

Distracted Driving

Language: **English** ▼

Overview

Distracted driving is dangerous, claiming 3,275 lives in 2023. NHTSA leads the national effort to save lives by preventing this dangerous behavior. Get the facts, get involved, and help us keep America's roads safe.

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**Put the
Phone
Away or
Pay**

Distracted Driving

3,275

NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED BY DISTRACTED
DRIVING IN 2023

Distracted Driving ▾

THE ISSUE

What Is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system — anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

THE ISSUE

Consequences

TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS & DATA PUBLICATIONS

DRIVER DISTRACTION & ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE

Using a cell phone while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2023, 3,275 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

THE ISSUE

Get Involved

RELATED TOPIC

TEEN DRIVING

We can all play a part in the fight to save lives by ending distracted driving.

Teens

Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so we encourage them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, to become involved in their local Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter, and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family, and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

Parents

Parents first have to lead by example — by never driving distracted — as well as have a talk with their young driver about distraction and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family sign the pledge to commit to distraction-free driving. Remind your teen driver that in states with graduated driver licensing (GDL), a violation of distracted-driving laws could mean a delayed or suspended license.

Educators and Employers

Educators and employers can play a part, too. Spread the word at your school or workplace about the dangers of distracted driving. Ask your students to commit to distraction-free driving or set a company policy on distracted driving.

Make Your Voice Heard

If you feel strongly about distracted driving, be a voice in your community by supporting local laws, speaking out at community meetings, and highlighting the dangers of distracted driving on social media and in your local op-ed pages.

NHTSA IN ACTION

NHTSA is dedicated to eliminating risky behaviors on our nation's roads

NHTSA leads the fight nationally against distracted driving by educating Americans about its dangers and partnering with the states and local police to enforce laws against distracted driving that help keep us safe.

NHTSA's campaigns and public service announcements make the case to Americans that safe driving means driving without distractions. You've likely seen or heard our public service announcements, but we're also on Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn sharing stories and tips to help save lives.

The foundation of NHTSA's efforts on distracted driving and other risky driving behaviors is our partnership with the states and local police. The states determine laws affecting distracted driving, but NHTSA provides federal investments in the locally driven strategies that address the states' specific needs. One of the highlights of this relationship comes during April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month, which pairs a national advertising campaign with a law enforcement crackdown called *Put the Phone Away or Pay*.

The Law

Your state legislature and governor make the laws regarding distracted driving. Many states now have laws against texting, talking on a cell phone, and other distractions while driving. You can visit the [Governors Highway Safety Association](#) to learn about the laws in your state.

Put the Phone Away or Pay Campaign →

Find resources to help you raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving in your community →

Take the pledge

The fight to end distracted driving starts with you. Make the commitment to drive phone-free today.

- Protect lives by never texting or talking on the phone while driving.
- Be a good passenger and speak out if the driver in my car is distracted.
- Encourage my friends and family to drive phone-free.

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