

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).

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Change 2022-2023 | Avg. Change 2019-2022 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total Distracted Driving Crashes | 5,066 | 4,253 | 5,003 | 4,736 | 4,757 | 0.4% | -1.3% |
| Fatalities | 36 | 22 | 30 | 34 | 48 | 41.2% | 3.6% |
| Suspected Serious Injury | 250 | 237 | 284 | 300 | 229 | -23.7% | 6.8% |
| Suspected Minor Injury | 903 | 863 | 1,007 | 1,023 | 987 | -3.5% | 4.6% |
| Possible Injuries | 2,112 | 1,637 | 1,677 | 1,491 | 1,454 | -2.5% | -10.4% |
| Distracted Driving Crashes as a % of All Crashes | 18.8% | 18.9% | 18.2% | 17.1% | 17.2% | 0.4% | -3.0% |
| Distracted Driving Fatalities as a % of All Fatalities | 16.1% | 10.3% | 11.1% | 15.8% | 17.5% | 10.4% | 4.8% |
| Distracted Driving Injuries as a % of All Injuries | 24.5% | 23.9% | 23.5% | 23.2% | 22.5% | -2.7% | -1.9% |
| All Fatal and Injury Crashes | 9,354 | 8,110 | 8,909 | 8,637 | 8,503 | -1.6% | -2.2% |
| Distracted Fatal/Injury Crashes | 2,131 | 1,852 | 1,964 | 1,854 | 1,787 | -3.6% | -4.2% |
| % Distracted Driving | 22.8% | 22.8% | 22.0% | 21.5% | 21.0% | -2.1% | -2.0% |
| Distracted Driving Fatality and Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Of Travel | 1.58 | 1.49 | 1.63 | 1.74 | 1.41 | -19.3% | 3.5% |

Distracted driving crashes made up 17% of all crashes in 2023 and were responsible for 17% of all fatalities. While 72% of all distracted driving crashes occurred on urban roadways, 61% of the fatal distracted driving crashes occurred on rural roadways.

While only 18% of all distracted driving crashes involved a single vehicle, 24% of fatal distracted driving crashes involved a single vehicle and all of them occurred on rural roadways.

The economic cost of crashes involving distracted driving was more than \$1.1 billion dollars in 2023. This represents 19% 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 were the officer indicated Distracted in or on Vehicle as a contributing circumstance. There were 7 fatal and 1,285 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: 2023

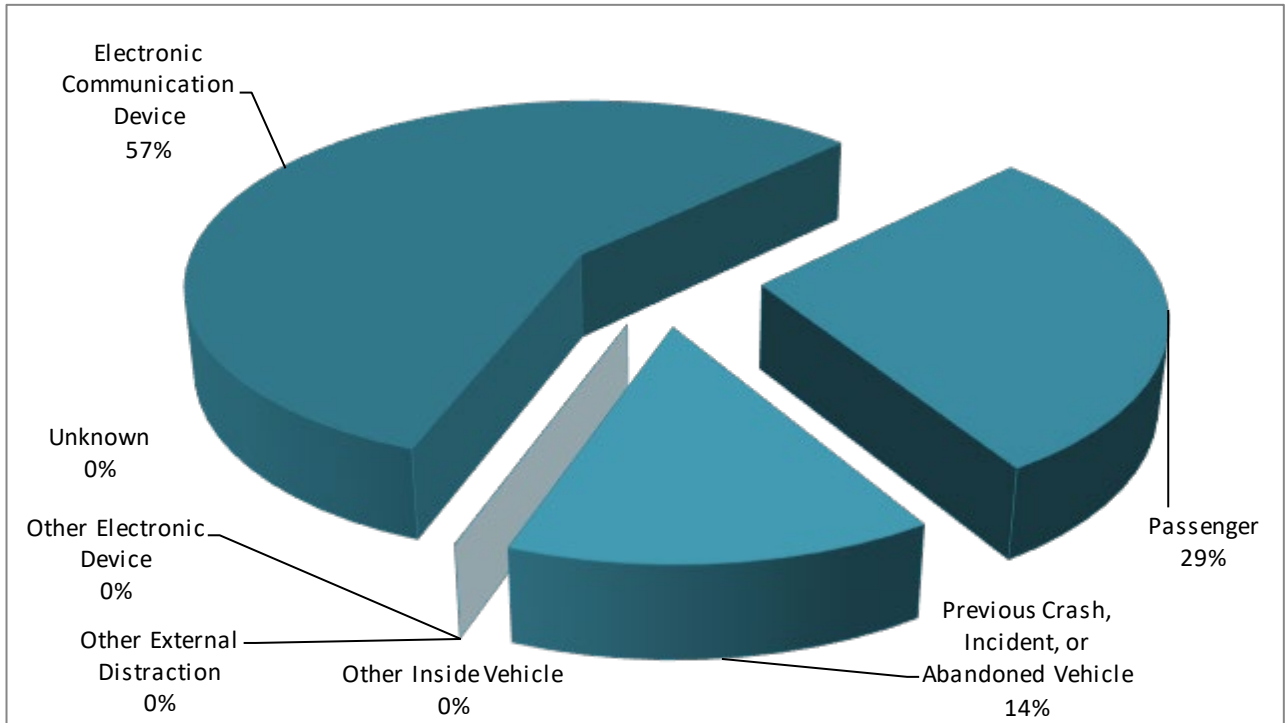


Figure 16
Percentage of Distracted In or On Vehicle Total Crashes by Type of Distraction: 2023

