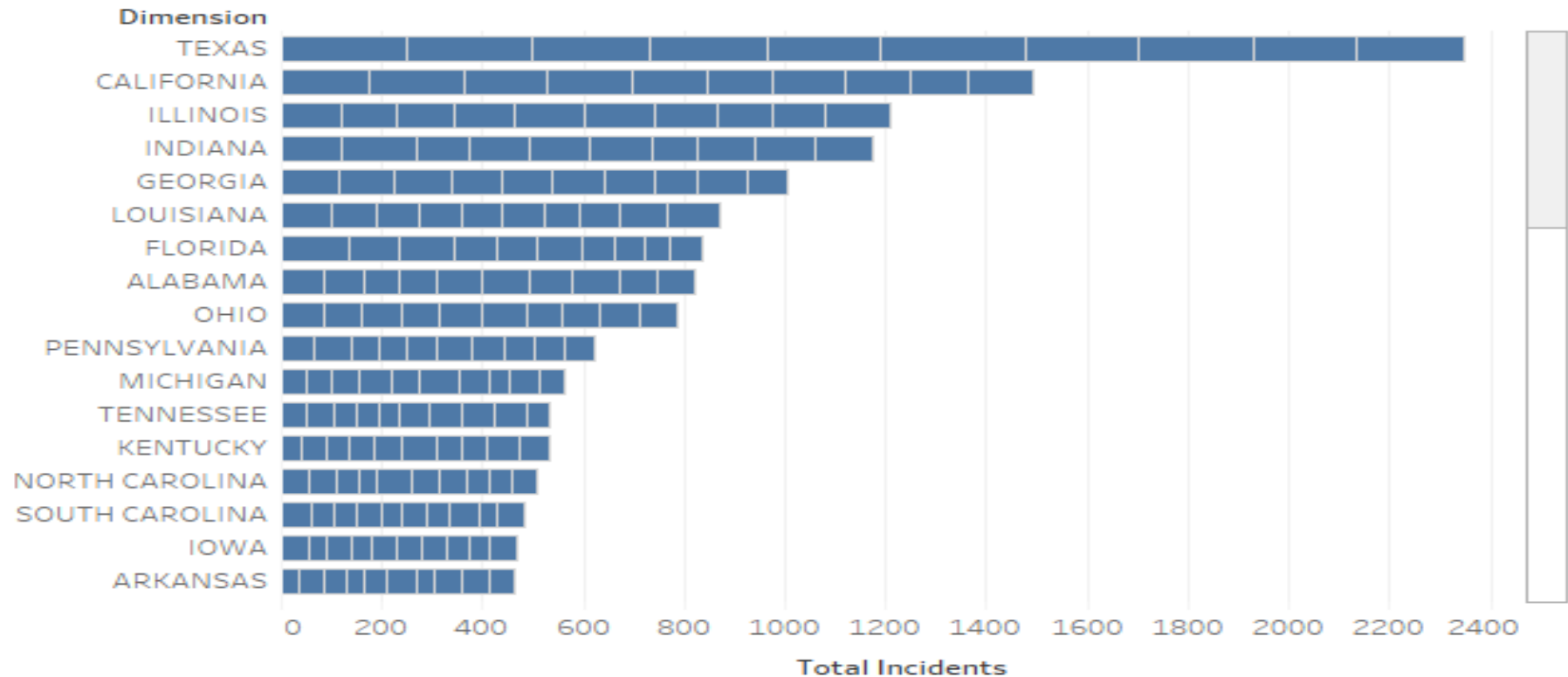
Railroad Transportation System

- ❑ 10,506 miles of track
 - 32% more than any other state
- ❑ 52 railroads
- ❑ 10 Million carloads transported per year
- ❑ 15,986 total railroad crossings
 - ❖ **At-grade railroad crossings**
 - 9,171 public highway
 - 4,750 private roadway
 - ❖ **At-grade pedestrian/pathway and station crossings**
 - 35 public
 - 22 private
 - ❖ **Grade separated railroad crossings**
 - 1,901 public highway
 - 164 private roadway
 - 48 public pedestrian/pathway and station
 - 5 private pedestrian/pathway and station



U.S. Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Collisions 2010-2019

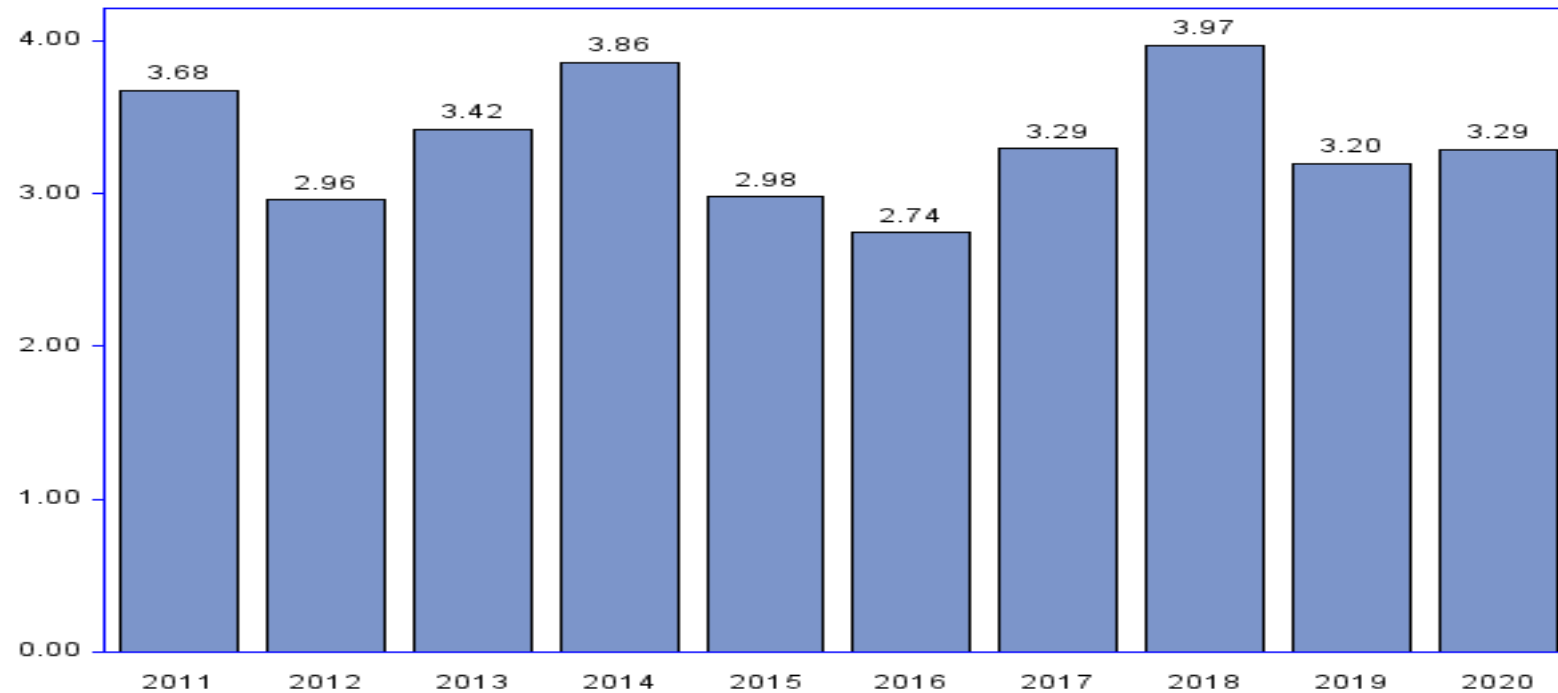
Highway-Rail Incidents (2010, 2011, 2012 and 7 more)



U.S. Highway-Rail Crossing Collisions

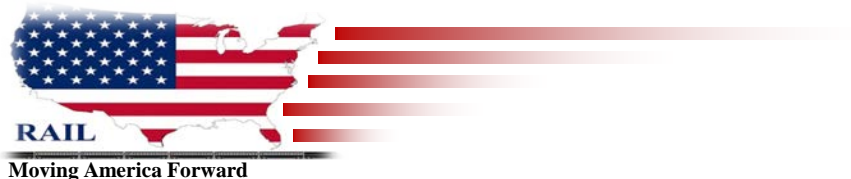
Rate per One Million Train Miles

11 — HIGHWAY—RAIL INCIDENT RATE, JAN — JAN (2020 preliminary)



