

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



The Year of COVID



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BYRAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF R. LUKE THOMPSON

P.O. BOX 720222 ~ BYRAM, MS 39272

~ Accredited by the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission 2012 ~



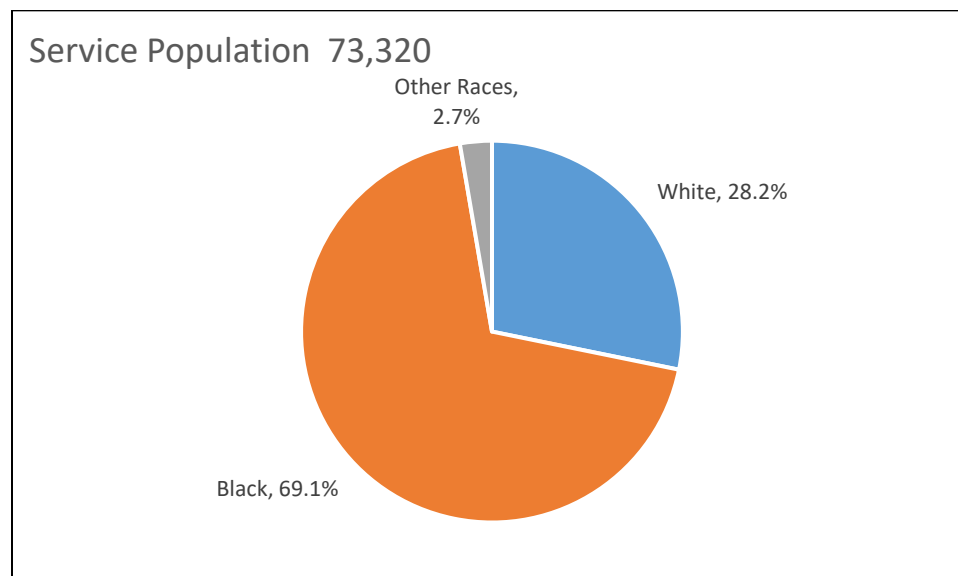
Byram Police Department Annual Report ~ 2020 ~

1. Introduction

The MISSION of the Byram Police Department is to work in partnership with our community to enforce laws to preserve the peace, reduce fear, and provide for a safe environment; and do so with integrity, dedication and honor, conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.

2. Community Profile

The Census Bureau reports a 2019 estimated population for the City of Byram of 11,428 people (a slight decrease from the 2018 estimate of 11,655). The Towne Center development, with Walmart as the anchor, increases the daily service population for the Byram Police Department from beyond the corporate limits of the city. According to the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, the population in a seven-mile radius around the intersection of Terry and Siwell Roads is 73,320. This number reflects residents who reside outside the corporate limits of Byram – mostly from South Jackson, Raymond, Terry, and Southwest Rankin County areas.



It is important to note here that 64% of arrests made in 2020 were of individuals that were NOT residents of the City of Byram. With this in mind, the service population data are used as the context for enforcement statistics throughout this report. The Byram Police Department was authorized 31 sworn police officer positions on December 31,

2020, equating to 2.7 officers per 1,000 residents. The most recent data provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicates an average of 2.4 officers per 1,000 residents among agencies that report crime information throughout the United States; and, more specifically 2.9 officers per 1,000 residents in southern statesⁱ. The police department is authorized an additional civilian support staff of thirteen (13) paid personnel, one (1) paid part-time personnel, and four (4) volunteer personnel. The Byram Police Department is authorized forty-four full-time employees, equating to 3.7 employees per 1,000 residents (the national average is 3.4 employees per 1,000 residents). Throughout this report, enforcement activities are illustrated as they reflect the community we serve. This functions as an indicator within the agency, as required by accreditation standards, to identify the potential for bias-based enforcement. Enforcement activities that reflect the makeup of the community reassure the community that Byram Police Officers serve the whole community fairly and without prejudice.

3. Report Summary

Byram Police Officers responded to 6,306 calls for service (down from 6,823 in 2019) during 2020. Of these calls, officers documented 1,876 incident reports (up from 1,655 in 2019). Incidents of all types are reported including criminal complaints, vehicle crashes, and other miscellaneous reports. Vehicle crashes continue to account for the greatest number of incident reports taken in 2020. There were 468 total crash reports (25.0%) taken in 2020, including 301 Mississippi Uniform Crash Reports and 167 private property crash reports.

