

FAST TEXTING FACTS in New Mexico



The Problem

Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways. In 2014, 3,129 people were killed in distracted driving crashes.

At any given daylight moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady since 2010.

The National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year.

Nearly 330,000 injuries occur each year from crashes caused by texting while driving.

1 out of every 4 car crashes in the United States is caused by texting and driving.

Texting while driving is 6x more likely to cause an a crash than driving drunk.

Answering a text takes away your attention for about five seconds. Traveling at 55 mph, that's enough time to travel the length of a football field.

Texting while driving causes a 400% increase in time spent with eyes off the road.

Of all cell phone related tasks, texting is by far the most dangerous activity.

94% of drivers support a ban on texting while driving.

74% of drivers support a ban on hand-held cell phone use.

See: <https://www.edgarsnyder.com/car-accident/cause-of-accident/cell-phone/cell-phone-statistics.html> for more information.

The Laws

66-7-374. Texting While Driving.

- Bans texting and other typing on wireless communications devices.
- Also "image communication" and website use by drivers.
- Prohibitions apply to temporary stops such as traffic lights.
- Permits use of GPS and in-dash interactive systems.
- Fines: \$25 (first offense), then \$50.
- Prohibits police from seizing cell phones.

History: Laws 2014, Ch 5, See: <http://public.nmcomp-comm.us/nmpublic/gateway.dll/?f=templates&fn=default.htm>

Commercial Driver Use of Mobile Devices

SB 171 — New in 2016, Chapter 63

- Prohibits commercial drivers from using a hand held mobile device while driving.
- Also disqualifies a person from driving a commercial motor vehicle for life if convicted of using any motor vehicle in the commission of certain felonies.
- Fines: \$25 (first offense), then \$50.

U Drive. U Text. U Pay. Campaigns

Texting while driving is a serious problem on America's roads. Seventy-one percent of young people say they have sent a text while driving. As a result, thousands of people die every year in crashes related to distracted driving. Help tackle this issue by getting involved. Share these campaign materials and posters with your friends and remind them, if you're texting, you're not driving.

See: <http://www.distraction.gov/take-action/texting-campaign.html> for more information.

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING FACTS

82%

OF DRIVERS 16 TO 24 SAID THEY HAVE TEXTED WHILE DRIVING.

(AUGUST, 2010)

85%

OF YOUNG ADULTS WHO TEXT WHILE DRIVING AGREE THAT TEXTING IS A PROBLEM.

(AUGUST, 2010)

77%

OF YOUNG ADULT DRIVERS ARE SOMEWHAT TO VERY CONFIDENT THEY CAN SAFELY TEXT WHILE DRIVING.

(AUGUST, 2010)

[FACEBOOK.COM/STOPTHETEXTS](https://www.facebook.com/stopthetexts)



Stop the texts,
Stop the wrecks!

Teen Driver Cell Phone Statistics

In New Mexico, it is illegal for learner's permit and intermediate license holders to:

- Text while driving.
- Talk on a cell phone while driving.

Nationwide:

- 11 teens die every day as a result of texting while driving.
- According to a AAA poll, 94% of teen drivers acknowledge the dangers of texting and driving, but 35% admitted to doing it anyway.
- 21% of teen drivers involved in fatal accidents were distracted by their cell phones.
- Teen drivers are 4x more likely than adults to get into car crashes or near-crashes when talking or texting on a cell phone.
- A teen driver with only one additional passenger doubles the risk of getting into a fatal car accident. With two or more passengers, they are 5x as likely.

One-fourth of teenagers respond to at least one text message every time they drive and 20% of teens and 10% of parents report having multi-text message conversations while driving.

Local Ordinances

Many cities and municipalities in New Mexico have stricter ordinances on cell phone use than the state law with higher fines and larger penalties.

For additional information see:

<http://www.distraction.gov/stats-research-laws/facts-and-statistics.html>

<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811719.pdf>
<http://ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/bystate/nm.html>

Governor's Highway Safety Association - Cell Phone Laws for New Mexico

All Cell Phone Ban

Hand-held ban	Novice Drivers
In State Vehicles & Local Option	Learners Permit & Intermediate License

Text Messaging Ban

All Drivers	Enforcement	Crash Data Collection
Yes	Yes	Yes
Primary	Primary	

This chart outlines state distracted driving laws. Some localities have additional regulations.

Hand-held Cell Phone Use: 14 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands prohibit all drivers from using hand-held cell phones while driving. All are primary enforcement laws—an officer may cite a driver for using a hand-held cell phone without any other traffic offense taking place.

All Cell Phone Use: No state bans all cell phone use for all drivers, but 38 states and D.C. ban all cell phone use by novice drivers, and 20 states and D.C. prohibit it for school bus drivers.

Text Messaging: Washington was the first state to pass a texting ban in 2007. Currently, 46 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands ban text messaging for all drivers. All but 5 have primary enforcement. Of the 4 states without an all driver texting ban:

2 prohibit text messaging by novice drivers.

1 restricts school bus drivers from texting.

Crash Data Collection: Nearly all states include at least one category for distraction on police crash report forms, although the specific data collected varies. The Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) guideline provides best practices on distraction data collection. See: <http://ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/bystate/nm.html> for more information.



Published 06/16 by the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau and UNM Continuing Education.
 Reproduction of this material is encouraged.

