



Comprehensive Review of Distracted Driving Programs in the United States

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Introduction

- Distracted driving has only increased and led to significant morbidity and mortality crashes in the US [1].
- Fatal crashes increased over 12% from 2020 to 2021 according to NHTSA's analysis [2].
- Percentage of distracted driving crashes in the state of Florida [3]:
 - 2018: 14.65% of 403,626 crashes
 - 2019: 10.27% of 401,867 crashes
 - 2020: 7.55% of 341,399 crashes
- However, distracted driving policies are not federally written, but are each individual states responsibility.

The purpose of this study was to understand the policies regarding distracted driving from state to state in the United States.

Facts in Florida

Data Sources:

FDOT SSOGIS website are maintained by FDOT Safety Office. The database provides crash data within the state of Florida from 2011 to June 2022.

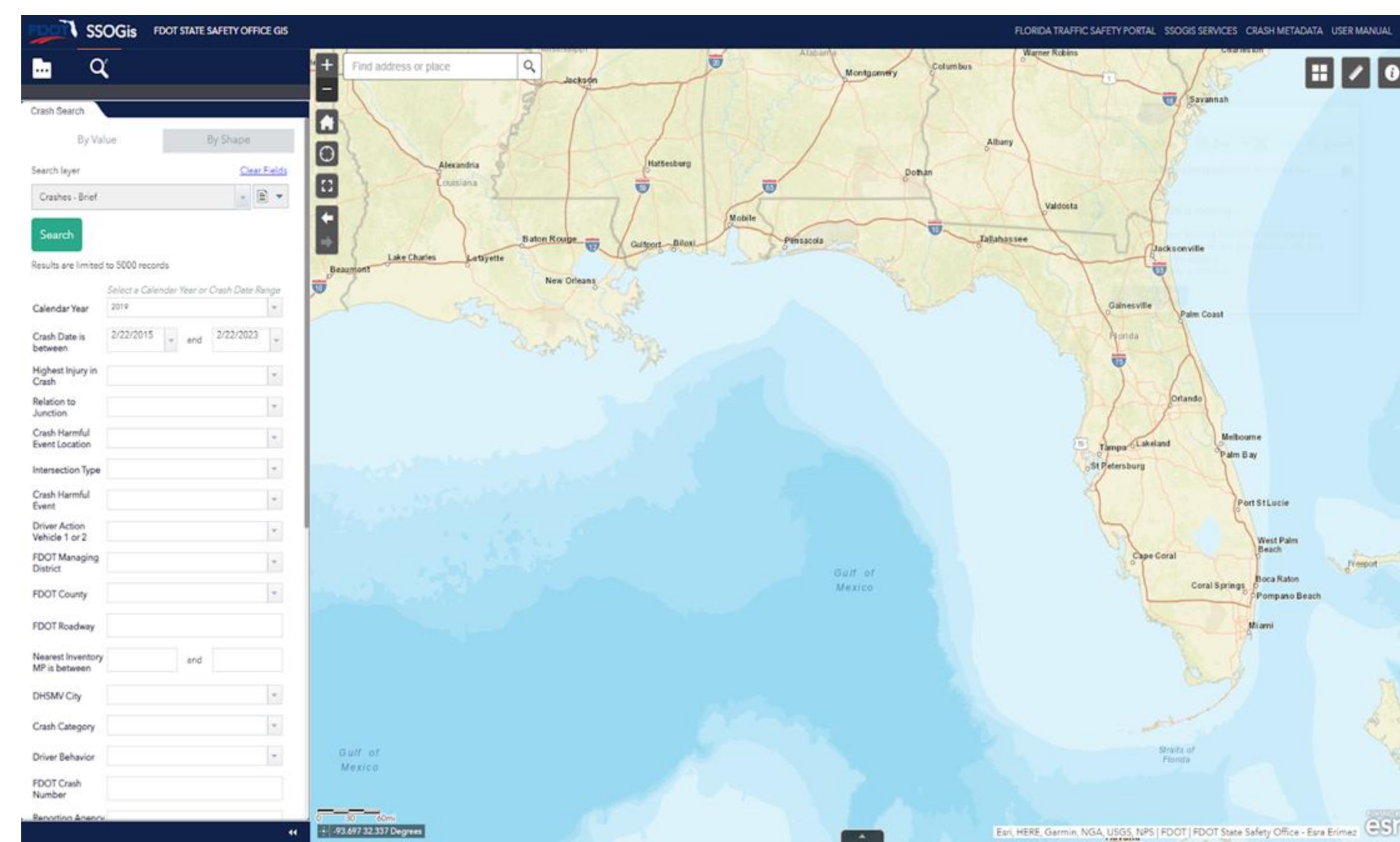


Figure 1: FDOT GIS Crash Database [3]

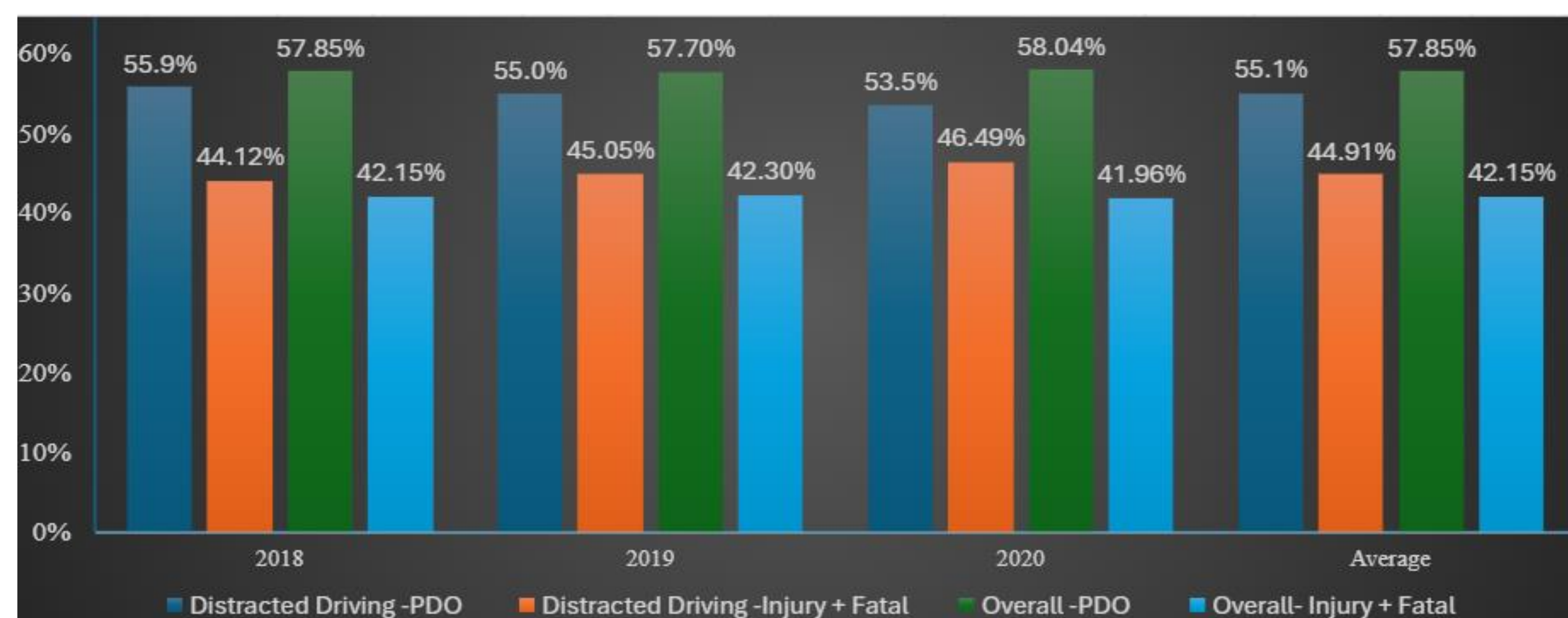


Figure 2: Comparison of Severe Crashes of Distracted Driving vs. Overall Crashes from 2018-2020 in Florida