In most categories, crime increased. Although this is consistent with national crime trends, violent crime remained relatively level, seeing only minor increases (robberies increased from three in 2019 to five in 2020). Nationally, domestic violence spiked in the early months of the COVID-19 epidemic and then tapered off to average incidents later in the year. Byram did not experience such a spike and saw domestic violence incidents in 2020 comparable to the same number in 2019. Property crime saw significant increases across the board, with the exception of residential burglaries and shoplifting. These are probably directly contributable to the COVID-19. Due to various restrictions and schools conducting virtual classes, people spent more time at home reasonably reducing the number of residential burglaries. Additionally, retailers experienced greater restrictions due to social distancing and reduced occupancy limits that led to more controlled access and less traffic during certain times early in the epidemic response.

Impaired driving offenses also saw a 33% increase in 2020. This is directly related to additional training and greater experience of officers that are more confident in their abilities to enforce impaired driving laws. There is no evidence to suggest greater number of instances of impaired driving are occurring, but rather Byram Police Officers continue to get better at identifying impaired drivers and enforcing related state statutes.

4. 2020 Highlights

2020 was the year of COVID. New statewide elected officials took office in January. Chief Thompson served as President for the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police

until the MACP Summer Conference that was delayed due to COVID. This provided lots of opportunity to have meetings with the newly elected officials and work to influence legislation in the Mississippi Legislature.

The Byram Police Department also worked to provide training to improve law enforcement response to Domestic Violence and the provision of victim services. Law enforcement agencies in Jones County and Ridgeland were trained in Lethality Assessment Protocols based on policy and procedures developed in the Byram Police Department. The Department was recognized by the Center for Violence Prevention, the United States Attorney's Office, and the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence for efforts to improve domestic violence response and to train other agencies.

5. Crime Report

a. Data Source

The Federal Bureau of Investigations' Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 municipal, university, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. This voluntary reporting program collects data on crimes brought to the attention of law enforcement. Since 1930, the FBI has administered the UCR program and continues to assess and monitor the nature and type of crime in the nation. The program's primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management; however, its data has over the years become one of the country's leading social indicators. Criminologists, sociologists, legislators, municipal planners, the media, and other students of criminal justice use the data for varied research and planning purposes.

The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is one specific manner of submitting crime data to the UCR and was implemented by the FBI to capture information on each crime occurrence in greater detail. The Byram Police Department was the second law enforcement agency in Mississippi certified by the FBI (March, 2012) to submit crime data via NIBRS. This allows for a more timely reporting method that is software driven and reported directly to the FBI. Data in this report represent all of 2019 and, as investigations develop new information, are subject to change. More information on NIBRS reporting can be found on the FBI's website at <http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/faqs.htm>. In 2019, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety began implementation of the Mississippi Crime Reporting repository to serve as a data-aggregator to collect crime information from local agencies within Mississippi to report to the FBI. The Byram Police Department has served as one of the first agencies to begin submitting data to the new repository for testing to ensure the repository is fully functional by the FBI deadline of January 1, 2021.

While we recognize that many crimes go unreported to law enforcement authorities, on a local level, we do not have the resources to collect that data. As a result, the information in this report is solely on crimes that were reported to the Byram Police Department and the NIBRS program.

b. Criminal Incidents

This report reflects Violent and Property Crimes as defined by the FBI to include:

- Murder
- Robbery
- Assaults
- Burglary/breaking and entering
- Larceny / Theft
- Auto Theft

c. Factors Affecting Crime

It is generally assumed that readers of this report understand that many factors affect crime in the community. Factors include familial, social, cultural, and economic conditions that not only influence criminal behavior, but also crime reporting practices of the citizenry. With regard to the effective strength of law enforcement, the reader should consider that an agency that significantly increases its enforcement efforts might see an increase in reported crime instead of a decrease.

As a result of numerous factors that affect reported crime, this report is limited to presenting only the numbers of specific crimes reported. We will not try to draw a correlation between the volume of crimes reported and any other social factor. Furthermore, the reader should use great caution against comparing crime trends presented in this report and those of other jurisdictions. Finally, the differences in methodology for gathering data make it unwise to compare the Uniform Crime Report to the National Crime Victimization Survey.

d. Intended Use

The purpose of this report is to present a larger picture of crime as it is reported within the corporate limits of the City of Byram.