Number of accidents per 1,000,000 train miles

Date of run: Mon, Mar 30, 2020



FRA — Office of Railroad Policy and Development

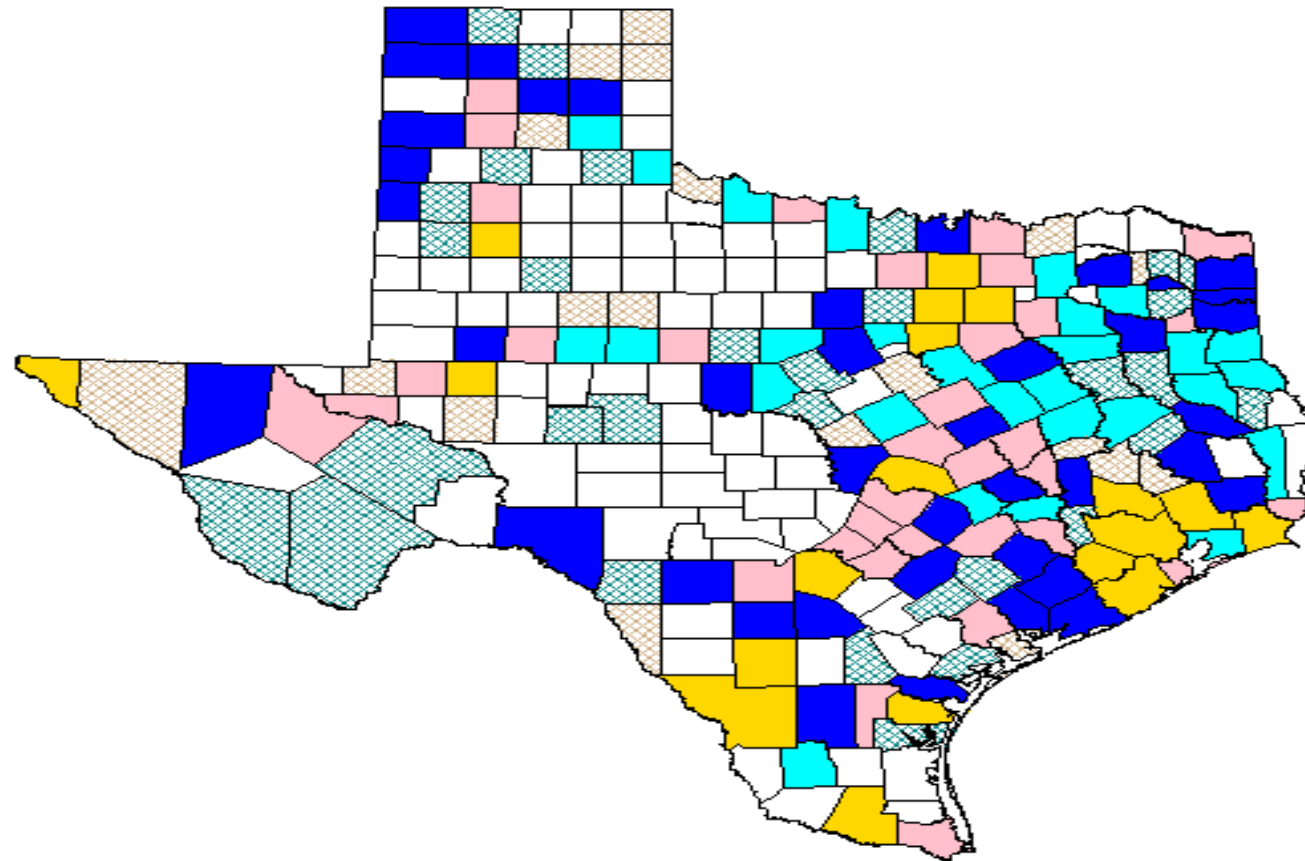
4/14/2020

Texas Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Collisions

Texas Collisions - Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Automobile	66	68	65	75	107	88	78	92	102	98	839
Truck-trailer	51	55	58	65	71	52	57	59	67	63	598
Pick-up truck	47	50	57	42	51	43	48	41	30	37	446
Truck/Van	14	16	20	16	26	20	16	10	19	24	181
Other motor vehicle	19	5	13	15	14	13	16	13	10	10	128
Pedestrian/Bicycles/Other	16	10	14	11	17	8	16	17	17	18	144
Motorcycle	0	0	1	2	3	0	.	1	.	.	7
School Bus/Bus	0	0	1	0	0	0	1			1	3
Yearly Texas Total	213	204	229	226	289	224	232	233	245	251	2346

Texas Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Collisions 2010 -2019

HIGHWAY—RAIL INCIDENTS FOR TEXAS, January 2010 TO December 2019
RAILROAD: ALL



Nbr

 **1**

 **2—3**

 **4—5**

 **6—10**

 **11—25**

 **> 25**

United States Rail Trespass Casualties

2009 – 2019 (Jan. –Oct)

