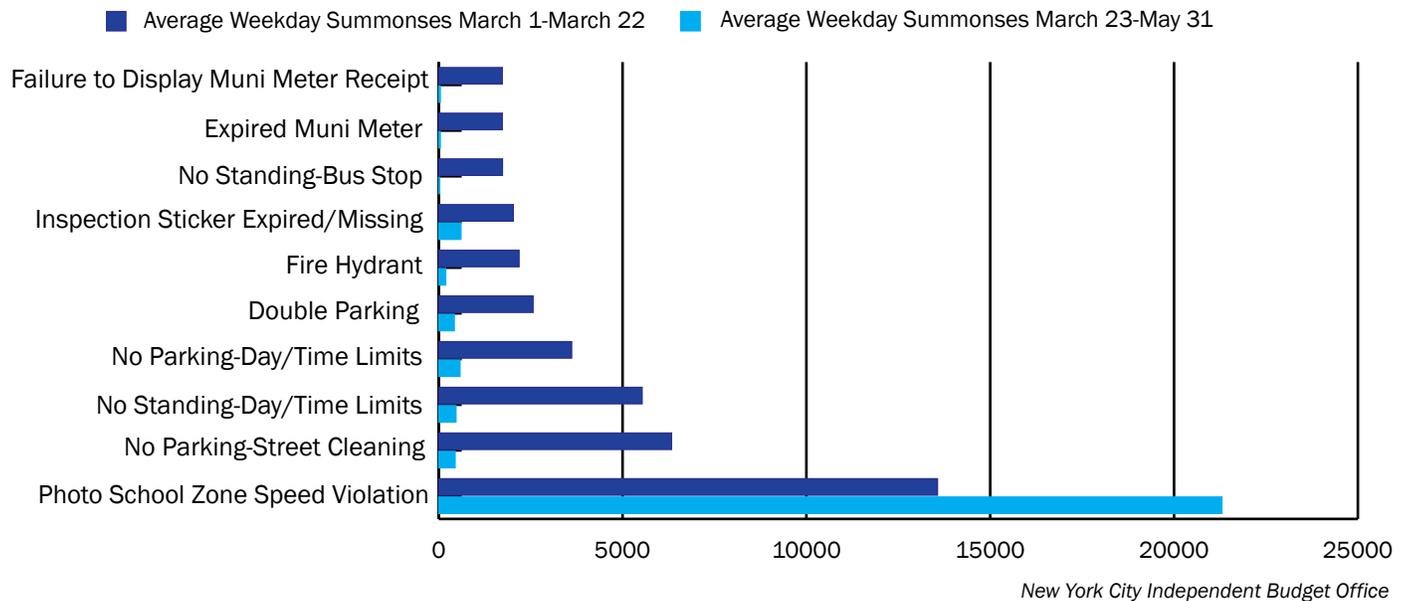


When the City Went on Pause Did Parking Violations Plummet?

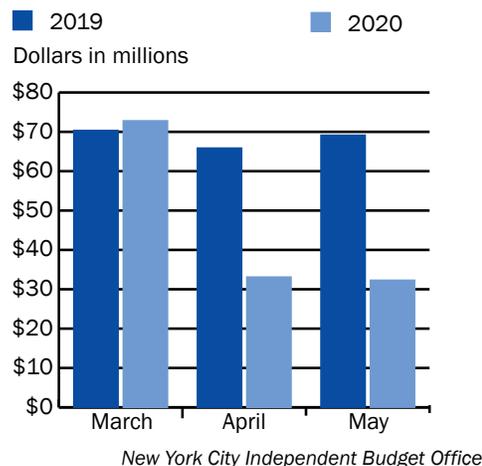
When New York City went on “pause” in March to reduce the spread of Covid-19, the city’s streets and roadways became unusually empty. With far less traffic than normal and many parking rules suspended, it is not surprising that in most all instances the number of tickets dropped substantially along with potential fine revenue. We compare the number of violations issued and liability from fines pre- and post-pause.

While the Average Number of Daily Parking Tickets Issued Fell, Speed Camera Summonses Soared



- In the weeks before the pause in March, the city issued an average of about 51,600 parking and school zone speeding summonses each weekday. (Speed camera violations are grouped with parking violations because the ticket goes to the car owner.)
- In contrast, over the weeks from March 23 through May 31 the average number of weekday (non-holiday) summonses was 26,571, nearly a third fewer than during the same period last year when the daily average was about 38,400.
- Seventy-seven percent of all violations issued this year from March 23 through May 31 were for speed camera violations. Only slightly under 4,600 weekday violations were manually issued. During the same period in 2019, only 13.4 percent of weekday violations issued were due to speed cameras.

Fewer Tickets Issued, Fine Liability Declines



- Over March through May 2019, 2.8 million parking summonses were issued, for a total liability of \$205.4 million. From March through May 2020, 2.2 million summonses were written for a total liability of \$138.3 million—a decrease of 38 percent in fines assessed from the same period in the prior year.
- Much of the decline in revenue is attributable to the suspension of street cleaning for all but one week from March 18 through May 31, 2020. With street cleaning suspended there was no ticketing for violations of alternate side of the street parking. Based on past trends, IBO estimates that street cleaning suspension alone reduced the total number of summonses issued by approximately 400,000 during this period, which would have generated about \$21.6 million in fines.

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