



DISTRACTED DRIVING IN OHIO: FAST FACTS



“Distracted Driving” is THE major worry for Ohio drivers by a two-to-one margin over “drivers under the influence.”



Distracted Driving

48%



Drivers under the influence

22%



Condition of the Roads

13%



Aggressive Drivers

13%



75%

of Ohio drivers say that using a hand-held cell phone is more dangerous or just as dangerous as driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

And Ohio drivers report more distractions than ever on the roads.

81%

of Ohio drivers say there are more distractions while driving today than there were five years ago.

53%

The percent of Ohio drivers who observe “distracted driving” nearly every time they are on the road.

In Their Own Words: Ohioans on Distracted Driving



“I’ve heard a lot of stories about accidents with distracted drivers. It makes sense that it should be treated like driving drunk.” – Male, 25-34, Dayton

“It has been proven that texting while driving is just as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol. Using your phone while driving causes moderate to extreme distraction.”

– Female, 65+, Cincinnati

“In high school I lost a friend to texting and driving. Her life was cut short at seventeen years old because of the decision to text while driving. This has made an impact on my entire life.”

– Female, 18-24, Cleveland

“I was driving a truck when a lady coming beside me was on a cell phone. She wound up hitting me and having an accident. I wound up losing my job and livelihood.”

– Male, 55-64, Columbus

“Too many jerks on their phone and not paying attention to the road.”

– Female, 65+, Wheeling-Steubenville

PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

turning questions into answers

FOR OHIO

FIX OUR ROADS OHIO

Better Transportation for Working and Living



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There is strong support in Ohio for a new law addressing the issue of “distracted driving.”



Ohio drivers were asked about a potential new state law dealing with distracted driving:

The state legislature is considering passing new legislation dealing with this issue. The new law would prohibit drivers from holding their cell phones while talking or manually using their hand-held cell phones to write an email or text, post on social media, view images or videos, manually enter data or broadcast videos or images. Further, it would allow drivers to use voice commands to make calls and respond to communications.

Would you favor or oppose this proposed new law?

45% Strongly Support

78% Total Support

15% Total Oppose

And support for the new law cuts across age groups, media markets, political ideology and partisanship, as well as ethnicity.

88% of Ohio drivers say they would be **willing to obey** the new law – that includes at least **80%** of all age groups.

“This is simply not a serious enough issue to require a new law.”

71% of Ohio Drivers Disagree

61% say that they believe the number of distracted driving accidents in the state would **decrease** if this new law is passed and enforced.

METHODOLOGY: On behalf of FOR Ohio, Public Opinion Strategies completed a survey of **N=1000 licensed drivers in Ohio** with a representative sample of adult Ohioans, reflecting age, education, ethnicity and gender characteristics according to the census. The survey was conducted **February 17 - 24, 2021** and has a **credibility interval of ±3.53%**.