Total Casualties

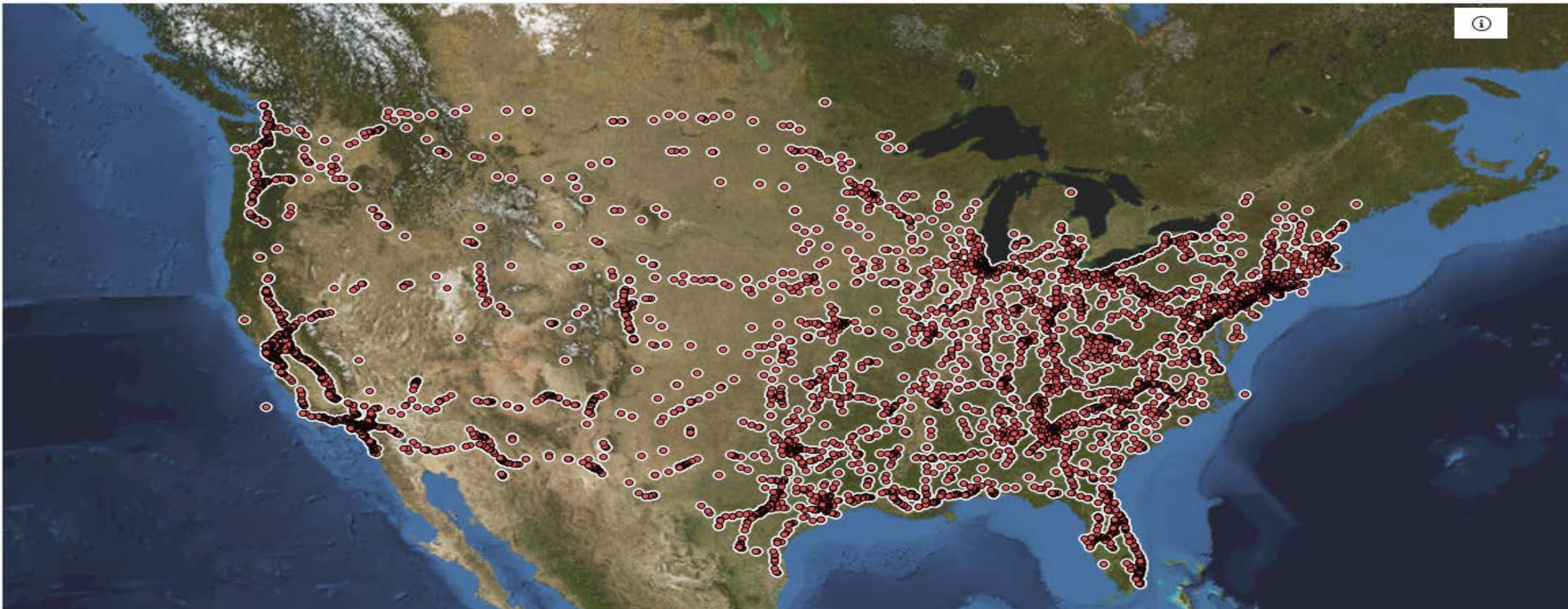
9,755

Fatalities

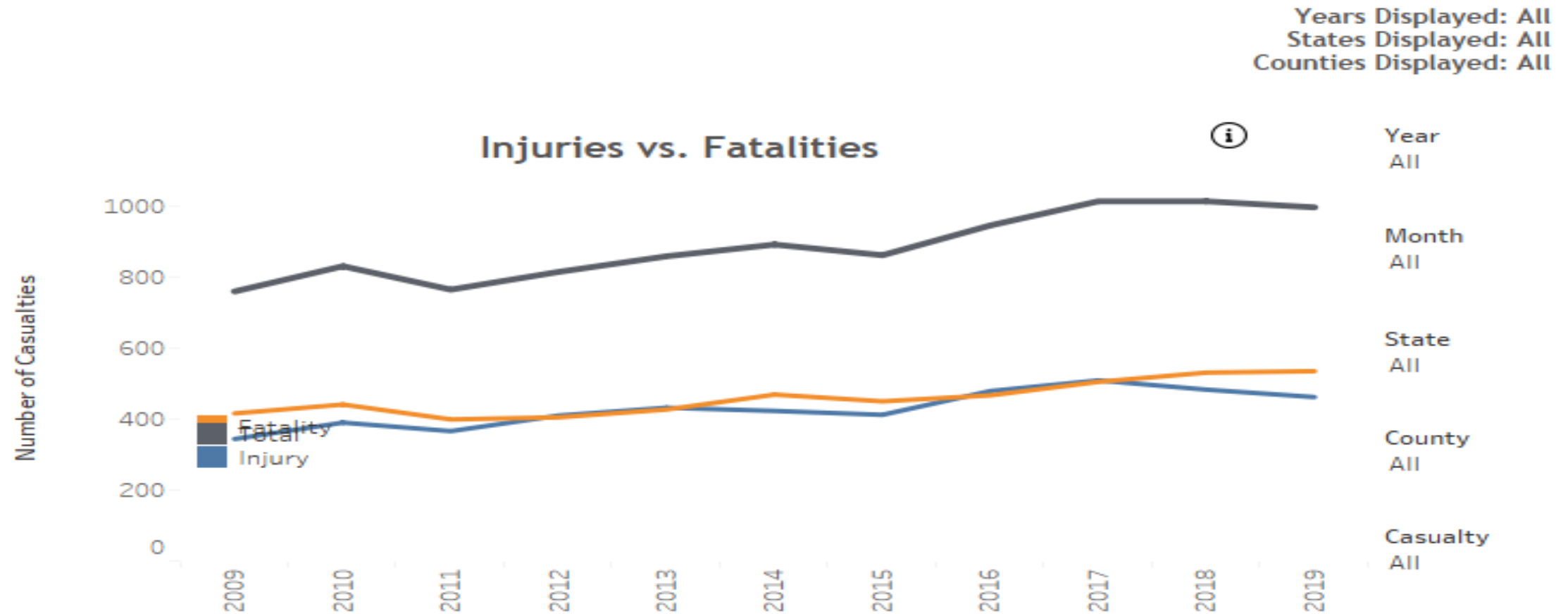
5,045

Injuries

4,710



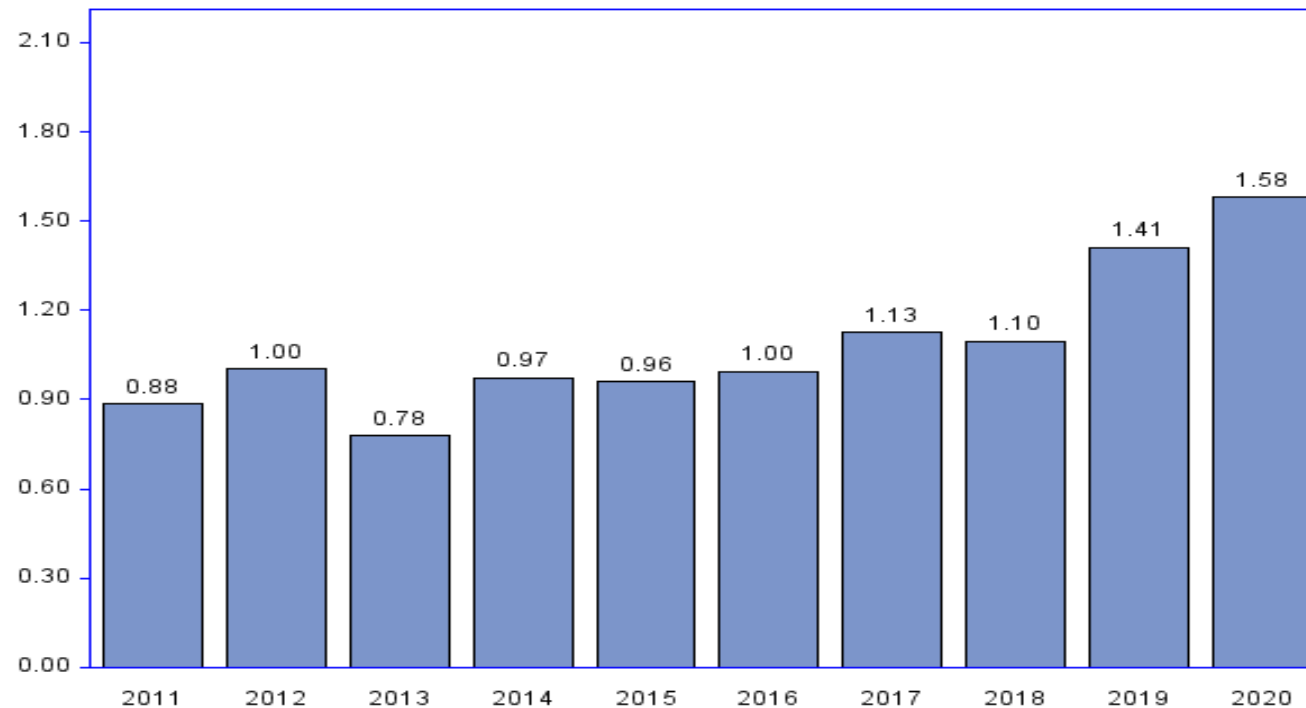
U. S. Rail Trespass Casualties 2009 – 2019 (Jan. – Oct.)



U.S. Trespasser Casualties

Rate per Million Train Miles

15 — TRESPASSER CASUALTY RATE, JAN — JAN (2020 preliminary)



Moving America Forward

Total fatalities and injuries per 1,000,000 train miles

Date of run: Mon, Mar 30, 2020

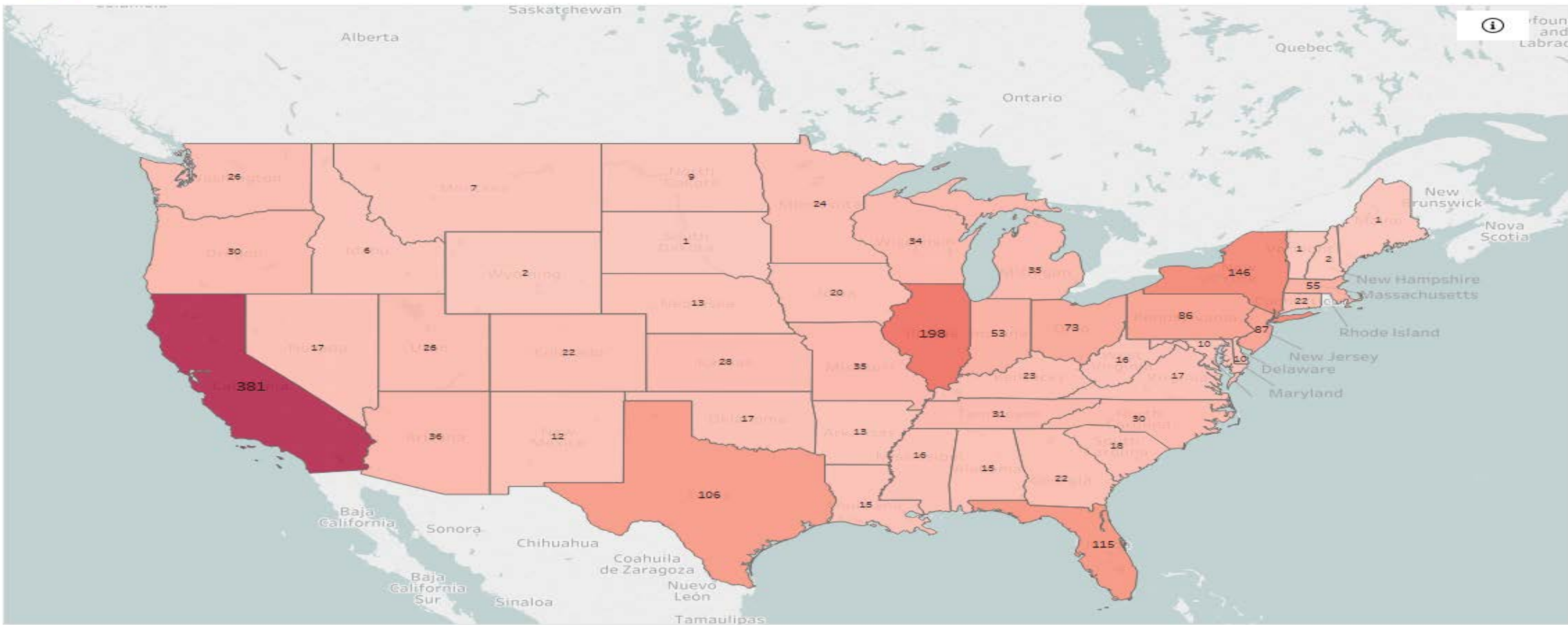
FRA — Office of Railroad Policy and Development

4/14/2020



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

U.S. Trespass Suicides Reported on Railroads



Count of Suicides (based on number of suicide incident records by State)



Texas Rail Trespass Casualties

2009 – 2019 (Jan. – Oct.)

