

Distracted Driving

Distracted driving crashes are those where investigating law enforcement officer indicates that either inattention or a distraction in or on the vehicle was a contributing factor in the crash. Distraction is defined by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as a specific type of inattention that occurs when drivers divert their attention away from the task of driving to focus on another activity. Distraction is categorized into the three following types: visual (taking your eyes off the road), manual (taking your hands off the wheel), and cognitive (taking your mind off the road).

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change 2010-2011	Avg. Change 2007-2010
Total Distracted Driving Crashes	7,568	6,723	6,136	5,882	4,925	-16.3%	-8.0%
Fatalities	79	72	60	60	41	-31.7%	-8.5%
Serious Injuries	680	527	490	517	372	-28.0%	-8.0%
Visible Injuries	1,492	1,152	1,153	1,256	1,064	-15.3%	-4.6%
Possible Injuries	2,822	2,413	2,284	2,316	1,906	-17.7%	-6.1%
Distracted Driving Crashes as a % of All Crashes	30.3%	29.2%	27.2%	26.1%	23.6%	-9.3%	-4.8%
Distracted Driving Fatalities as a % of All Fatalities	34.1%	31.9%	28.7%	28.7%	24.6%	-14.5%	-5.4%
Distracted Driving Injuries as a % of All Injuries	41.6%	35.9%	33.5%	34.9%	30.8%	-11.8%	-5.5%
All Fatal and Injury Crashes	8,439	8,060	8,124	8,124	7,644	-5.9%	-1.2%
Distracted Fatal/Injury Crashes	3,342	2,781	2,647	2,673	2,248	-15.9%	-6.9%
% Distracted Driving	39.6%	34.5%	32.6%	32.9%	29.4%	-10.6%	-5.8%
Distracted Driving Fatality and Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Of Travel	4.97	3.88	3.54	3.71	2.68	-27.8%	-8.6%

Distracted driving crashes made up 24% of all crashes in 2011 and were responsible for 25% of all fatalities. While 69% of all distracted driving crashes occurred on urban roadways, 75% of the fatal distracted driving crashes occurred on rural roadways.

While only 25% of all distracted driving crashes involved a single vehicle, 47% of fatal distracted driving crashes involved a single vehicle.

The economic cost of crashes involving distracted driving was nearly \$587.5 million dollars in 2011. This represents 27% of the total costs of Idaho crashes (as shown in Table 4).