



# Don't Drive Distracted

Keep your eyes on the road.  
Be Safe PA.

Thank you for  
participating in  
The  
Distracted  
Driver  
Guidance  
Education  
Group



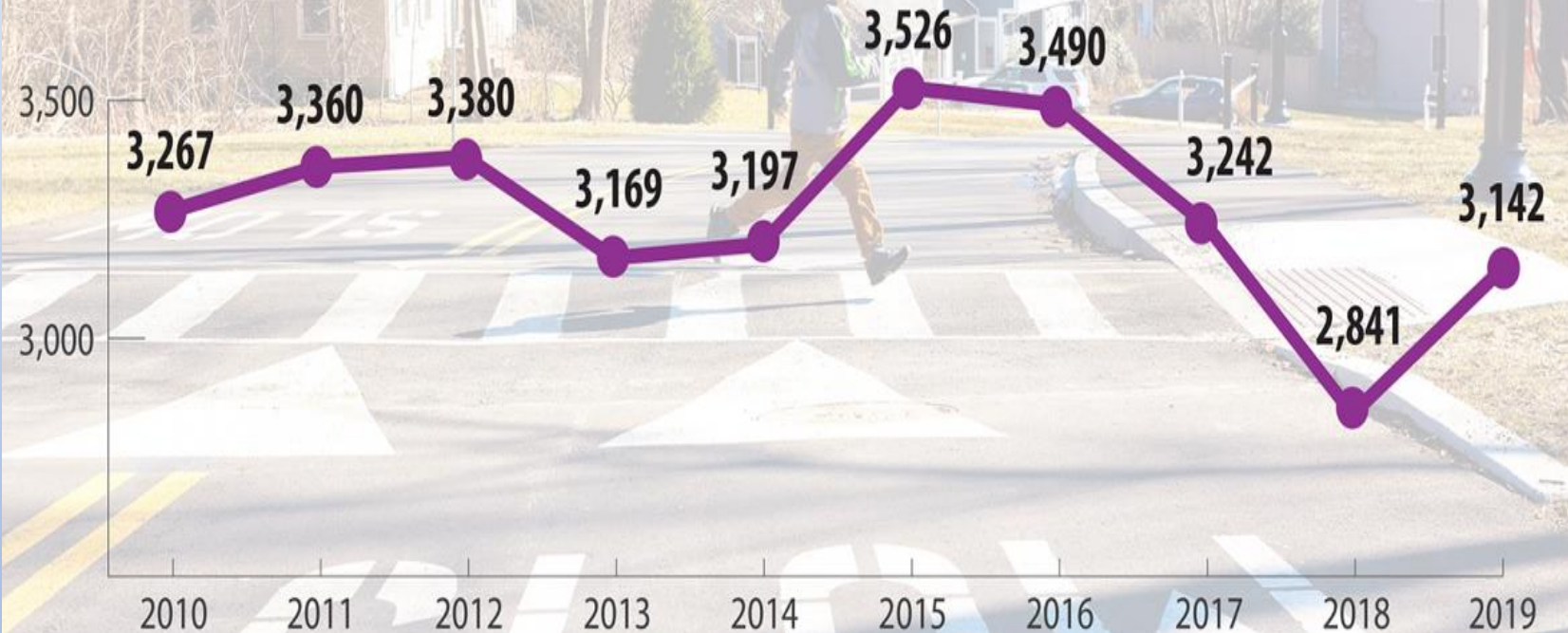
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Cell phones are a huge part of our lives, from the moment we wake up to the time we fall asleep. The average adult spends approximately three hours every day on their cell phone – that’s the equivalent of a month and a half of 24/7 cell phone usage in just one year. Unfortunately, our addiction to cell phones means that distracted driving is incredibly pervasive – and deadly – on U.S. roads.

## About 3,000 people die in crashes involving a distracted driver every year.

U.S. motor vehicle crash deaths—National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2010-2019





# The Federal Government is working to prevent distracted driving

Several federal regulations target distractions for workers:

In 2009, President Obama issued an Executive Order prohibiting federal employees from texting while driving government-owned vehicles or when driving privately-owned vehicles on official government business.

In 2010, the Federal Railroad Administration banned cell phone and electronic device use by railroad operating employees on the job.

In 2010, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration banned commercial vehicle drivers from texting while driving.

In 2011, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration banned all hand-held cell phone use by commercial drivers and drivers carrying hazardous materials.

In 2021, Congress provided resources to add distracted driving awareness as part of driver's license exams as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

In 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation released the National Roadway Safety Strategy. Part of the strategy includes supporting vehicle technology systems that detect distracted driving.

NHTSA has several campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving, including their annual "U Drive. U Text. U Pay." campaign, which began in April 2014.

NHTSA has issued voluntary guidelines to promote safety by discouraging the introduction of both original, in-vehicle, and portable/aftermarket electronic devices in vehicles.

CDC has developed the Parents Are the Key campaign, which helps parents, pediatricians, and communities help keep teen drivers safe on the road.


# What is Pennsylvania doing?

## Pennsylvania

- Handheld Devices
  - The distracted driving law in PA requires drivers to refrain from using handheld devices for written communication only.
- Texting
  - Texting and driving laws in PA ban drivers from texting as a primary offense.
- Novice Drivers
  - Novice drivers and those with learner's permits cannot operate handheld or hands-free devices.
- CDL Holders
  - Those with commercial driving licenses (CDL) are subject to the same distracted driving laws that prevent other drivers from communicating via text on their handheld devices.
- Penalties
  - Distracted driving penalties for non-commercial offenders involve a fine and the cost of court fees, but no penalty points will be added to driving records. Commercial drivers, however, will have a non-sanction violation added to their driving records.

# What are other states doing?

- New York, Virginia, and Nebraska will add three or more points to your license for texting and driving, which means your insurance rates could spike if you get a ticket.
- Alaska and Utah are the only states with texting bans that include jail time as a penalty for the first offense. They also have the highest fines at \$10,000 and \$750, respectively.
- New York, Connecticut, Delaware and California should be congratulated for their enforcement of distracted driving laws. They are among the top ten safest states, were the first states to qualify for federal funding to crack down on drivers using cellphones, and are among the top ten states with the most tickets issued since their bans were put in place.
- Delaware is the strictest enforcer of distracted driving, with the most citations issued per licensed drivers in their state. Since Delaware's ban went into effect in 2011, the state reported more tickets than DC and New York, who have had handheld cellphone bans in place since 2004 and 2001, respectively.
- Washington DC, New York, and New Jersey are among the top five places where you're least likely to die in a crash, and all have laws banning handheld cellphone while driving. While public transit may be a factor, these places also have some of the strictest and longest standing distracted driving laws in the country.



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