Table 1: Significance of Severity Levels for Distracted Driving Crashes vs Overall Crashes from 2018-2020 in Florida

| Year | Fatal (5) | Inc. Injury (4) | Non-Inc. Injury (3-2) | PDO (1) |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 2018-2020 | 1.027 | 0.955 | 12.161 | 13.940 |
| Significant | No | No | Yes | Yes |

Summary of State Programs Review ^[4,5]

| State | Program for Distracted Driving | Funding Resource | Law Type | Facts |
|----------------|--|--|-----------|---|
| Alabama | Risky Driver Program | ALDOT | Primary | Alabama has the 2nd highest rate of fatal car accidents in the United States. |
| Arizona | Distracted Drivers Terrify Me | ADOT | Primary | Approximately 12,000 accidents are caused by distracted driving in Arizona every year. |
| Arkansas | Slow Down, Phone Down | ARDOT, Arkansas State Police | Primary | The fine for distracted driving in Arkansas is \$136 |
| California | Get off your apps | Not Stated | Primary | 59.6% of respondents reported that they had been hit or nearly hit by a driver who was talking or texting |
| Colorado | Shift into Safe | CDOT | Primary | In 2018, 15,673 car accidents in Colorado were due to distracted driving. That's an average of 43 crashes a day. |
| Connecticut | Distracted Driving Prevention | CTDOT | Primary | Most distracted driving accidents in Connecticut occur between the hours of 3 pm and 5 pm. |
| Delaware | Delaware Strategic Highway Safety Plan | DELDOT | Primary | Delaware was the 30th state to ban texting while driving and the 8th state to ban the use of handheld cell phones. |
| Florida | Put It Down Campaign and Safe Phone Zones | FDOT & GEICO | Primary | Distracted driving is responsible for nearly 50,000 crashes a year in Florida. |
| Georgia | Reality Rides | GDOT & ALLSTATE | Primary | In the first six months after Georgia instituted its hand-free cell phone requirement, officers in this state wrote 8,036 citations for the use of handheld devices. |
| Idaho | Distracted Driving Experience | IDOT | Primary | In 2017, 4,808 car accidents in this state were attributed to distracted driving. |
| Illinois | Drop It and Drive | ILDOT & STATE POLICE | Primary | In 2018, law enforcement in Illinois wrote 15,150 citations for distracted driving. |
| Indiana | N/A | N/A | Secondary | Distracted driving causes about 10,000 car crashes a year in this state. |
| Iowa | Drive Smart Iowa | Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau | Primary | In 2018, cell phone distractions caused 1,090 car crashes in Iowa |
| Kansas | Drive Better Kansas | DCCCA & KDOT | Secondary | Distracted driving accidents in Kansas caused \$774,543,350 in damage in 2017 alone |
| Kentucky | Buckle Up Phone Down | Kentucky Office of Highway Safety | Primary | In 2017, 8,485 car crashes in Kentucky could be attributed to cell phone use and other distractions |
| Louisiana | N/A | N/A | Primary | On average, drivers in Louisiana use their cell phones 2.4 times each time they drive |
| Maine | Vision Zero Maine | Maine DOT | Primary | Officials at the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety believe that distracted driving is underreported and that it is responsible for as many as 40% of all crashes in this state |
| Maryland | Zero Deaths Maryland | Maryland DOT | Primary | Distracted driving contributes to 58% of all car crashes in Maryland, including 60% of all injury crashes and 37% of all fatal crashes |
| Massachusetts | Massachusetts Distracted Driving Program | NSC | Primary | Massachusetts' Safe Driving Law has banned texting while driving since 2010. 1,153 citations issued in 2011; 3,399 issued in 2013; and 6,131 issued in 2015 |
| Michigan | Toward Zero Deaths | Michigan DOT | Primary | In 2017, there were 7,416 crashes in Michigan that involved distracted driving |
| Minnesota | Toward Zero Deaths | Minnesota DOT | Primary | 42% of Minnesota residents surveyed admitted to texting while driving |
| Mississippi | N/A | N/A | Primary | About 75% of all MS drivers questioned admitted to using their cell phones for voice calls while driving |