Total Casualties

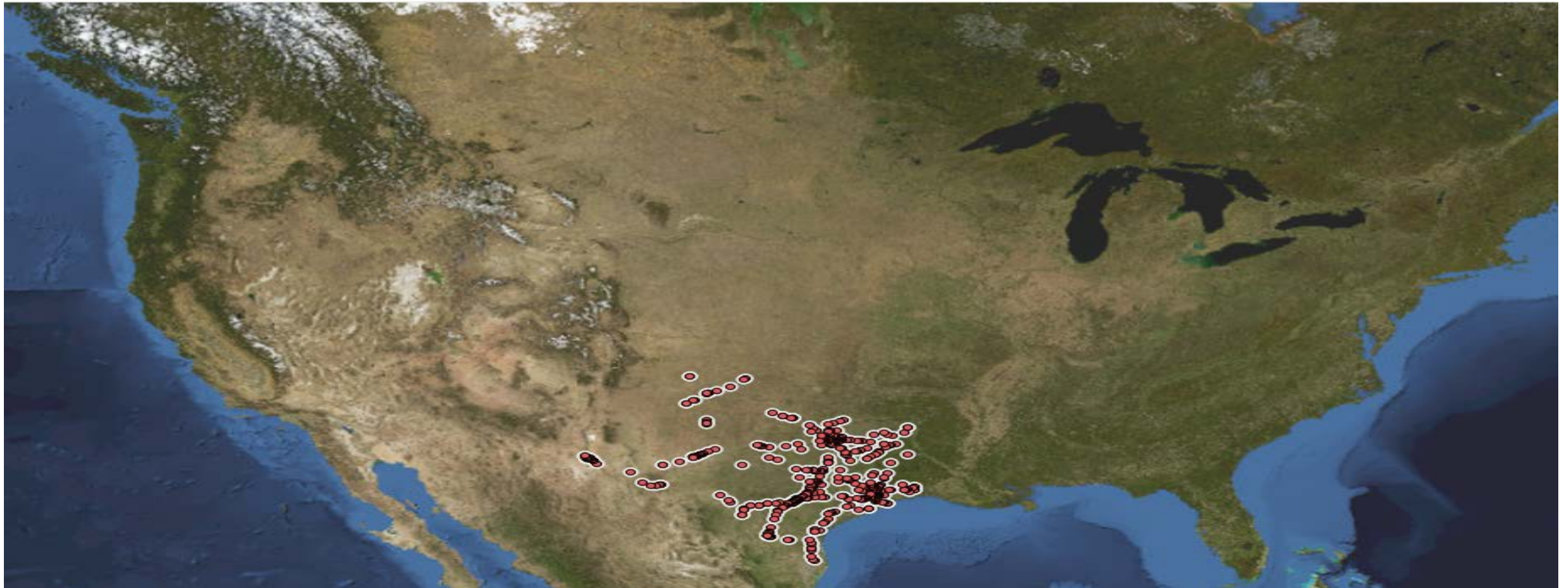
820

Fatalities

361

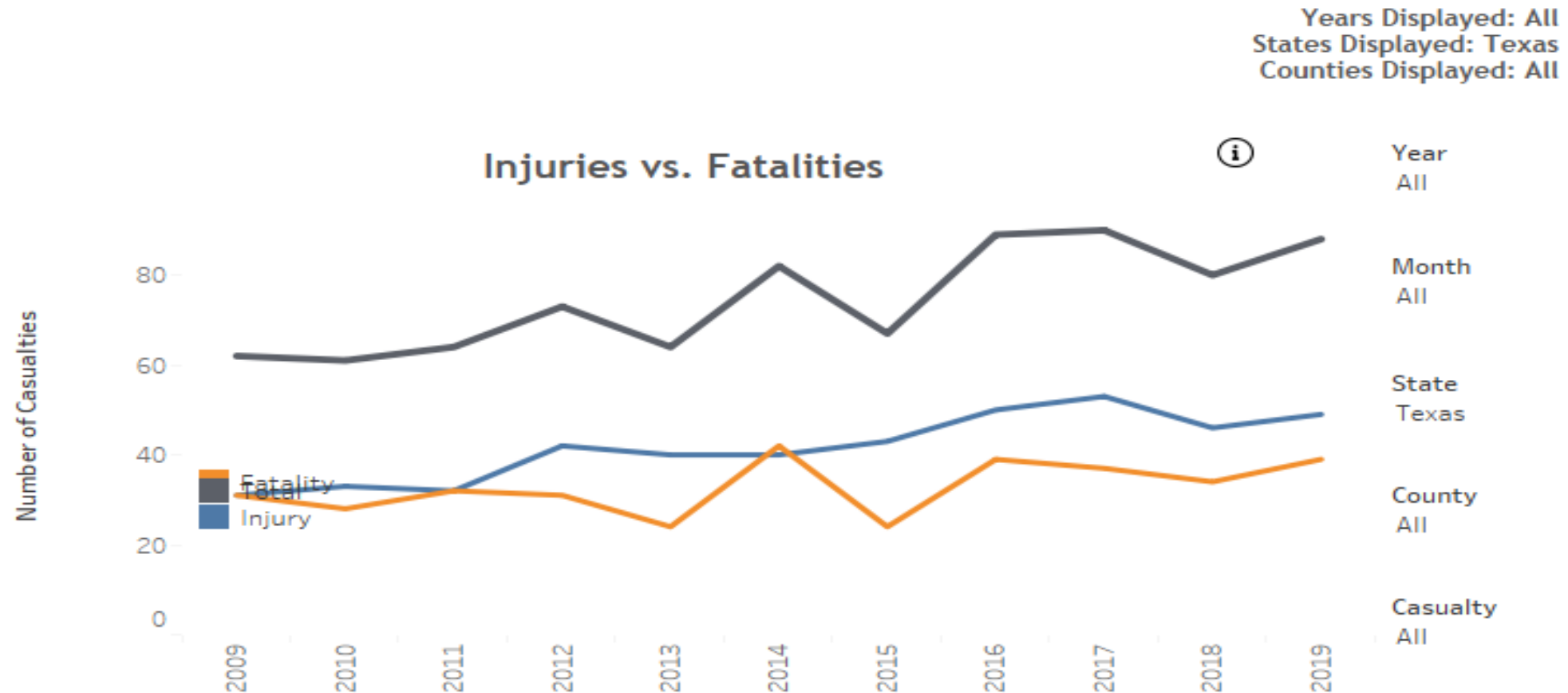
Injuries

459

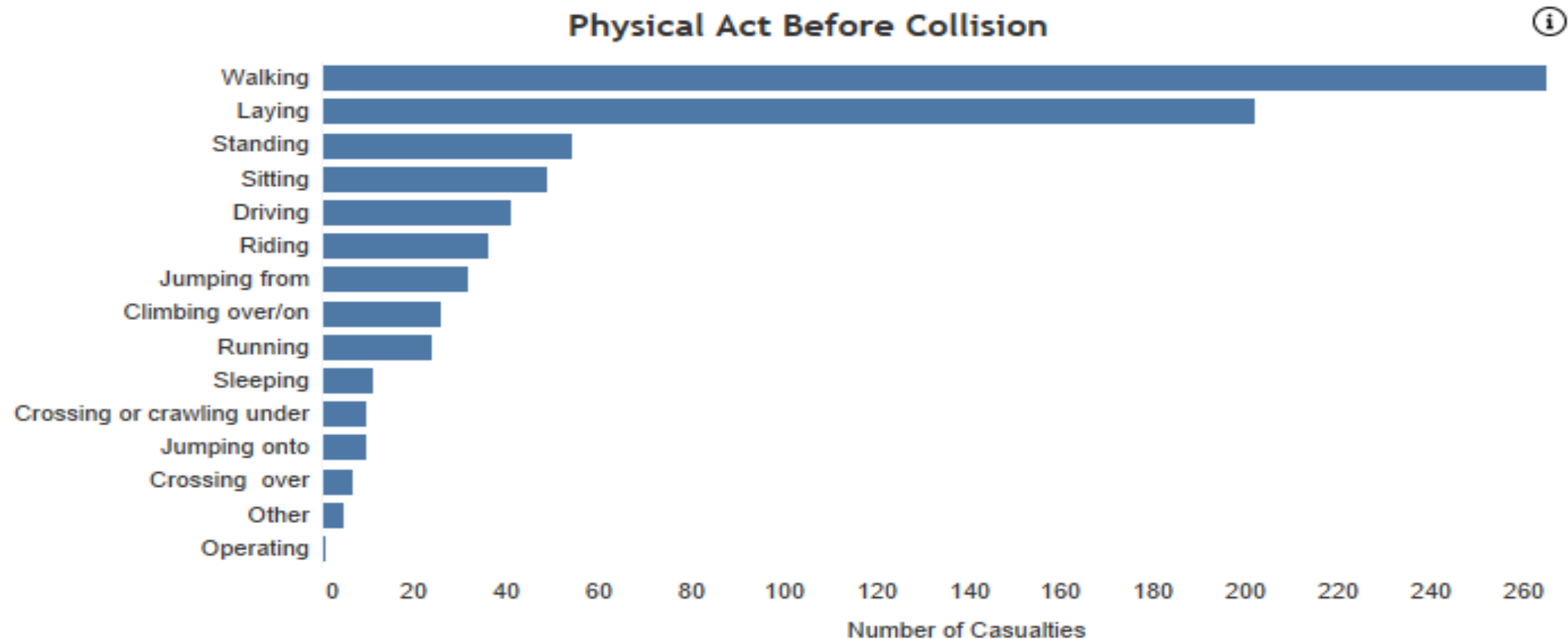


Texas Rail Trespass Casualties

2009 – 2019 (Jan. – Oct.)

