

# Facts about teens and distracted driving everyone should know.

Because teen drivers have less experience on the road, becoming distracted while driving is even more dangerous. That's why teens need to be reminded to stay focused behind the wheel. The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning is providing these facts and statistics to help encourage teens to avoid distractions and be safer drivers.

## Don't



## and drive.

- For teen drivers with a restricted license under Michigan's Graduated Driver Licensing program, cell phone use of any kind is against the law. Penalties include fees, fines, and possible license suspension.
- In a 2019 survey, 39% of high school students reported texting or emailing while driving during the past month.
- Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for at least 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

### Other top distractions for teen drivers

- Teen passengers: A teen driver's risk of dying in a crash increases with each additional teen passenger. Three or more teen passengers **QUADRUPLES** the risk.
- Eating, drinking, or smoking while driving: Eating behind the wheel can increase crash risk by 80%.
- Applying makeup or doing hair.
- Changing music on the sound system or adjusting temperature controls.

### What distracts you can impact you

- There were 16,543 distracted-driving crashes in Michigan in 2021.
- Of those drivers who were involved in crashes, the percentage who were driving distracted was almost twice as high among teen drivers compared to drivers aged 21 and older.
- Only 6.7% of Michigan drivers are under the age of 21, but 18.1% of the distracted-driving crashes involved drivers under 21.
- In 2021, about 37.1% of the crashes involving a distracted driver took place at an intersection.