



FACT SHEET
Distracted Driving
2019 FARS Data

Note: All statistics presented in this document reflect a AAA Foundation analysis of 2019 data from NHTSA’s Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS).

Key findings:

- In 2019, there were 3,142 people killed in motor vehicle crashes involving drivers reported by the police as distracted. That is an average of nearly 9 deaths a day—an increase from 2,839 in 2018.
- Of those killed in crashes reported as involving a distracted driver, over 17 percent (532) were between the ages of 25-35.
- In 2019, there were 462 pedestrians, 77 cyclists, and 16 other non-occupants killed in crashes that involved a driver who was reported to be distracted. It is unknown how many of these pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-occupants were also distracted at the time.
- According to federal crash data, over 13% of distraction-affected¹ crashes involved confirmed use of smartphone. This represents roughly 1.2 percent of all fatal crashes, which underscores that while smartphone use is most frequently blamed for driver distraction, there are many other causes of distraction-affected crashes.

Table 1. Fatal Crashes, Drivers Fatalities, Fatalities in Distraction-Affected Crashes, and Cell Phone Use by Distracted Drivers, 2019

	Total	Distraction-Affected (D-A)		Cell Phone in Use	
		Number	Percentage of Total	Number	Percentage of D-A
Crashes	33,244	2,895	8.7%	387	13.4%
Driver Fatalities	22,613	1,853	8.2%	280	15.1%
Fatalities	36,096	3,142	8.7%	422	13.4%

¹ A distraction-affected crash is any crash in which a police identified the driver as distracted at the time of the crash. Distraction can be attributed to **17** different causes as identified by the FARS database.

Table 2. Fatal Crashes and Fatalities in Distraction-Affected Crashes by State; 2019.

STATE	FATAL CRASHES INVOLVING A DISTRACTED DRIVER	DISTRACTION-AFFECTED FATALITIES
ALABAMA	48	52
ALASKA	4	5
ARIZONA	102	113
ARKANSAS	17	18
CALIFORNIA	122	132
COLORADO	35	39
CONNECTICUT	11	11
DELAWARE	6	6
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	0	0
FLORIDA	240	258
GEORGIA	43	43
HAWAII	25	27
IDAHO	30	33
ILLINOIS	151	160
INDIANA	36	39
IOWA	19	19
KANSAS	62	73
KENTUCKY	104	117
LOUISIANA	111	118
MAINE	9	10
MARYLAND	37	39
MASSACHUSETTS	23	23
MICHIGAN	64	71
MINNESOTA	29	29
MISSISSIPPI	13	13
MISSOURI	62	70
MONTANA	14	15
NEBRASKA	12	14
NEVADA	9	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE	8	8
NEW JERSEY	129	137
NEW MEXICO	137	165
NEW YORK	107	110
NORTH CAROLINA	80	84
NORTH DAKOTA	8	10
OHIO	61	69
OKLAHOMA	54	57
OREGON	15	16

PENNSYLVANIA	59	60
RHODE ISLAND	1	1
SOUTH CAROLINA	54	60
SOUTH DAKOTA	3	3
TENNESSEE	64	65
TEXAS	338	377
UTAH	12	14
VERMONT	5	6
VIRGINIA	167	180
WASHINGTON	109	113
WEST VIRGINIA	7	7
WISCONSIN	28	29
WYOMING	11	15
Total	2,895	3,142

Source: NHTSA's FARS 2019 Annual Report File