Byram Police Department CRIME FREQUENCY SUMMARY					
Date: 01/01 Thru: 12/31		10 MOST FREQUENT CRIMES DURING PERIOD		Run Date: 02/03/2021	
Crime		2020		2019	
		#	%Change	#	%Change
1. 97-17-33A - BURGLARY / AUTO		145	163.64%	55	37.50%
2. 21-23-7 - CONTEMPT OF COURT(WANTED PERSON)		130	12.07%	116	7.41%
3. 63-11-30 - DUI / 1ST OFFENSE		76	33.33%	57	67.65%
4. 63-15-4 1ST - AUTO INSURANCE/NONE		75	-44.85%	136	30.77%
5. 97-23-93A - SHOPLIFTING / 1ST OFFENSE, VALUE \$1000 OR LESS		74	-40.32%	124	-3.13%
6. 97-17-43 - LARCENY / PETIT		62	19.23%	52	-7.14%
7. 97-3-7G - ASSAULT / SIMPLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, 1ST/2ND OFFENS		59	0.00%	59	22.92%
8. WANTED - FOREIGN WARRANT		56	-24.32%	74	29.82%
9. 27-19-131 - TAG / NONE OR EXPIRED		49	2.08%	48	17.07%
10. 63-1-57 - DWLS/DRIVING W LIC SUSPENDED		42	-37.31%	67	86.11%

6. Violent Crime

Violent Crimes are defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. In the City of Byram, no (0) murders, five (5) robberies, and eleven (11) aggravated assaults were reported in 2020. *It should be noted that many of these cases remain open and under investigation. If you or someone you know has any information that may help investigators with these cases, please contact Byram Police Detectives at (601) 372-7747 or Metro Crimestoppers at (601) 355-TIPS (8477).*

a. Murder

2020	2109	2108	2017	2016
0	1	0	0	2

b. Robbery

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
5	3	10	6	13

Five robberies were reported in 2020 (compared to three robberies in 2019).

In January, a young man was enticed to Byram by a female for the purpose of meeting for sex and was robbed by three female suspects of his vehicle. All three suspects were later identified and arrested. The vehicle was later recovered in Jackson.

In January, a female victim was approached by a male suspect in an apartment complex parking lot and forced to give her keys to her vehicle. The suspect brandished no weapon. The vehicle was later recovered in Jackson and had been involved in other crimes there. This case remains open.

In April, a group of males posing as bail agents robbed an individual of a firearm in front of his residence. Three arrests were later made.

In July, a female resident in an apartment complex was approached by two juvenile males brandishing a firearm and robbed of her purse. The two juveniles were later identified and arrested.

In August, a male reported his vehicle had been taken by force at a convenience store after he left the vehicle running in the parking lot and went inside the store. He returned to his vehicle to find someone else inside that brandished a firearm

before pulling away. The vehicle was later recovered in Jackson and the victim refused to cooperate further. This case is still open.

c. Assaults

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Aggravated Assaults	5	3	7	6	1
Aggravated Domestic Violence	6	5			
Simple Assaults	18	23	81	92	92
Simple Domestic Violence	59	59			

Eleven (11) incidents of Aggravated Assault were reported in 2020. Six (6) incidents were domestic violence related. Seventy-seven (77) additional simple-assault incidents were reported, of which fifty-nine (59) were domestic violence related in 2020. Forty-seven (47) individuals were arrested in 2020 for various assault charges.

In 2017, the Byram Police Department implemented a Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) purposed to assess the risk of death and/or injury related to intimate partner violence. Research indicates that that when victims of intimate partner domestic violence have various victim services provided that the risk of future violence is dramatically decreased. Victim services are not typically provided by law enforcement agencies. Nationally, only about 4% of victims of intimate partner/domestic violence proactively contact victim service providers. The LAP is a protocol that serves to connect victims in contact with law enforcement to victim services providers in order to improve the quality of not only the criminal justice system, but also the quality of life for those affected by domestic violence. In 2020, the Byram Police Department connected thirty-five (35) victims to a service provider. This indicates that nearly 53% of domestic violence victims in the City of Byram are connected to victim services. This is up from 39% in 2019.

7. Property Crime

Property crimes include offenses of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. In Mississippi, burglary offenses are classified in three different ways: 1) Residential Burglary; 2) Auto Burglary; and, 3) Burglary Other. Burglary Other includes all structures other than an occupied residence (meaning that the residence is owned and lived in and not necessarily that it is physically occupied by a person at the time of the burglary). This includes commercial locations such as businesses, churches and also

structures on personal property that are not attached to a residence, such as a storage-shed.

