

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).

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change 2020-2021	Avg. Change 2017-2020
Total Distracted Driving Crashes	4,808	4,750	5,066	4,253	5,003	17.6%	-3.5%
Fatalities	39	48	36	22	30	36.4%	-13.6%
Suspected Serious Injury	318	343	250	237	284	19.8%	-8.2%
Suspected Minor Injury	989	1,028	903	863	1,007	16.7%	-4.2%
Possible Injuries	2,020	2,081	2,112	1,637	1,677	2.4%	-6.0%
Distracted Driving Crashes as a % of All Crashes	18.6%	19.8%	18.8%	18.9%	18.2%	-3.8%	0.6%
Distracted Driving Fatalities as a % of All Fatalities	15.9%	20.5%	16.1%	10.3%	11.1%	7.7%	-9.6%
Distracted Driving Injuries as a % of All Injuries	25.7%	26.0%	24.5%	23.9%	23.5%	-1.5%	-2.3%
All Fatal and Injury Crashes	9,042	9,298	9,354	8,110	8,909	9.9%	-3.3%
Distracted Fatal/Injury Crashes	2,151	2,244	2,131	1,852	1,964	6.0%	-4.6%
% Distracted Driving	23.8%	24.1%	22.8%	22.8%	22.0%	-3.5%	-1.3%
Distracted Driving Fatality and Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Of Travel	2.06	2.21	1.58	1.49	1.63	9.0%	-9.0%

Distracted driving crashes made up 18% of all crashes in 2021 and were responsible for 11% of all fatalities. While 74% of all distracted driving crashes occurred on urban roadways, 68% of the fatal distracted driving crashes occurred on rural roadways.

While only 17% of all distracted driving crashes involved a single vehicle, 36% of fatal distracted driving crashes involved a single vehicle.

The economic cost of crashes involving distracted driving was nearly \$842 million dollars in 2021. 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 6 fatal and 1300 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: 2021

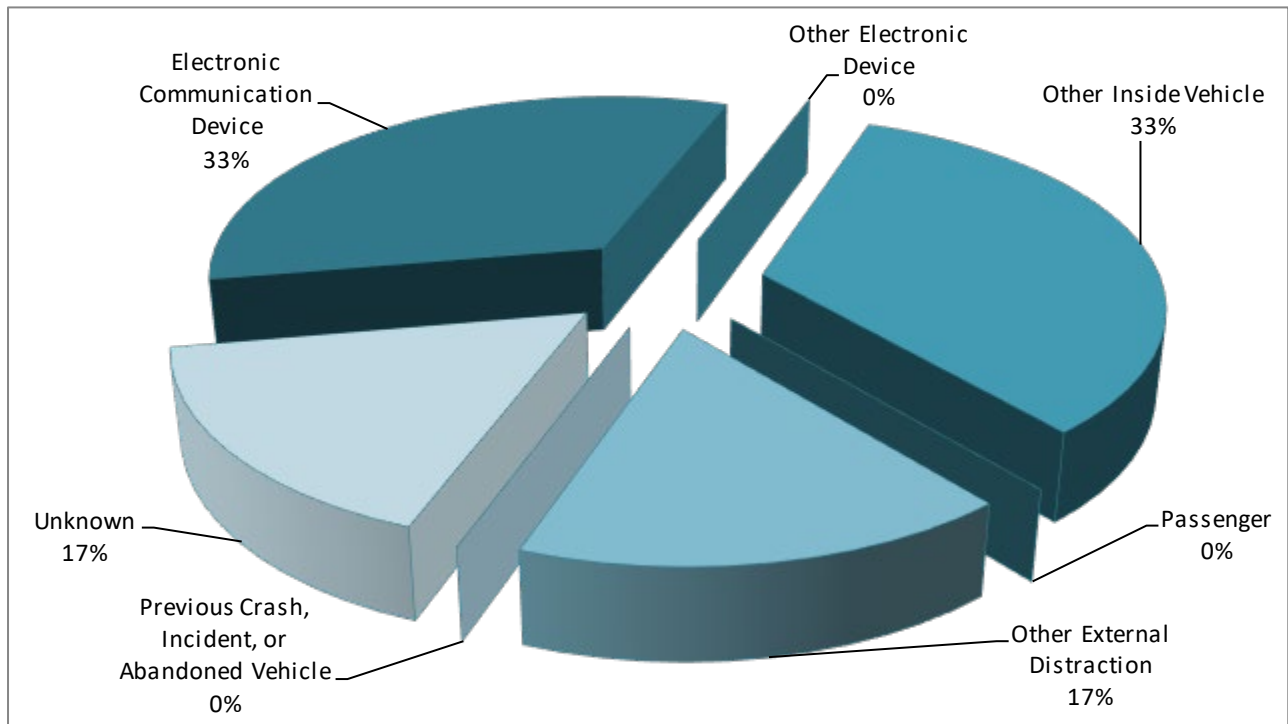


Figure 16
Percentage of Distracted In or On Vehicle Total Crashes by Type of Distraction: 2021