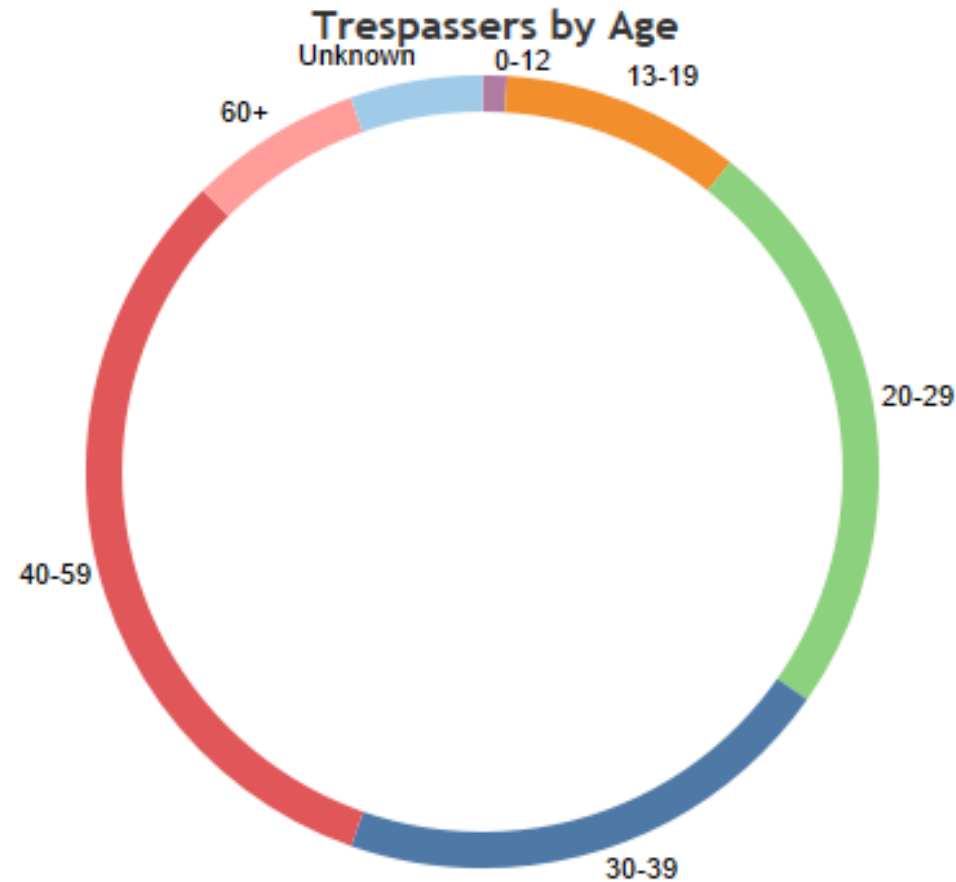


Texas Rail Trespass by Prior Physical Act 2009 – 2019 (Jan. – Oct.)



Texas Rail Trespass Casualties by Age

2009 – 2019 (Jan. – Oct.)



FRA – Office of Railroad Policy and Development

4/14/2020

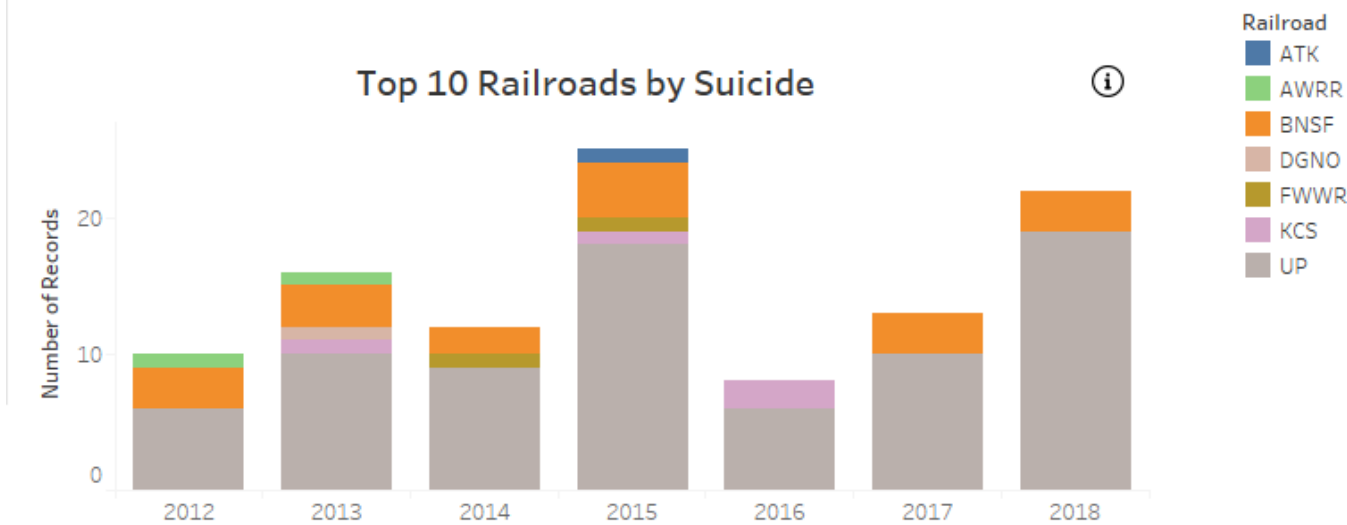
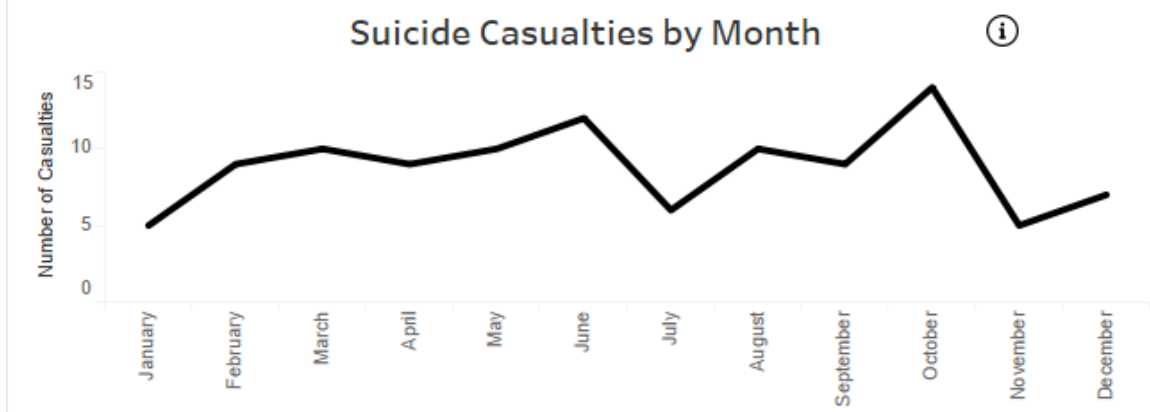
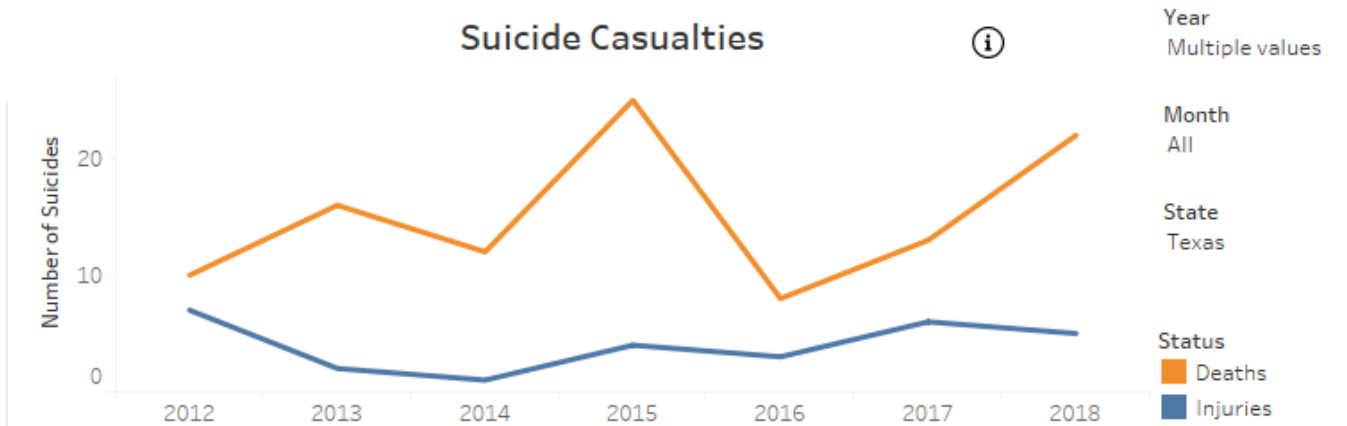
Texas Suicides Reported on Railroads