The objective of these offenses is to take money or property without force or threat of force against the victim(s).

a. Burglary

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Residential	11	16	22	27	37
Other	23	8	12	5	21
Auto	152	55	40	41	44

Burglary is the breaking and entering of a structure or vehicle with the intent to steal or commit another crime once inside. The Byram Police Department reported 186 total burglaries throughout the city during 2020, a significant increase over 2019.

Residential burglaries are those of homes and apartments in which someone actually resides (not necessarily homes that are occupied at the time of the burglary). Of these, the City of Byram continues a downward trend that has been experienced since the city's incorporation. In 2020, the city saw eleven (11) residential burglaries (down 31%) indicating that homes are generally safe from intruders.

“Other” burglaries include businesses and other structures including residential units that are not occupied (lived in) such as unoccupied houses for sale and/or under construction. The City of Byram experienced a significant increase in these burglaries reporting twenty-three (23) such burglaries in 2020 (up from 11 in 2019). Eighteen of these reported burglaries occurred in residential units that were either under construction or listed for sale on internet websites that included pictures of appliances. Suspects would approach these structures in rented moving vans to make it appear they were legitimately at the locations. Suspects would remove appliances and flee the scenes. Five additional burglaries occurred at businesses.

The City of Byram reported one hundred and fifty-two (152) vehicle burglaries in 2020, up from fifty-five (55) in 2019. Six of the reported burglaries were of vehicles where no theft actually occurred. The vast majority of vehicle burglaries were of vehicles that had been left unlocked with items of value (primarily firearms and small electronics) parked in residential driveways. Investigations found that young adult and older juvenile suspects would travel in small groups (often 3-4), often in vehicles stolen from an outside jurisdiction and would enter residential areas. One suspect would stay with the vehicle and others would get out and walk throughout neighborhoods from driveway to driveway checking for unlocked vehicles. Sixty-two (62) (41%) of the reported vehicle burglaries were cleared, meaning suspects were identified and charges were filed.

b. Larceny – Thefts

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Petit Larceny	88	53	56	58	86
Grand Larceny	26	20	24	24	13
Shoplifting	83	124	145	107	68

Mississippi Statute classifies larcenies by the value of the items taken. Petit Larceny (Misdemeanor) occurs when the value of items stolen is equal to or less than \$1,000. Grand Larceny (Felony) occurs when the value of items stolen is greater than \$1,000.

The Byram Police Department reported twenty-six (26) grand larceny incidents in 2020 (slightly higher than 2019). Eighty-eight (88) petit larceny reports were taken in 2020 compared to fifty-three (53) in 2019.

Shoplifting is, generally speaking, larceny of goods for retail sale. There are additional elements to shoplifting as compared to general petit or grand larceny. In 2020, eighty-three (83) incidents of shoplifting were reported, a 33% reduction from 2019. Of these, fifty-one (51) were reported at Walmart. This reduction is completely attributed to the COVID-19 epidemic. Retailers throughout the year closed their door, reduced their operating hours, and/or restricted access to their stores in accordance with guidelines from the Center for Disease Control in response to the COVID-19 epidemic.

c. Auto Thefts

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
29	10	13	11	12

Twenty-nine vehicles were reported stolen in 2020, compared to 10 in 2019. Fourteen (14) of the vehicles were reportedly left unlocked with keys left inside. An additional five (5) vehicles were stolen from an auction lot where they were parked with the keys left inside. Eleven (11) of the vehicles reported stolen have been recovered: eight (8) were recovered in Jackson. One additional report was taken, but was later determined to be a repossession.

8. Calls for Service

Byram Police Officers responded to 6,823 calls for service (relatively even with 6,885 in 2019) during 2020. Officers responded to more burglar alarms than any other type of call at 1,346 or 20% of calls. Traffic related calls accounted for 675 or 10% of calls. Officers initiated an additional 201 calls/contacts in the community and 4,217 traffic stops.

9. Arrests

The Byram Police Department made 383 (down from 445 in 2019) arrests in 2020, including 295 traffic related arrests (relatively even with 290 in 2019). One hundred and

thirteen (113) arrests were made of individuals that were wanted by other agencies or for outstanding warrants in the City of Byram.

