



## Distracted Driving

### OVERVIEW

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommends that states ban use of all portable electronic devices, including hands-free devices, for all drivers. Comparing the risk of crash while driving distracted to driving under the influence, the NTSB notes that distracted driving is becoming an epidemic.

Teen drivers are more likely to take risks behind the wheel and their inexperience with driving increases the risk of crashing while driving while using a mobile device.

As with seatbelt use, parental modeling plays an important role in the reduction of teen use of mobile devices while driving. State laws that prohibit use of portable electronic devices for all drivers are more effective in reducing rates of distracted driving by teens.

### AAP POSITION

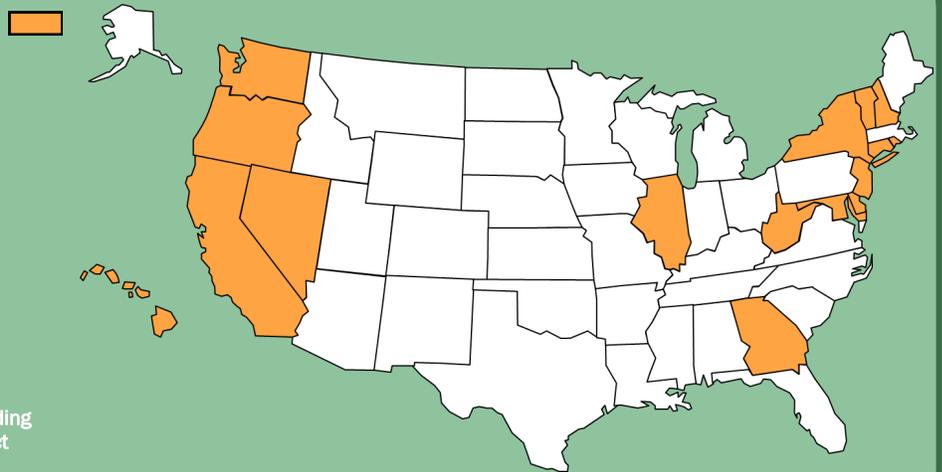
- Studies have been used to suggest that all-age bans reduce the frequency of observed cell phone use and crash rates for young drivers. Bans on the use of electronic communication devices specifically by teen drivers have not been shown to change driver behavior or safety outcomes.
- On the basis of accumulating evidence about enforceability and efficacy, experts advocate for laws that apply to the use of all handheld devices, laws that apply to all drivers in all driving environments, and laws that make distracted driving violations offenses reportable to insurance companies.

## FACTS

- More than 2,300 US 16-19 year olds were killed by motor vehicle crash injuries, and approximately 221,000 were treated in emergency departments for motor vehicle crash injuries in 2014.
- Nearly 3,500 people in the US died, and 391,000 were injured, in crashes that involved a distracted driver in 2015.
- Nearly 303 million people in the US have mobile phones. At any given moment during the daylight hours, more than 800,000 vehicles are being driven by someone using a handheld mobile phone.
- In 2015, 42% of high school students who drove in the past 30 days reported sending a text or email while driving.

## PROGRESS

- 17 states – laws prohibiting minors from texting while driving



## MORE

- [AAP Policy–The Teen Driver](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-2163)–<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-2163>
- [AAP Teen Driving Resources](http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/campaigns/teen-drivers/Pages/default.aspx) – [www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/campaigns/teen-drivers/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/campaigns/teen-drivers/Pages/default.aspx)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)–Distracted Driving](http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/distracted_driving)–[www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/distracted\\_driving](http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/distracted_driving)
- [National Safety Council–Distracted Driving](http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/Distracted_Driving/Pages/distracted_driving.aspx)–[www.nsc.org/safety\\_road/Distracted\\_Driving/Pages/distracted\\_driving.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/Distracted_Driving/Pages/distracted_driving.aspx)
- [National Highway Transportation Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)–Distracted Driving](http://www.distraction.gov)–[www.distraction.gov](http://www.distraction.gov)