Suicides Overview Jan 2012 - Oct 2019



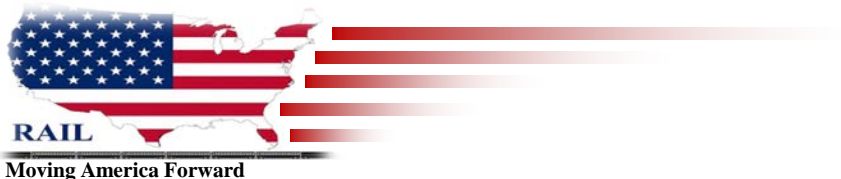
Count of Suicides (based on number of suicide incident records by State)



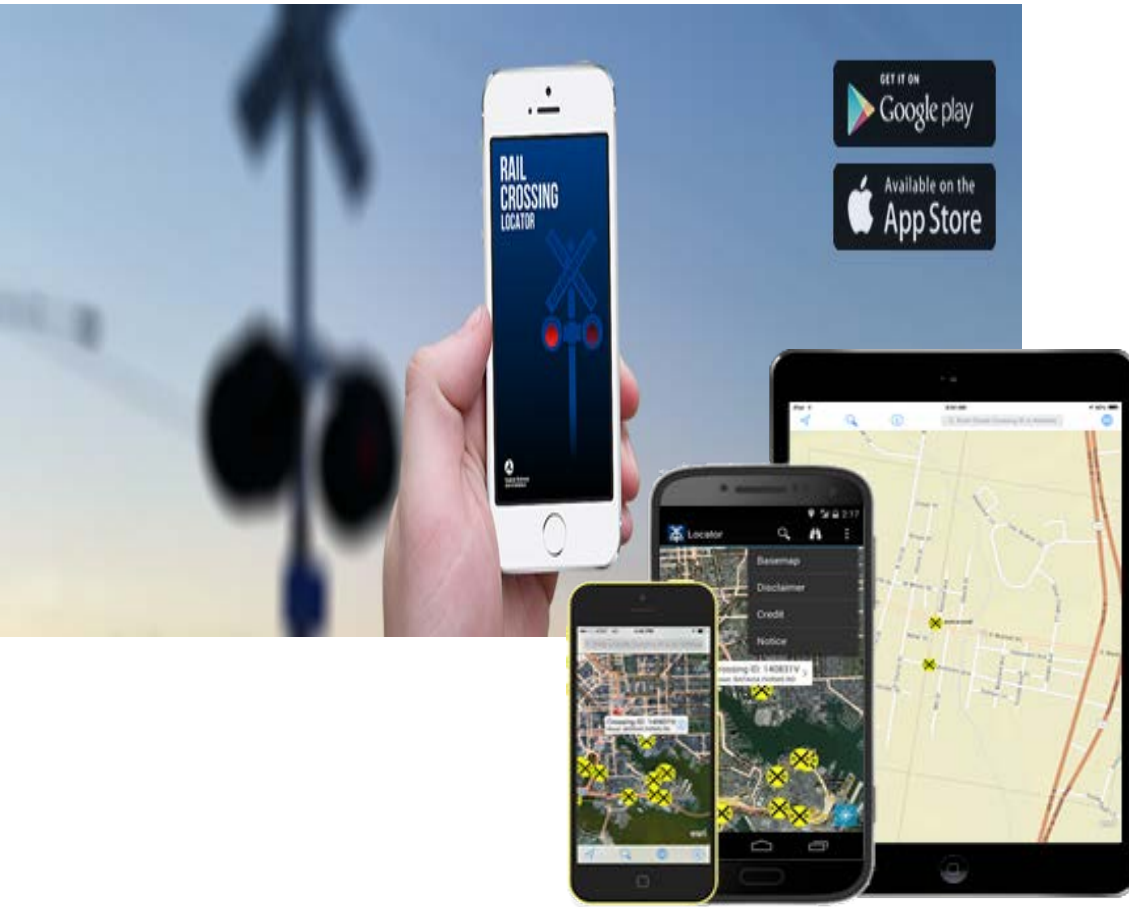
National Strategy to Prevent Rail Trespassing

October 2018

- Report to Congress
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Subject Trespasser Programs, Accident Reduction, Grade Crossings
- Abstract/Summary
- Trespassing on railroad property is the leading cause of all rail-related deaths in the United States. More people are struck and killed by trains each year while trespassing – illegally entering or remaining on a railroad right-of-way – than in motor vehicle collisions with trains at highway-rail grade crossings. Between 2012 and 2017, the annual number of trespass-related pedestrian fatalities increased 18 percent, from 725 people killed in 2012 to 855 in 2017. In calendar year 2018, 324 pedestrian trespass fatalities had occurred by July 31, 2018. Data indicates that the number of trespassing occurrences each year far exceeds the number of fatalities and injuries. This raises serious concern of the potential for even more trespasser accidents.
- [Download ROA 6310005 Congress TrespasserPreventionStrategy 2018.pdf](#)



Rail Crossing Locator mobile app



The Crossing Locator App is currently available for your Apple and Android mobile devices.

IPHONES and IPADS

Download it from [The Apple APP Store.\(link is external\)](#)

ANDROID PHONES and TABLETS

Download it from [The Google Play Store.](#)

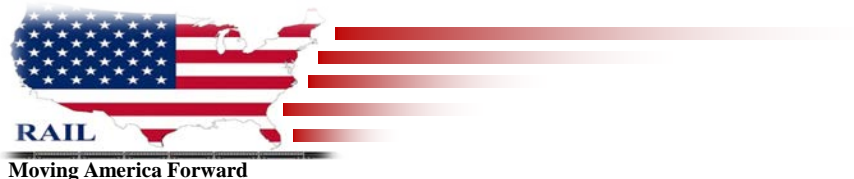
Have questions about the Rail Crossing Locator?
Email us at FRA: webinquiries@dot.gov(link sends email)

Thank you!

**Compiled from FRA data at Rail Safety
Data/fra.dot.gov**

Please contact me if you have any questions:

**Carolyn Cook, Grade Crossing Specialist
Federal Railroad Administration - Region 5
817-312-9714 (office/mobile)
CAROLYN.COOK@DOT.GOV**



FRA – Office of Railroad Policy and Development

4/14/2020



Trespassing on Rail Transit Systems in Texas

Jeff Warner

Texas A&M Transportation Institute

J-warner@tti.tamu.edu; (979) 317-2567

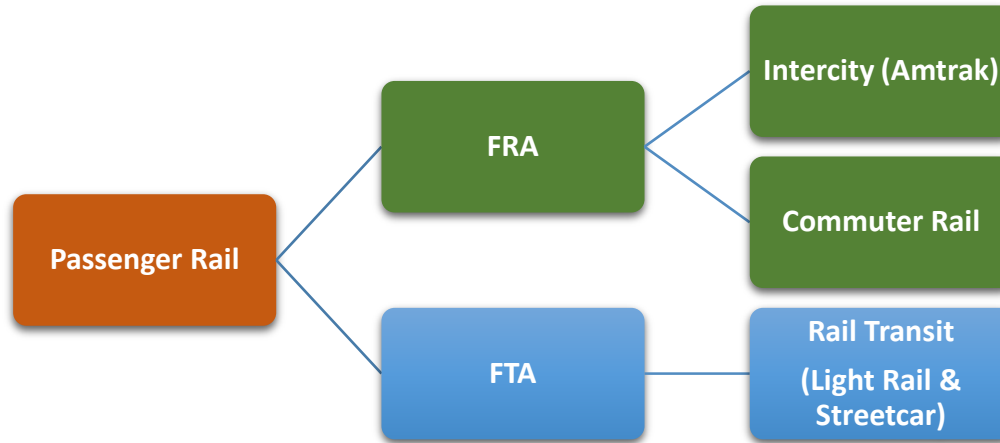
April 8, 2020

Passenger Rail Overview

- Passenger Rail ranges from Intercity Passenger Rail (Amtrak) to Streetcars
- Passenger rail operations differ in:
 - Operating speeds
 - Frequency of stops
 - Train consists
- Pedestrians interact with passenger rail systems for a variety of reasons
 - Access to stations
 - Grade crossings
 - Shortcuts