Examining this data along with the service population previously mentioned the reader may be interested to note that 244 of the 383 arrests (64%) were of individuals that do not live in the City of Byram. One hundred four (104) individuals arrested (27% of total arrests) were noted as being residents in the City of Jackson. These particular items seem consistent over the course of several years in the past. Interestingly many of the charges related to arrests of Byram citizens were typically domestic assault related and traffic related. Many of the individuals arrested from outside the city were charged with property and theft related crimes in addition to traffic related offenses.

Arrest Report - Race/Sex Comparison			Results: 383
Date: 20200101 - 20201231	Year: 2019 - 2019	Year: 2020 - 2020	
Race:			
Caucasian/Male:	110	79	
Caucasian/Female:	52	45	
African-American/Male:	179	177	
African-American/Female:	100	68	
Hispanic/Male:	0	0	
Hispanic/Female:	0	0	
Asian/Male:	2	0	
Asian/Female:	0	0	
Other:	23	11	
Total:	466	380	

10. Traffic

- a. Enforcement (Citations) ~ The Byram Police Department issued a total of 2,641 written citations in 2020, as compared to 3,806 in 2019. Ninety-eight (98) arrests were made for driving under the influence (DUI) (up from 70 in 2019). The increase in DUI arrests over the past three years is attributed to specific training that has been conducted to raise officer awareness and identification of impaired drivers.

Traffic Citation Control - Race/Sex Comparison			Results: 2218
Date: 20200101 - 20201231	Year: 2019 - 2019	Year: 2020 - 2020	
Race:			
Caucasian/Male:	588	385	
Caucasian/Female:	342	224	
African-American/Male:	1223	881	
African-American/Female:	990	626	
Hispanic/Male:	0	0	
Hispanic/Female:	0	0	
Asian/Male:	2	1	
Asian/Female:	0	0	
Other:	93	83	
Total:	3238	2200	

Total Citations Issued	2,641
Written Warnings	441
Enforcement Actions	2,200

- b. Traffic Crashes ~ The Byram Police Department recorded 468 crash reports (25% of total reports taken) in 2020. Of those, 301 were Mississippi Uniform Crash Reports, indicating that they occurred on the roadways and included property damage greater than \$500.00 and/or personal injury. Twenty-eight (28) One hundred and sixty-seven (167) (9%) of the reported roadway crashes included injuries, meaning simply that someone involved was transported to a hospital.

Forty-four percent (44%) of the roadway crashes reported were rear-end crashes. Siwell Road the most common road for roadway crashes in the City of Byram.

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Roadway Crashes	301	325	363	351	384
Crashes w/Injuries	28	42	37 (14)*	54 (11)*	45 (19)*
Crashes w/Fatality	0	2	0	1	2

**In 2019, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety replaced the state uniform crash reporting system. While collecting data for this report it was discovered that previous data noting crashes with injuries had been under-reported in previous years. Numbers that appear within the parentheses are the incorrect numbers that have been previously reported. The data has been updated here to reflect correct numbers.*

