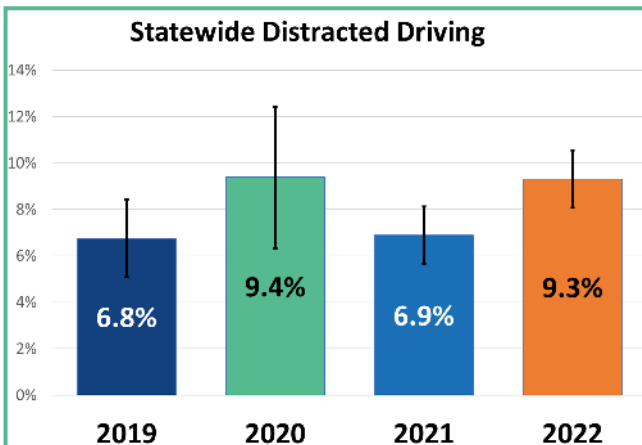
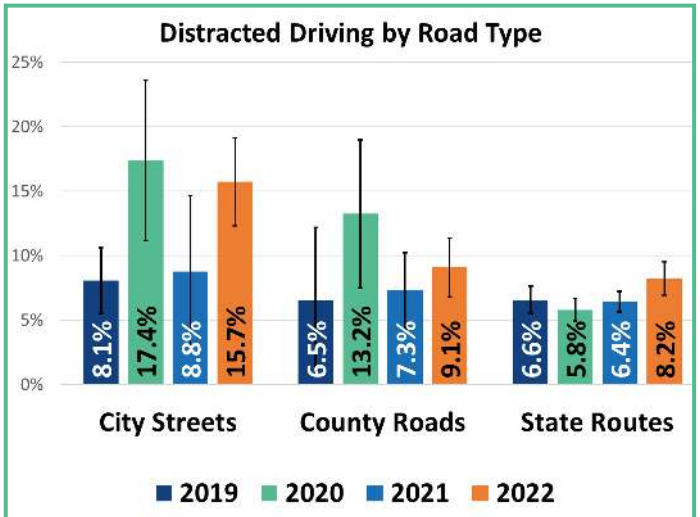




Distracted Driving Observation Survey Results

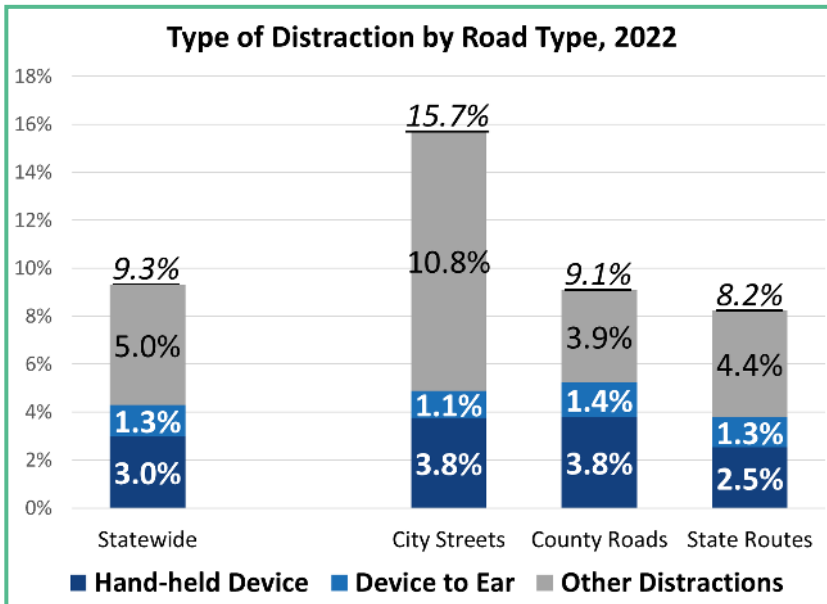
Driver distraction includes all activities that divert attention and full engagement from the task of driving. Washington law [RCW 46.61.672](#) bans all hand-held cell phone use while driving, even when stopped in traffic, punishable as a primary traffic offense; [RCW 46.61.673](#) defines “dangerously distracted” as a secondary traffic offense. Since 2019, the WTSC has conducted an annual observation survey of driver distractions to monitor the incidence of this dangerous behavior. Data is collected during the month of June at 375 locations across the state. The data is weighted based on several time and location factors to derive estimates of distracted driving in Washington state.



Did you know?

- ⇒ Most drivers in Washington do not drive distracted, over 90% are fully engaged with the driving task.
- ⇒ Distracted driving in 2022 increased to the same rate observed in 2020, which was higher than 2019 due to several factors related to COVID-19. This represents a statistically significant increase since 2021 when the rate matched the 2019 rate.
- ⇒ Distracted driving is highest on city streets and lowest on state routes, likely due to lower travel speeds. Distracted driving increased on all road types in 2022.

I care because more than 100 lives are lost every year to distracted driving, a crash factor that is likely under-reported.



Data Sources

Washington State Annual Seat Belt and Distracted Driver Observation Survey with funding support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

If you need this publication in a different format, please contact the WTSC at (360) 725-9860.



