

Distracted Driving Fact Sheet

- In 2014, 3,179 people were killed, and 431,000 injured nationwide in traffic crashes involving distracted drivers. *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*
- There were 7,516 crashes in Michigan during 2015 involving distracted driving, resulting in 28 fatalities and 3,472 injuries. Cell phones were involved in 753 crashes, with three fatalities and 377 injuries. *Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC)*
- 41 percent of young adult drivers in Michigan admitted to sending texts and emails on a regular basis while driving, according to a statewide telephone survey conducted in 2016 for the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). More than 26 percent indicated they did so daily.
- Michigan law prohibits a driver from reading, manually typing, or sending a text message while driving. Driving is defined as: operating a moving motor vehicle on a street or highway.
 - \$100 fine for first offense, \$200 for subsequent offenses.
 - No points are assessed on a driving record.
 - Exceptions are in place for reporting crashes, crimes, or other emergencies.
- Michigan law prohibits Level 1 and Level 2 license holders under the Graduated Driver Licensing program from using a cell phone while driving.
 - Violations are a civil infraction and fees and may be up to \$240.
 - No points are assessed on a driving record.
 - Exceptions are in place for reporting crashes, crimes, medical emergencies, serious road hazards, and situations where a person believes his or her personal safety is in jeopardy.
 - Voice-operated systems integrated into the vehicle are exempt.
- There are three main types of distraction:
 - Visual: taking your eyes off the road.
 - Manual: taking your hands off the wheel.
 - Cognitive: taking your mind off what you are doing.
- Research shows that the brain remains distracted for 27 seconds after dialing, changing music, or sending a text using voice commands. *National Safety Council*
- In addition to texting, distracted driving can include:
 - Eating and drinking
 - Using a navigation system
 - Attending to children
 - Grooming
 - Reading, including maps
 - Talking to passengers
 - Changing the radio