Between 2006 and 2012, 214 people died and 3,182 people were seriously injured in crashes where the driver was distracted/fatigued.

Distracted/fatigued driver crashes accounted for approximately 3 percent of Ohio’s fatalities and around 4 percent of serious injuries.

Ohio changed its crash reporting form and starting in 2013 law enforcement officers are required to provide more specific information on distractions. Officers can now indicate the driver was distracted by a phone, texting/emailing, electronic communications or other device, other inside the vehicle, and an external distraction. Over the next few years, the numbers for distracted driving offenses will grow as more information is captured.

The majority (nearly 60 percent) of distracted/fatigued driving deaths and serious injuries involved roadway departure; 36 percent involved a young driver; 28 percent involved lack of restraint use; 17 percent happened at intersections; and nearly 15 percent involved rear-end crashes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing Factor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rear end</td>
<td>14.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seat belt related</td>
<td>28.08%</td>
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<td>Intersection related</td>
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<td>Roadway departure</td>
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Distracted/fatigued driving related deaths and serious injuries by related SHSP emphasis areas:

- **14.83%** Rear end
- **28.08%** Seat belt related
- **17.16%** Intersection related
- **36.41%** Young driver (15-20)
- **59.79%** Roadway departure

**Overview of Distracted/Fatigued Driving-Related Crashes**

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**Who was involved in crashes**

Males and females between age 16 and 20 had the highest number of distracted/fatigued driving related deaths and serious injuries followed by drivers age 21 to 25.

From 2008 to 2012, 1,294 distracted/fatigued driving deaths and serious injuries involved male drivers versus 762 for female drivers.

Male drivers between the ages of 16 and 20 accounted for the highest number of deaths and serious injuries, but another spike occurred among men age 46-55 and again with males over 70 years old.

**Note:** All data from 2008-2012, except Overview section
WHERE CRASHES OCCURRED

These maps rank Ohio counties by the number of deaths and serious injuries that occurred due to distracted/fatigued driving. Warm colors indicate more crashes relative to cool colors. Most urbanized counties have a higher total number and a higher percentage of serious distracted/fatigued driving crashes.

DRIVING AND TEXTING

There are many types of distractions, but texting may be the worst because it takes eyes off the road, hands off the wheel, and the driver’s mind off driving. The low number of texting and driving crashes may be due to under-reporting by police officers who are more likely to code a violation to a proven offense such as speeding or following too close. To charge someone with texting and driving, the officer or a witness must see the violation, the driver admits to the offense, or the officer subpoenas phone records to prove texting.

Ohio Law bans teen drivers under age 18 from using any electronic communications device (handheld and hands-free). Adult drivers are prohibited from writing or reading a text while driving, but can only be ticketed if pulled over for another offense.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Seventy percent of distracted/fatigued driver related deaths and serious injuries are due to crashes in which the driver was at fault.

WHEN CRASHES OCCURRED

Most distracted/fatigued driving deaths and serious injuries occurred during the summer months and declined when the weather got colder.

The number of deaths and serious injuries in distracted/fatigued driving crashes increased between 2-5 p.m. when there was more traffic on the roadway. Distracted/fatigued fatigue driving deaths, however, spiked at 1 p.m. and again at 2 a.m.

Fifty-nine percent of distracted/fatigued driving deaths and serious injuries occurred when people were driving between 55 and 65 mph. The next highest number of deaths and serious injuries was at speed limits between 35 and 44 mph (18 percent).

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