Distracted Driving Observation Survey Results

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Statewide	6.8% (+/-1.7%)	9.4% (+/-3.0%)	6.9% (+/-1.2%)	9.3% (+/-1.2%)
City Streets	8.1% (+/-2.6%)	17.4% (+/-6.2%)	8.8% (+/-5.9%)	15.7% (+/-3.4%)
County Roads	6.5% (+/-5.6%)	13.2% (+/-5.8%)	7.3% (+/-2.9%)	9.1% (+/-2.3%)
State Routes	6.6% (+/-1.1%)	5.8% (+/-0.9%)	6.4% (+/-0.8%)	8.2% (+/-1.3%)
Benton	5.3% (+/-3.5%)	13.0% (+/-18.8%)	2.0% (+/-1.0%)	3.9% (+/-2.5%)
Chelan	3.8% (+/-1.2%)	2.7% (+/-1.7%)	1.0% (+/-0.8%)	2.0% (+/-1.1%)
Clark	2.7% (+/-3.4%)	21.1% (+/-3.6%)	11.5% (+/-2.5%)	14.9% (+/-4.6%)
Cowlitz	1.9% (+/-1.4%)	5.9% (+/-6.5%)	7.5% (+/-5.9%)	15.8% (+/-4.5%)
Ferry	8.9% (+/-6.3%)	7.3% (+/-4.8%)	2.1% (+/-4.0%)	2.5% (+/-2.9%)
Franklin	5.5% (+/-2.1%)	20.4% (+/-14.4%)	2.3% (+/-1.8%)	10.9% (+/-16.3%)
Grant	5.1% (+/-1.4%)	2.9% (+/-0.7%)	1.5% (+/-1.2%)	1.6% (+/-0.5%)
Grays Harbor	4.9% (+/-1.3%)	6.4% (+/-2.6%)	6.9% (+/-2.9%)	4.2% (+/-2.7%)
Jefferson	4.5% (+/-2.7%)	4.4% (+/-2.7%)	5.3% (+/-1.3%)	4.8% (+/-2.5%)
King	8.0% (+/-1.5%)	5.7% (+/-2.4%)	5.4% (+/-1.2%)	7.8% (+/-1.5%)
Kitsap	5.4% (+/-2.0%)	5.5% (+/-1.2%)	7.4% (+/-1.5%)	6.6% (+/-1.7%)
Kittitas	2.3% (+/-1.0%)	2.2% (+/-1.1%)	2.1% (+/-1.4%)	1.2% (+/-0.7%)
Lewis	3.5% (+/-3.0%)	14.0% (+/-8.9%)	1.6% (+/-1.5%)	6.9% (+/-3.3%)
Lincoln	8.6% (+/-2.0%)	12.5% (+/-3.2%)	9.9% (+/-1.4%)	11.0% (+/-1.7%)
Mason	5.1% (+/-2.5%)	9.6% (+/-3.0%)	3.4% (+/-4.6%)	11.4% (+/-3.6%)
Okanogan	18.4% (+/-3.8%)	3.8% (+/-3.1%)	7.8% (+/-7.8%)	8.9% (+/-1.9%)
Pend Oreille	2.3% (+/-2.4%)	3.3% (+/-2.6%)	5.8% (+/-7.8%)	4.3% (+/-3.4%)
Pierce	7.9% (+/-4.2%)	6.2% (+/-2.0%)	7.4% (+/-1.7%)	10.4% (+/-3.0%)
Skagit	8.4% (+/-3.7%)	7.8% (+/-1.2%)	6.4% (+/-2.6%)	10.8% (+/-2.0%)
Snohomish	10.8% (+/-2.5%)	11.2% (+/-5.1%)	3.6% (+/-1.1%)	11.2% (+/-5.5%)
Spokane	5.3% (+/-2.6%)	5.9% (+/-4.5%)	12.8% (+/-3.4%)	5.1% (+/-3.5%)
Stevens	3.3% (+/-4.7%)	8.1% (+/-3.8%)	6.4% (+/-6.9%)	16.4% (+/-5.4%)
Thurston	9.7% (+/-3.4%)	8.0% (+/-1.8%)	5.0% (+/-3.5%)	7.2% (+/-0.7%)
Walla Walla	9.9% (+/-5.1%)	9.7% (+/-3.7%)	13.7% (+/-5.7%)	16.3% (+/-6.8%)
Whatcom	4.1% (+/-3.4%)	11.5% (+/-4.4%)	8.1% (+/-2.6%)	12.3% (+/-2.5%)
Yakima	4.3% (+/-1.5%)	6.9% (+/-8.7%)	2.3% (+/-1.1%)	7.2% (+/-5.2%)

WTSC Distracted Driving Reports <https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/traffic-safety-reports/>

Distracted Driving in Washington State During COVID-19: 2020 Observation Survey, Enforcement, and Crashes. March 2021.

Distracted Driving in Washington State 2019: Crash Statistics, Enforcement, and Results from the Statewide Observation Survey. Early Impacts from the 2017 Driving Under the Influence of Electronics Act (SSB 5289). March 2020.

Distracted Driving in Washington State 2016-2018: Results from the Annual Observation Surveys. November 2018.