

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

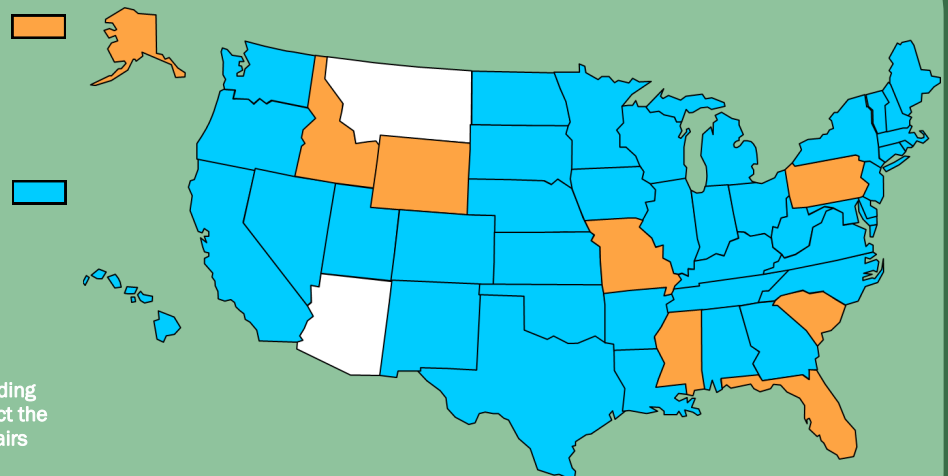
- Evidence shows that distractions may be a greater problem for the inexperienced driver. Distracted novice drivers tend to glance away from the road for longer periods of time, during which they have trouble responding to hazards and staying in their lane.
- The use of mobile phones while driving should be prohibited.

FACTS

- Nearly 2,200 US 16-19 year olds were killed by motor vehicle crash injuries, and approximately 243,000 were treated in emergency departments for motor vehicle crash injuries in 2013.
- Nearly 3,200 people in the US died, and 424,000 were injured, in crashes that involved a distracted driver in 2013.
- 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 2013, nearly 20% of all crashes in which someone was injured involved a driver who was distracted.

PROGRESS

- 8 states— laws prohibiting minors from texting while driving
- 40 states and DC— laws prohibiting minors from using mobile phones and texting while driving



MORE

- [AAP Policy—The Teen Driver](http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/118/6/2570.full)—<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/118/6/2570.full>
- [Parent-Teen Driving Agreement](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/teen/safety/Pages/Teen-Driving-Agreement.aspx) — www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/teen/safety/Pages/Teen-Driving-Agreement.aspx
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)—Distracted Driving](http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/distracted_driving)— 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
- [National Highway Transportation Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)—Distracted Driving](http://www.distraction.gov)— www.distraction.gov