Figure 1 - 2020 Crashes by Month

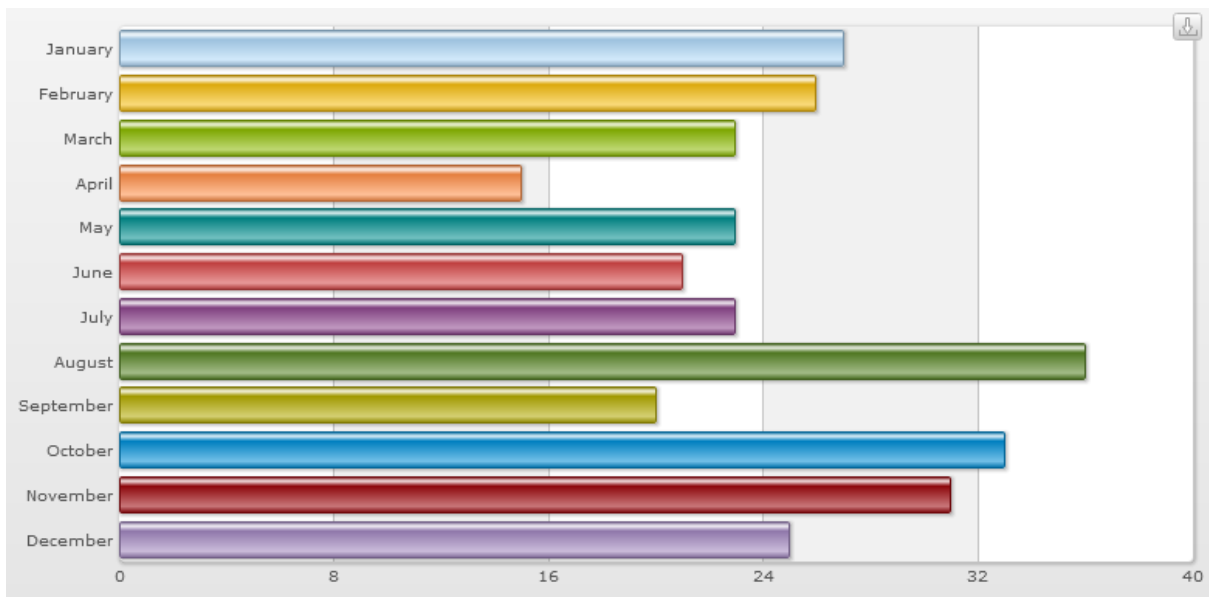


Figure 2 - Crash Manner

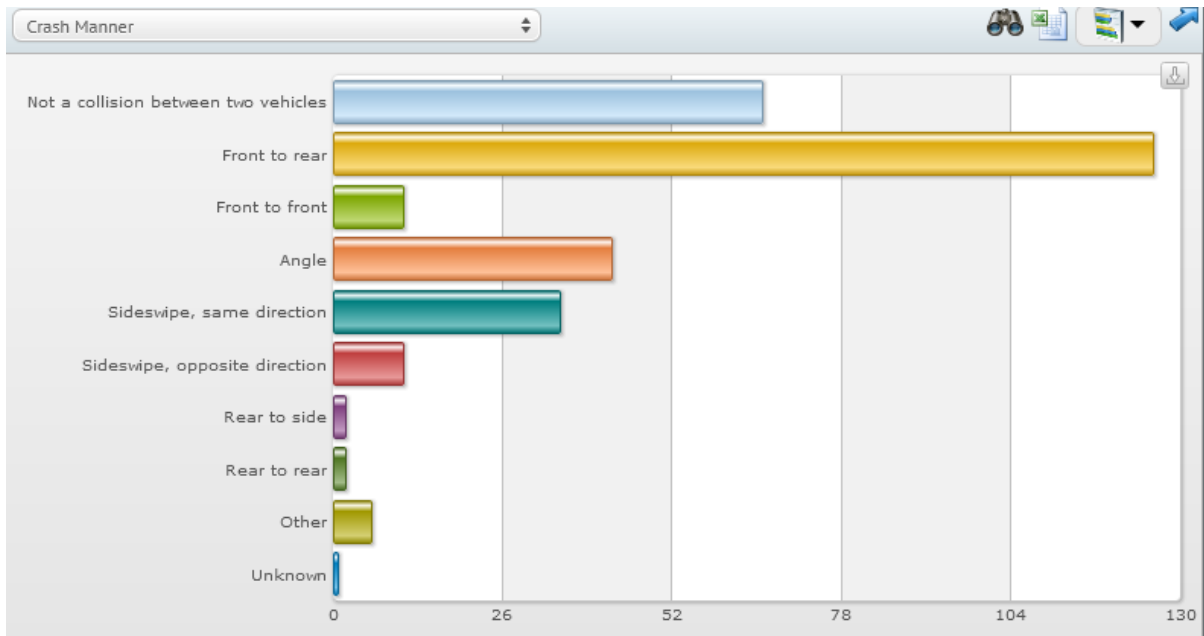
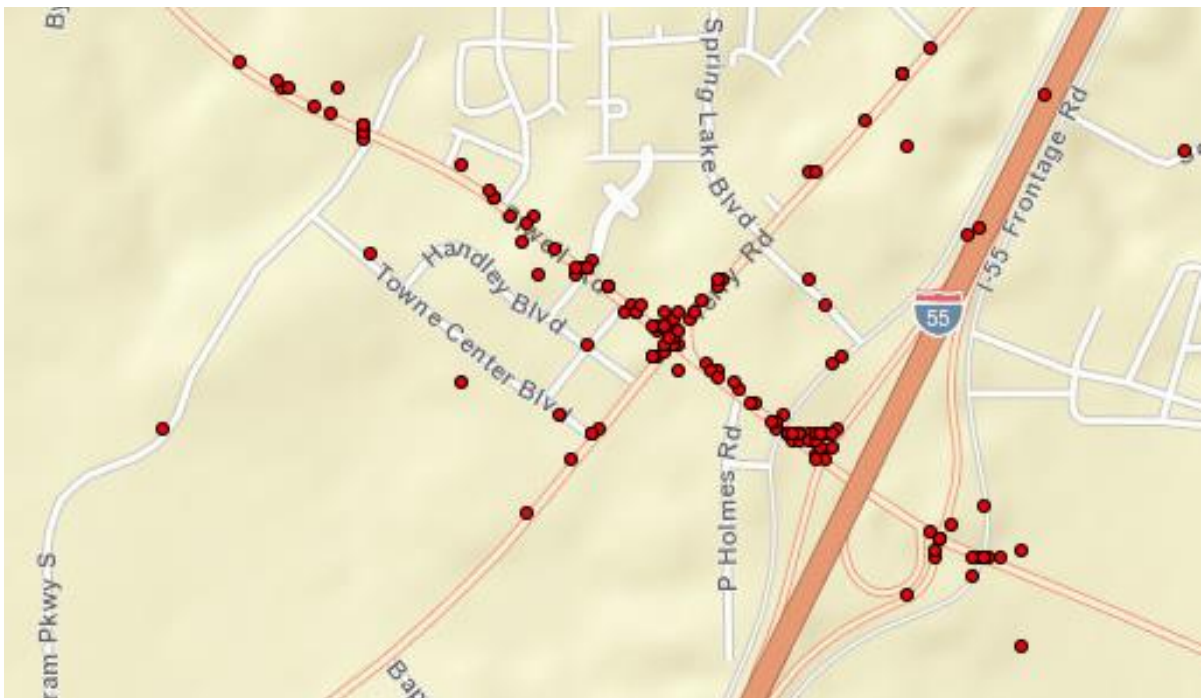


