In 2018, there were 13,713 crashes in Ohio that involved one or more drivers that were distracted by something within their vehicle. Forty-seven (47) of these crashes were fatal and resulted in 51 deaths. There were an additional 4,628 injury crashes resulting in 6,860 injuries.

Males drivers were more likely than their female counterparts to be distracted in a crash (53% vs. 45% with 2% unknown). In fatal crashes, males made up 62% of distracted drivers. Over one in three (34%) distracted drivers were 16-24 years old.

Over the last five years, between Christmas Eve and New Year’s Day, there have been 1,171 crashes involving a distracted driver. These crashes have killed two people and injured 276.

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., 48 states ban text messaging for all drivers. Talking on a hand-held phone while driving is banned in 21 states.

In October 2018, Ohio passed a law to enhance the penalty for specific moving violations when the driver was distracted. Offenders who are found guilty can either pay a fee of $100 (in addition to the fine for the moving violation) or attend a distracted driving safety course.