

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Why Are American Roads So Dangerous?](#)

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Tweet: US fatalities per mile driven are double that of other advanced economies, and the US road mortality rate is up 25% over the last decade; @jburnmurdoch suggests American attitudes toward alcohol and cell phone use are the driver.

Summary: Using phones at the wheel is a big problem in the US, according to data from Cambridge Mobile Telematics. But just across the border, Canadians, who also drive automatics, spend less than half as much time using their devices while driving. The determining factor seems to be different attitudes to safety, with Americans twice as likely as Canadians or Europeans to say they find it acceptable to use a phone while driving. The same pattern shows up in other behaviours. Americans are much less likely to wear seat belts than most Europeans and also have higher rates of drink-driving. Given that studies find a lack of seat belts, alcohol, and distracted driving all increase either the likelihood or lethality of a collision by a greater amount than vehicle size or shape — and that American drivers are more exceptional in these behaviours than in their car size — these factors may be the determining ones. Related: Is Life Expectancy Really Falling? and The (Surprisingly) Good News on Life Expectancy: It's Still Going Up and Comments On: "Accounting For the Widening Mortality Gap Between American Adults With and Without a BA" By Anne Case and Angus Deaton

Primary Topic: Poverty/Crime

Topics: Database, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Poverty/Crime, Workforce

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