| Missouri | Buckle Up Phone Down | Missouri DOT | Primary | In 2017, 21,058 crashes in Missouri were officially attributed to distracted driving |
| Montana | N/A | N/A | No Law | In Montana, there are 2.91 distracted driving deaths per every 10 billion vehicle miles traveled; this is the fifth highest rate in the country |
| Nebraska | Drive Smart Nebraska | NHTSA, Nebraska Highway Safety Office | Primary | In 2017 there were more distracted driving accidents (4,699) than drunk driving accidents (1,661) and speeding accidents (2,007) |
| Nevada | Zero Fatalities & Joining Forces | Nevada Department of Public Safety's OTS | Primary | N/A |
| New Hampshire | Head's Up New Hampshire | Fast Act NHTSA 402 | Primary | New Hampshire's distracted-driving fatal crashes decreased from 18 in 2013 to just 2 in 2016 |
| New Jersey | U Drive. U Text. U Pay | NHTSA | Primary | Between 2012 and 2016, more than 800,000 accidents in New Jersey could be attributed to distract driving. That's about 65% of all accidents in this state |
| New Mexico | N/A | N/A | Primary | Driver inattention / distractions makes up 20% of crashes, which is the top contributing factor |
| New York | It Can Wait | NHTSA | Primary | Driver inattention or distraction makes up 20% of all crashes in New York. It is responsible for: 10.4% of all fatal crashes in this state |
| North Carolina | One Text or Call Could Wreck It All & Vision Zero | N/A | Primary | Overall, 19.7% of all accidents can be attributed to distracted driving |
| North Dakota | Vision Zero | NDDOT Highway Safety Division | Primary | N/A |
| Ohio | Ohio's Distracted Driving Safety Initiative | Ohio Traffic Safety Office | Primary | Distracted driving accidents increased more than 15% from 2013 to 2018 |
| Oklahoma | N/A | N/A | Primary | In 2018, 1,413 people were injured or killed in distracted driving accidents in Oklahoma. Of these 1,413 accidents, 476 involved drivers under the age of 25 |
| Oregon | Park Your Phone | Oregon Department of Transportation, | Primary | On average, distracted driving causes an accident every 2.5 hours in Oregon |
| Pennsylvania | Just Drive PA/Be Safe PA | PennDOT | Primary | According to PennDOT, distracted driving was a factor in more than 15,000 Pennsylvania crashes in 2017 |
| Rhode Island | N/A | N/A | Primary | 25% of all car accidents in Rhode Island are due to distracted driving |
| South Carolina | Target Zero | SCDPS and SCDOT | Secondary | Distracted driving caused 10,053 collisions in 2017. 7,483 were property damage only, 2,370 resulted in significant injuries, 9 caused fatalities |
| South Dakota | Drive Safe SD | SDOHS and SDDPS | Secondary | This state has the weakest distracted driving laws and texting while driving laws are rarely enforced |
| Tennessee | Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service and Hands Free Tennessee | TNHSO and TDOT | Primary | The worst state in regard to distracted driving fatalities. Distracted driving is responsible for 460 deaths/year, 5 times the national average |
| Texas | Talk. Text. Crash. | TXDOT | Primary | In 2018 distracted driving caused 95,572 accidents where 4,325 were due to cellphones. |
| Utah | One Text or Call Could Wreck It All | UDPS | Primary | 39.9% of distracted driving accidents are caused by drivers under 25 |
| Vermont | Drive Well Vermont | VDPS | Primary | Distracted driving contributed to 17% of serious accidents |
| Virginia | N/A | N/A | Primary | 24,350 accidents were attributed to distracted driving in 2018 in Virginia |
| Washington | Target Zero | Washington Traffic Safety Commission | Primary | Distracted driving accidents responsible for 23% of serious injuries and 30% of fatalities |
| West Virginia | One Text or Call Could Wreck it All | WVDMV | Primary | 23% of distracted driving accidents are due to cell phones, 23% due to eating, drinking, or smoking |
| Wisconsin | Buckle Up, Phone Down | WisDOT | Primary | In 2015, there were 24,089 car crashes attributed to distracted driving |
| Wyoming | N/A | N/A | Primary | Ranked 3rd most deadly state when it comes to distracted driving |

References

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