



FACT SHEET AND TALKING POINTS

Distracted driving is one of the fastest-growing safety issues on the roads today. Distracted drivers are not just a threat to themselves—they are a danger to everyone else on the road.

In support of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, law enforcement agencies are teaming up with the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning for a *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* high-visibility enforcement effort.

Enforcement Period—April 2023

- To help keep road users safe, law enforcement officers will remind drivers about the dangers of distracted driving while enforcing Michigan’s Texting While Driving Law.
- The goal of this initiative is to reduce traffic crashes caused by distracted drivers, ultimately preventing injuries and deaths associated with cell phone use and texting while driving.

Michigan Statistics—According to Michigan Traffic Crash Facts

- In 2021, 5.9 percent of Michigan crashes involved a distracted driver.
- There were 16,543 motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver in 2021, and 59 of those crashes resulted in a fatality.
- In 2021, about 37.1 percent of the crashes involving a distracted driver took place at an intersection.
- Only 6.7 percent of Michigan drivers are under the age of 21, but 18.1 percent of the distracted-driving crashes involved drivers under 21.
- In 2021, there were 1,263 (45.7 percent) rear-end crashes where a driver was using a cell phone.
- Only 6.7 percent of Michigan drivers are under the age of 21, but 18.1 percent of the distracted-driving crashes involved drivers under 21.
- In 2021, among drivers under the age of 21 involved in crashes, the rate of driver distraction was 5.9 percent. The driver distraction rate was 3.5 percent among drivers aged 21 and older.

National Statistics—According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

- According to NHTSA, more than 32,400 people died in distraction-affected crashes over the ten-year period from 2011 to 2020.
- NHTSA reports that the number of deaths linked to driver distraction was 3,142 nationwide in 2020, or 8 percent of all motor vehicle crash fatalities. That is an increase of 23 fatalities compared to 2019.
- Distracted-driving crashes accounted for 14 percent of injury crashes and 13 percent of all police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2020.