

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).

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change 2019-2020	Avg. Change 2016-2019
Total Distracted Driving Crashes	4,973	4,808	4,750	5,066	4,253	-16.0%	0.7%
Fatalities	64	39	48	36	22	-38.9%	-13.7%
Suspected Serious Injury	367	318	343	250	237	-5.2%	-10.9%
Suspected Minor Injury	1,193	989	1,028	903	863	-4.4%	-8.4%
Possible Injuries	2,121	2,020	2,081	2,112	1,637	-22.5%	-0.1%
Distracted Driving Crashes as a % of All Crashes	19.6%	18.6%	19.8%	18.8%	18.9%	0.7%	-1.4%
Distracted Driving Fatalities as a % of All Fatalities	25.3%	15.9%	20.5%	16.1%	10.3%	-36.0%	-10.0%
Distracted Driving Injuries as a % of All Injuries	26.9%	25.7%	26.0%	24.5%	23.9%	-2.4%	-3.1%
All Fatal and Injury Crashes	9,559	9,042	9,298	9,354	8,110	-13.3%	-0.7%
Distracted Fatal/Injury Crashes	2,355	2,151	2,244	2,131	1,852	-13.1%	-3.1%
% Distracted Driving	24.6%	23.8%	24.1%	22.8%	22.8%	0.2%	-2.5%
Distracted Driving Fatality and Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Of Travel	2.51	2.06	2.21	1.58	1.49	-5.8%	-13.1%

Distracted driving crashes made up 19% of all crashes in 2020 and were responsible for 10% of all fatalities. While 71% of all distracted driving crashes occurred on urban roadways, 85% of the fatal distracted driving crashes occurred on rural roadways.

While only 21% of all distracted driving crashes involved a single vehicle, 25% of fatal distracted driving crashes involved a single vehicle.

The economic cost of crashes involving distracted driving was over \$601 million dollars in 2020. This represents 16% of the total costs of Idaho crashes (as shown in Table 4).

Figures 15 and 16 on the following page show what the distractions were for crashes where the officer indicated Distracted in or on Vehicle as a contributing circumstance. There were 4 fatal and 995 total crashes that involved Distracted in or on Vehicle. Inattention makes up a larger portion of the distracted driving crashes. Of course, both Inattention and Distracted in or on Vehicle could be contributing circumstances in a single crash.

Figure 15
Percentage of Distracted In or On Vehicle Fatal Crashes by Type of Distraction: 2020

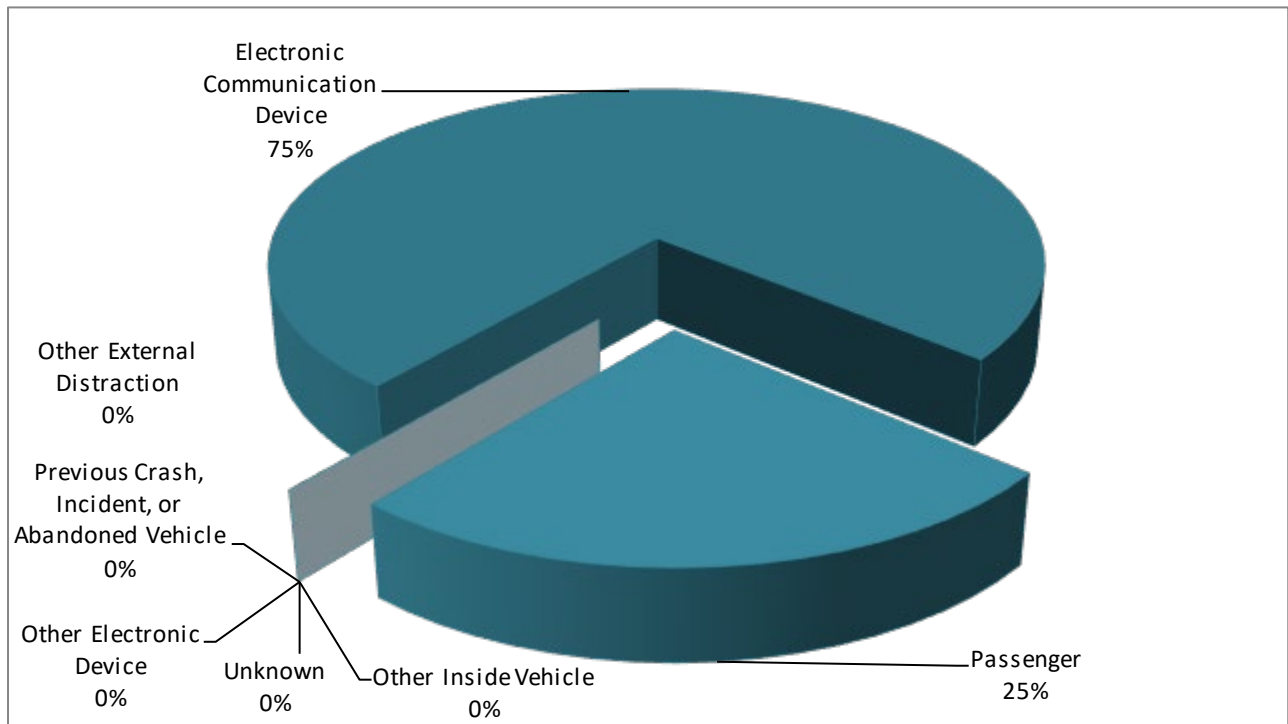


Figure 16
Percentage of Distracted In or On Vehicle Total Crashes by Type of Distraction: 2020

