

Nebraska Traffic Safety Facts 2011

Do Not Let Distraction Take Your Life Away



Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. It occurs anytime you take your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, and your mind off the primary task of driving safely.*

In the United States

- About 1 in 6 fatal crashes and 20% of injury crashes resulted from a driver being distracted from driving.*
- In 2009 alone, 5,474 people were killed and about 448,000 more were injured in crashes caused by distracted driving.*

In Nebraska

- From 2005 to 2009, distracted driving resulted in 173 deaths, 14,000 injuries (Figure 1), and over 1.7 billion dollars in economic loss.
- Teen drivers are more likely to engage in distracted driving behavior (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Deaths and Injuries Due to Distracted[†] Driving, Nebraska, 2005-2009

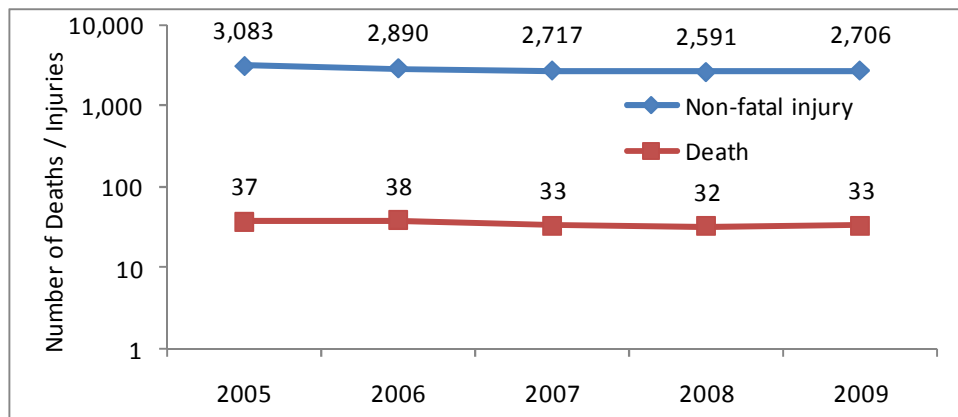
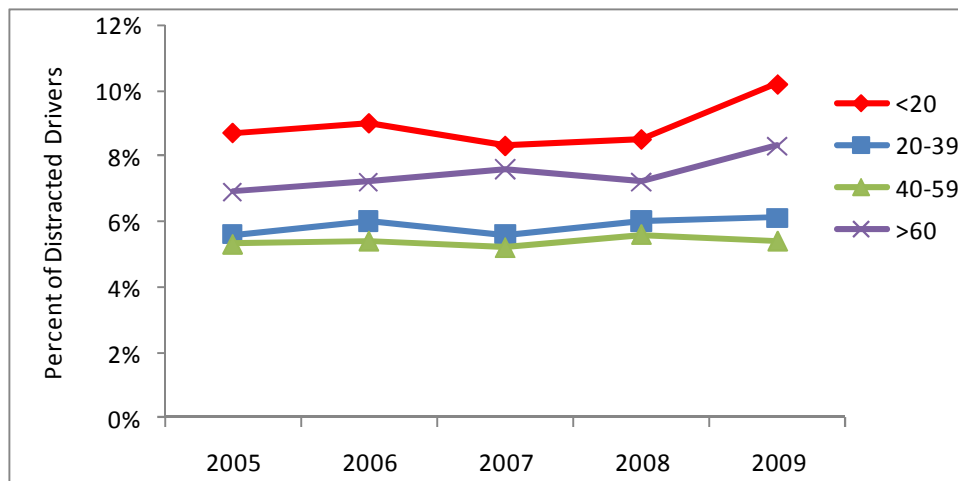


Figure 2. Percent of Distracted[†] Drivers among Each Age Group, Nebraska, 2005-2009



* Source: distraction.gov

† Distracted is defined as "inattention", "mobile phone distraction", or "distracted-other" as reported in crash investigations.

Special Points of Interest*:

- The most frequently cited causes of drivers' distractions are handheld devices, such as cell phones.
- About 18% of fatalities in distraction-related crashes were caused by cell phone use.
- Using a cell phone while driving, whether it's hand-held or hands-free, delays a driver's reactions as profound as drunk driving.
- Text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted.

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