



FACT SHEET
Distracted Driving
2020 FARS Data

Note: All statistics presented in this document reflect 2020 data from NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). These are the most recent federal data available.

Key findings:

- In 2020, there were 3,138 people killed in motor vehicle crashes involving drivers reported by the police as distracted.
- Of those killed in crashes reported as involving a distracted driver, 18.7% (587) were between the ages of 25-35.
- In 2020, there were 480 pedestrians, 83 cyclists, and 14 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, 12.3% of distraction-affected¹ crashes involved confirmed use of a smartphone. This represents roughly 1% 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, Driver Fatalities, Fatalities in Distraction-Affected Crashes, and Cell Phone Use by Distracted Drivers, 2020

	Total	Distraction-Affected (D-A)		Cell Phone in Use	
		Number	Percentage of Total	Number	Percentage of D-A
Crashes	35,766	2,876	8.0%	354	12.3%
Driver Fatalities	24,787	1,848	7.5%	242	13.1%
Fatalities	38,824	3,138	8.1%	396	12.6%

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 **18** different causes as identified by the FARS database.

Table 2. Fatal Crashes and Fatalities in Distraction-Affected Crashes by State, 2020

STATE	FATAL CRASHES INVOLVING A DISTRACTED DRIVER	DISTRACTION-AFFECTED FATALITIES
ALABAMA	52	57
ALASKA	6	7
ARIZONA	50	57
ARKANSAS	19	21
CALIFORNIA	94	105
COLORADO	53	68
CONNECTICUT	10	10
DELAWARE	5	5
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	2	2
FLORIDA	274	295
GEORGIA	55	61
HAWAII	14	14
IDAHO	19	21
ILLINOIS	171	193
INDIANA	38	40
IOWA	13	13
KANSAS	84	90
KENTUCKY	91	104
LOUISIANA	151	166
MAINE	14	15
MARYLAND	41	44
MASSACHUSETTS	31	32
MICHIGAN	47	51
MINNESOTA	25	28
MISSISSIPPI	10	11
MISSOURI	77	84
MONTANA	12	16
NEBRASKA	13	15
NEVADA	9	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6	6
NEW JERSEY	94	97
NEW MEXICO	139	148
NEW YORK	115	119
NORTH CAROLINA	128	139
NORTH DAKOTA	8	8
OHIO	54	55
OKLAHOMA	51	56
OREGON	35	38

PENNSYLVANIA	54	59
RHODE ISLAND	3	3
SOUTH CAROLINA	38	38
SOUTH DAKOTA	6	6
TENNESSEE	69	73
TEXAS	326	370
UTAH	17	17
VERMONT	6	7
VIRGINIA	103	113
WASHINGTON	87	91
WEST VIRGINIA	7	7
WISCONSIN	29	32
WYOMING	21	22
Total	2,876	3,138

Source: NHTSA's FARS 2020 Annual Report File