32.867733, -96.766935



Passenger Rail in Texas

- Federal Railroad Administration

- Intercity passenger rail (Amtrak)

- Texas Eagle
 - Sunset Limited
 - Heartland Flyer

- Commuter rail

- MetroRail (Austin)
 - TEXRail (DFW)
 - TRE (DFW)
 - A-Train (Denton)

- Federal Transit Administration

- Light Rail

- DART (DFW)
 - METRO Rail (Houston)

- Streetcar

- Sun Metro (El Paso)
 - M-Line “McKinney Avenue Trolley” (MATA)
 - Dallas Streetcar (DART)

Focus on Rail Transit Trespassing Data

- Assumed following crash codes equaled trespassers
 - Pedestrians in crossing
 - Pedestrian not in crossing
 - Pedestrian crossing tracks
 - Pedestrian walking along tracks
- Streetcar: 2014 – 2018 Trespassing Incidents
 - Nationwide
 - 3 fatalities
 - 29 injuries
 - Texas
 - 1 injury (Note: Dallas Streetcar began April 2015; Sun Metro began Nov. 2018)

Focus on Rail Transit Trespassing Data

- Light Rail: Texas Light Rail Systems

	Overall	Texas	
	Light Rail	DART	METRORail
Track Mileage			
Number of Svstems	22	1	1
Total Track-Miles	1,673	207	60
* At Grade - Exclusive ROW	294	0	1.9
* At Grade - with Cross Traffic	898	125.8	50
* At Grade - Mixed and Cross Traffic	64	3.6	4.6
* Elevated - on Structure	168	68.7	3
* Elevated - on Fill	103	0	0.6
* Open Cut	55	2.2	0
* Subway	90	6.2	0
Subtotal of At-Grade Track-Miles	1,257	129	57
* % At-Grade Track-Miles to Total Track-Miles	75%	63%	94%
* % At-Grade - Mixed and Cross-Traffic Track-Miles to At-Grade Track Miles	5%	3%	8%
* % At-Grade - Mixed and Cross-Traffic to Total Track-Miles	4%	2%	8%
Number of Crossings			
Total Number of Crossings	2,326	171	165
* With Cross Traffic	1,763	143	131
* Mixed and Cross Traffic	563	28	34
% of Mixed and Cross-Traffic to Total Number of Crossings	24%	16%	21%

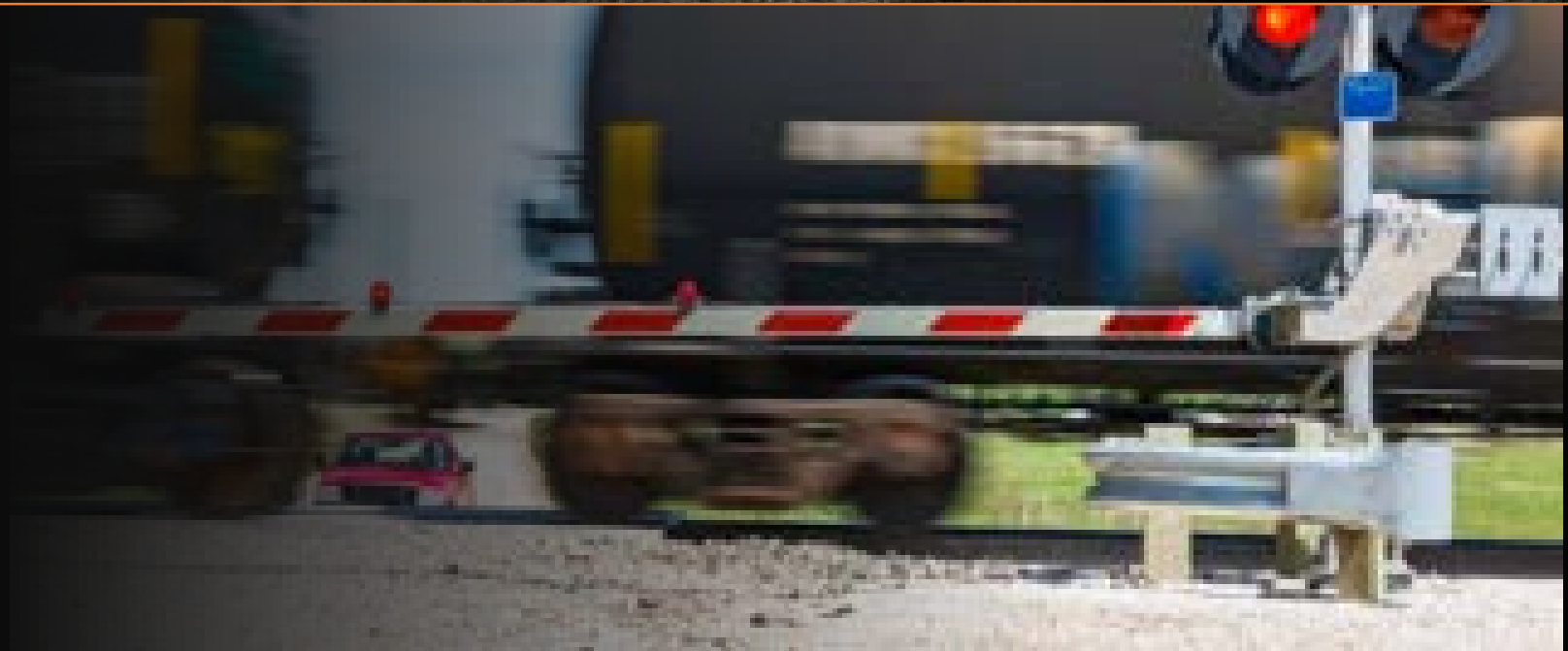
Focus on Rail Transit Trespassing Data

- Light Rail: 2014 – 2018 Trespassing Casualties

	Overall	DART	METRORail	Texas
Total All Fatalities	214	16	17	33
Suicide	60	3	6	9
Total Trespassing Fatalities	61	4	6	10
* Pedestrian In Crossing	24	3	0	3
* Pedestrian Not in Crossing	11	1	3	4
* Pedestrian Crossing Tracks	15	0	2	2
* Pedestrian Walking Along Tracks	11	0	1	1
Total All Injuries	5,041	374	321	695
Suicide	109	7	2	9
Total Trespassing Injuries	172	12	21	33
* Pedestrian In Crossing	71	5	3	8
* Pedestrian Not in Crossing	44	4	11	15
* Pedestrian Crossing Tracks	31	2	5	7
* Pedestrian Walking Along Tracks	26	1	2	3

Texas Operation Lifesaver and its mission

Jessica Devorsky
Executive Director



Mission

Operation Lifesaver is a non-profit organization that provides public education programs in states across the U.S. to prevent collisions, injuries and fatalities on and around railroad tracks and highway-rail grade crossings. Injuries and fatalities that occur at highway-rail crossings or on railroad property are a real, but often preventable, problem. We are committed to providing the educational resources and necessary solutions to help resolve this problem.

In September 2019, the Texas House enacted
HB 2775:

A pedestrian may not move in front of, under, between, or through the cars of a moving or stationary train occupying any part of a railroad grade crossing.



Texas Operation Lifesaver delivered safety presentations to over 21,000 Texans in 2019.

Photographers

Driver Education

School Bus Drivers

Law Enforcement

General Adult

K-12 Students

Professional Drivers

Media

First Responders



Terms

- Accident- Incident, Crash or collision
Operation Lifesaver avoids using the word accident because accidents cannot be prevented.
- Active Warning Devices- Any combination of flashing red lights, bells, and automatic gates
- Rail Grade Crossing- General area where a road and railroad cross at the same level
- Pedestrian- A person afoot, in a wheelchair, on skates, or on a skateboard
- Trespasser- Any person who is on railroad property or on railroad rights-of-way without permission
- Railroad Right-Of-Way- Private land, property, or interest therein, extending a given distance on each side of the railroad tracks.

