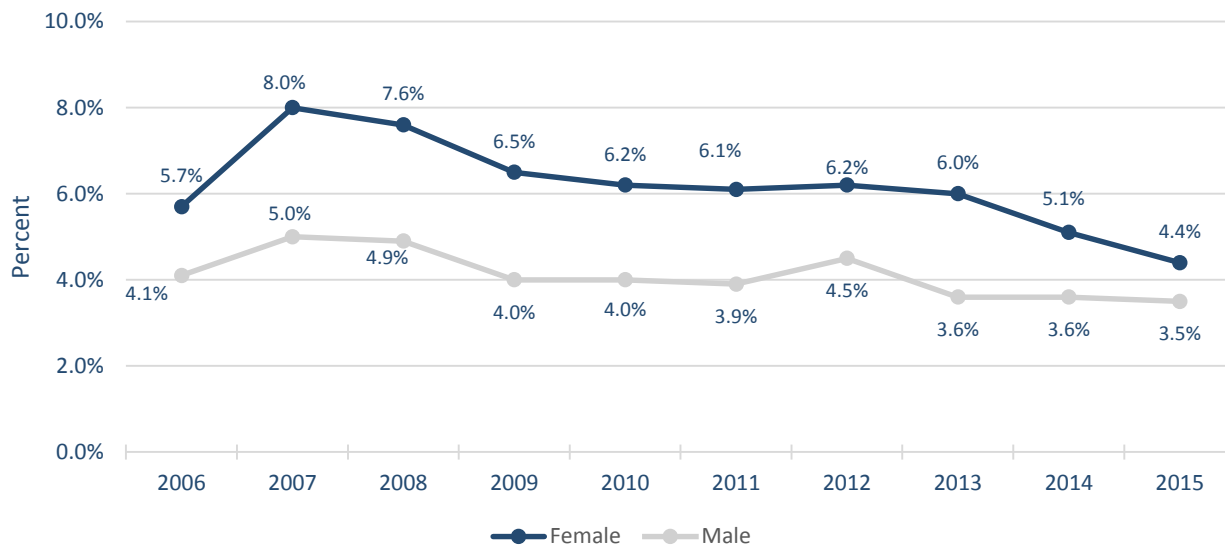


DISTRACTED DRIVING

Percentage of Drivers Holding Phones to Their Ears While Driving, by Gender¹



Distracted Driving Facts

- Distracted driving is any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increases the risk of crashing. Distractions include: texting or talking on a cell phone, talking to passengers, eating, adjusting the radio, using a navigation system, etc. (Source: Distraction.gov)
- Distractions can be visual (taking eyes off the road), manual (taking hands off the wheel), or cognitive (taking mind off what you're doing). Since texting involves all three, it is particularly dangerous. (Source: Distraction.gov)
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 10% (2,955) of U.S. fatal crashes in 2014 were reported as distraction-affected. These crashes killed 3,179 people and injured an estimated 431,000 more. In 13% of these crashes, the distraction was talking on, listening to, or manipulating a cell phone. (Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- In 2016, 13,994 drivers² in Ohio crashed while being distracted by something within their vehicles. Twenty-six (26) of these drivers were in fatal crashes which resulted in 27 deaths. Another 4,965 drivers were in injury crashes resulting in 7,239 injuries. The number of reported distracted drivers rose 5% in 2016 over the previous year after rising 11% from 2014 to 2015.
- The biggest distraction category reported in 2016 in Ohio was "Other Inside the Vehicle" (e.g., passengers, food and/or drinks) which comprised 60% of all distracted drivers and 50% of distracted drivers in fatal crashes (up from 44% in 2015). "Phone" and "Texting/Emailing" were the listed distractions for 23% of all distracted drivers in 2016, but 38% of distracted drivers in fatal crashes.
- Ohio law bans all "electronic wireless communication device" usage for drivers under 18. Texting while driving is illegal for all drivers but only as a secondary offense. Across the U.S., 46 states ban text messaging for all drivers. Talking on a hand-held phone while driving is banned in 14 states.

¹Based on the 2015 National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS). See Electronic Device Use. ²Crash data provisional as of 3/15/2017.

Note: For purposes of this report, distracted driving includes all drivers involved in crashes who had a primary distraction coming from something inside the vehicle.