Figure 3 - Crash Locations



11. Animal Control

The Byram Police Animal Control Unit responded to 410 calls for service of which resulted in 13 incident reports.

ADDENDUM – DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AS PROVIDED BY THE CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



Community Profile

Walmart
Lat.: 32.185 Long.: -90.265
Rings: 5, 7, 10 mile radii

Prepared by CMPDD
Latitude: 32.18547
Longitude: -90.26476

	5 miles	7 miles	10 miles
2010 Population by Race/Ethnicity			
Total	30,839	75,152	140,383
White Alone	37.8%	32.7%	32.3%
Black Alone	60.1%	65.0%	65.1%
American Indian Alone	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Asian Alone	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Pacific Islander Alone	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race Alone	0.5%	0.8%	0.9%
Two or More Races	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
Hispanic Origin	1.2%	1.5%	1.7%
Diversity Index	50.7	48.7	48.9
2019 Population by Race/Ethnicity			
Total	30,044	73,320	137,333
White Alone	31.0%	28.2%	29.1%
Black Alone	66.5%	69.1%	68.0%
American Indian Alone	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Asian Alone	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%
Pacific Islander Alone	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race Alone	0.6%	0.9%	0.9%
Two or More Races	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%
Hispanic Origin	1.3%	1.7%	1.9%
Diversity Index	47.5	46.1	47.3
2024 Population by Race/Ethnicity			
Total	29,326	71,776	135,116
White Alone	27.9%	26.4%	28.0%
Black Alone	69.4%	70.7%	68.9%
American Indian Alone	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Asian Alone	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%
Pacific Islander Alone	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Some Other Race Alone	0.6%	0.9%	0.9%
Two or More Races	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Hispanic Origin	1.4%	1.8%	2.0%
Diversity Index	45.6	45.0	46.8
2010 Population by Relationship and Household Type			
Total	30,839	75,152	140,383
In Households	99.9%	99.7%	96.9%
In Family Households	88.4%	88.5%	83.5%
Householder	27.3%	26.2%	24.9%
Spouse	17.2%	14.7%	13.3%
Child	37.3%	39.8%	37.5%
Other relative	4.2%	4.9%	4.9%
Nonrelative	2.5%	3.0%	3.0%
In Nonfamily Households	11.5%	11.1%	13.3%
In Group Quarters	0.1%	0.3%	3.1%
Institutionalized Population	0.0%	0.3%	1.2%
Noninstitutionalized Population	0.1%	0.1%	1.9%

Data Note: Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race. The Diversity Index measures the probability that two people from the same area will be from different race/ethnic groups.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2019 and 2024 Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography.

January 23, 2020