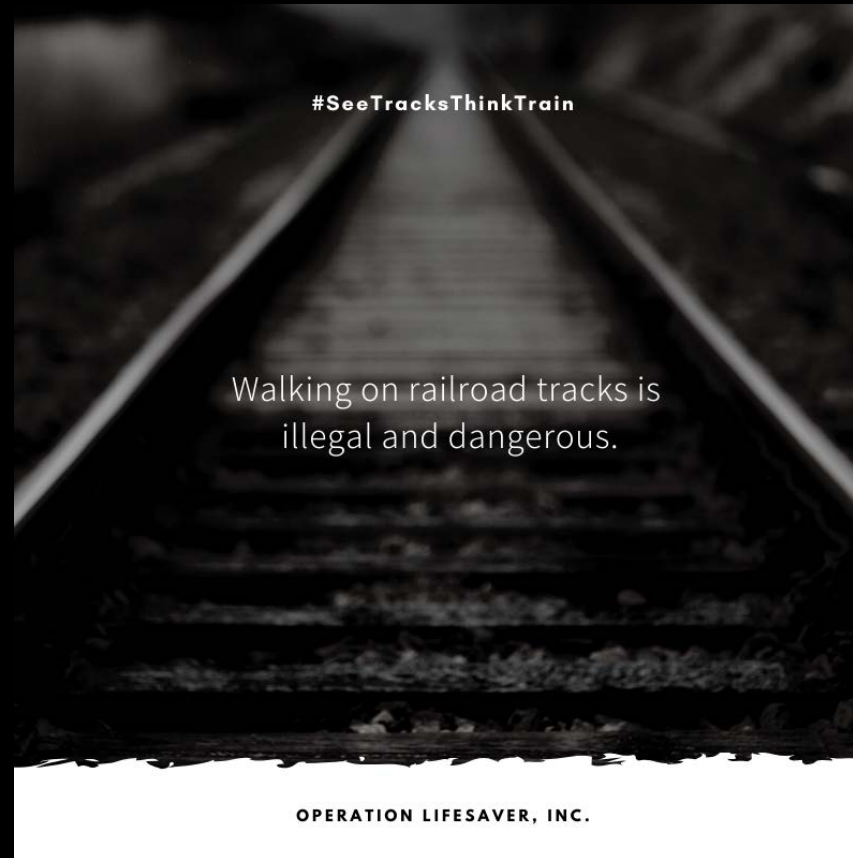


The only safe place to cross is at a designated public crossing with either a crossbuck, flashing red lights or a gate. If you cross at any other place, you are trespassing and can be ticketed or fined. Cross tracks **ONLY** at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings.

Railroad tracks, trestles, yards and equipment are private property and trespassers are subject to arrest and fine. If you are in a rail yard uninvited by a railroad official you are trespassing and subject to criminal prosecution; you could be injured or killed in a busy rail yard.

It can take a mile or more to stop a train, so a locomotive engineer who suddenly sees someone on the tracks will likely be unable to stop in time. Railroad property is private property. For your safety, it is illegal to be there unless you are at a designated public crossing.

Trains overhang the tracks by at least three feet in both directions; loose straps hanging from rail cars may extend even further. If you are in the right-of-way next to the tracks, you can be hit by the train.



SAFETY TIPS

Do not cross the tracks immediately after a train passes. A second train might be blocked by the first. Trains can come from either direction. Wait until you can see clearly around the first train in both directions.

Flashing red lights indicate a train is approaching from either direction. You can be fined for failure to obey these signals. Never walk around or behind lowered gates at a crossing, and **DO NOT** cross the tracks until the lights have stopped flashing and it's safe to do so.

Do not hunt, fish or bungee jump from railroad trestles. There is only enough clearance on the tracks for a train to pass. Trestles are not meant to be sidewalks or pedestrian bridges! Never walk, run, cycle or operate all terrain vehicles (ATVs) on railroad tracks, rights-of-way or through tunnels.

Do not attempt to hop aboard railroad equipment at any time. A slip of the foot can cost you a limb or your life.

Be aware trains do not follow set schedules. Any Time is Train Time!



RAIL
SAFETY
WEEK **SEPT 23-29**

www.oli.org

Rail Safety Week

HELP SAVE LIVES by joining the nationwide effort to raise public awareness about the need for caution near railroad tracks.

#RAILSAFETYWEEK

www.oli.org



The goal of Rail Safety Week (RSW) is to raise awareness of the need for rail safety education and empower the general public to keep themselves safe near highway-rail grade crossings and railroad rights-of-way. Join us in observing Rail Safety Week this year from **Monday, September 21 through Sunday, September 27!**

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY UPDATES FROM LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES



STAKEHOLDER UPDATES



Prioritization Exercise for FY20/21 Coalition Activities



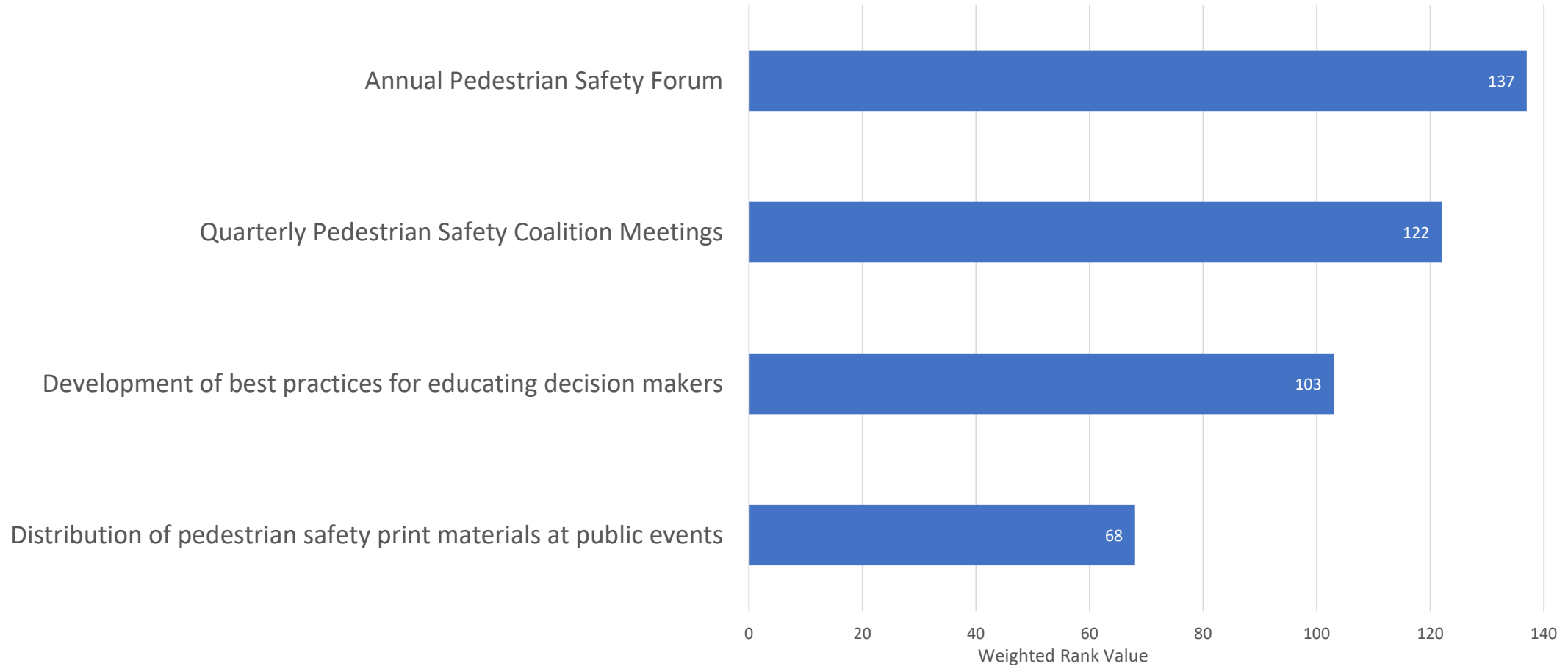
- Annual Pedestrian Safety Forum
- Quarterly Pedestrian Safety Coalition Meetings
- Development of best practices for educating decision makers
- Distribution of pedestrian safety print materials at public events

A screenshot of a mobile application interface. At the top, the status bar shows the time 5:32 and signal/battery icons. Below that is a navigation bar with a back arrow, the text "tspsc's presentation", and a menu icon. The main content area has a header "Responding as Hello". Below this is a blue box with white text that says "Please rank the following activities from least to most important: Use the up and down arrows to move. Don't forget to submit". There is a list of four activities, each in a grey box: "Quarterly Pedestrian Safety Coalition Meetings", "Distribution of pedestrian safet...", "Annual Pedestrian Safety Forum", and "Development of best practices for educating...". The second item, "Distribution of pedestrian safet...", has a red box around its left side containing two small white squares with black up and down arrows. A red arrow points from the left towards this red box. At the bottom of the list is a blue button with white text that says "Submit response".

Prioritization Exercise for FY20/21 Coalition Activities



Weighted Ranks of Pedestrian Coalition Activities Based on Prioritization Exercise (N=43)



Prioritization Exercise for FY20/21 Coalition Activities



Pedestrian Coalition Activity	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4
Annual Pedestrian Safety Forum	24	7	9	2
Quarterly Pedestrian Safety Coalition Meetings	7	23	11	3
Development of best practices for educating decision makers	7	10	19	7
Distribution of pedestrian safety print materials at public events	5	3	4	31
Total Votes	43	43	43	43

