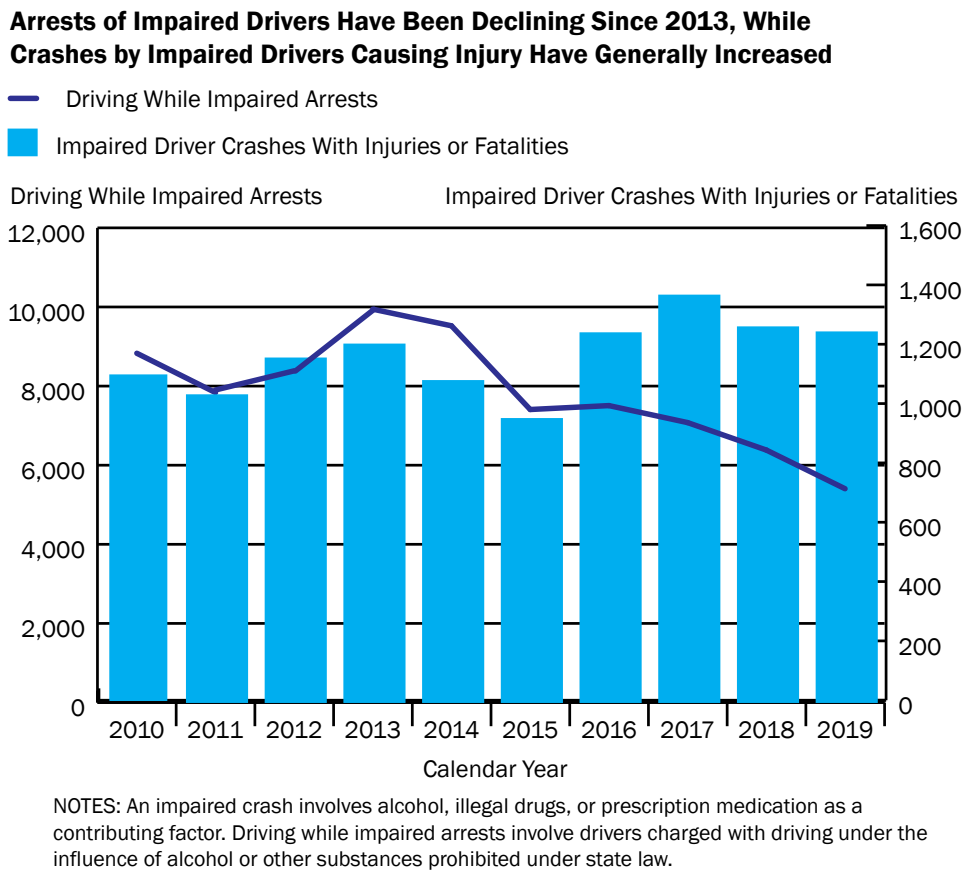


Driving While Impaired Arrests Have Been Trending Down for Years. What About Crashes by Impaired Drivers?

Traffic levels and the number of motor vehicle collisions are rising in New York City, although crashes are well below pre-pandemic levels. For example, the police department reports there were 10,094 motor vehicle collisions on city streets in May 2021, well more than the 5,935 collisions in May 2020, about two months into the pandemic, but far fewer than the 19,334 in May 2019.

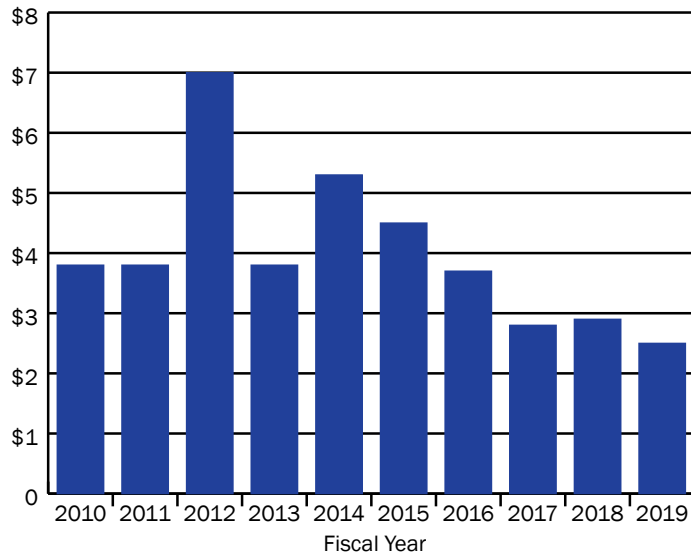
Now that summer is here, we can expect even more vehicles on the road and, in all likelihood, more collisions. Many of these collisions will involve drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs. IBO looked at recent trends in arrests for driving while impaired and crashes by drivers who test positive for alcohol or drugs; these crashes are limited to those that cause injury or fatalities. We also looked at funding the city receives from the state tied to the number of arrests of drivers who are impaired.



- Arrests for driving while impaired in New York City have been trending downward, falling from 9,879 in 2013 to 5,339 by 2019, a drop of about 46 percent.
- Crashes by impaired drivers causing injuries or fatalities fell along with arrests for driving while impaired from 2013 through 2015. More recently, however, the number of DWI crashes with injuries or fatalities has generally increased; rising from 942 in 2015 to 1,234 in 2019, while arrests have continued their decline.

State STOP-DWI Funding Awarded to New York City Has Declined

Dollars in millions



NOTE: New York State does not always transfer STOP-DWI fine proceeds to the city in the same year they are received from motorists convicted of driving while impaired.

- The drop in the number of driving while impaired arrests in New York City has led to a decline in revenue the city receives under the state's Special Traffic Options Program for Driving While Impaired (STOP-DWI) program. The program's funding comes from fines paid by motorists convicted of impaired driving and is used to help coordinate local efforts to reduce alcohol- and other drug-related traffic crashes.

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