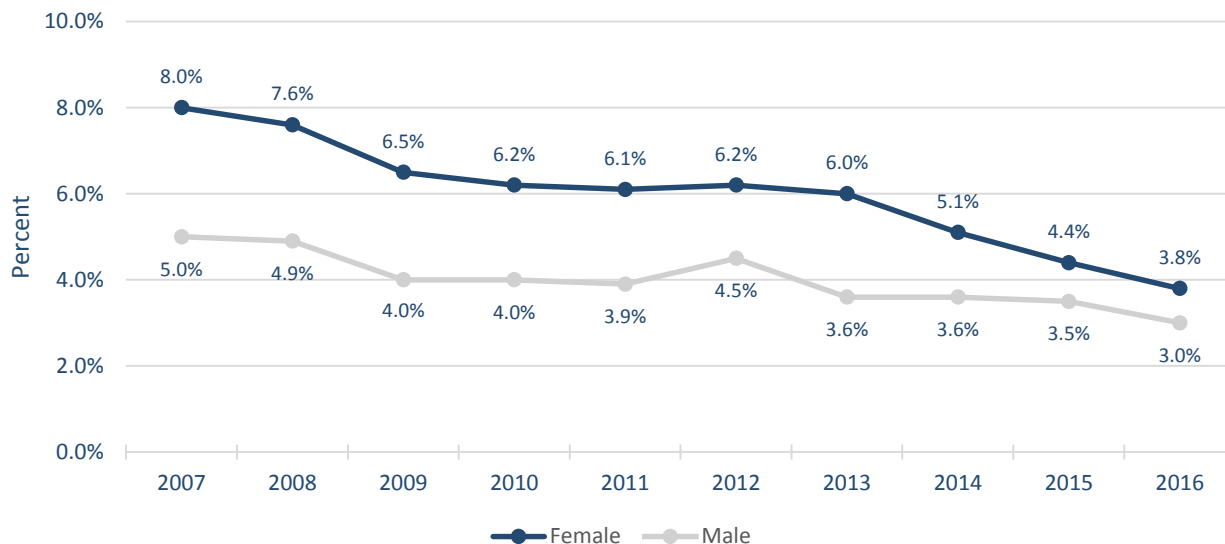


## DISTRACTED DRIVING

Percentage of Drivers Holding Phones to Their Ears While Driving, by Gender<sup>1</sup>



### Distracted Driving Facts

- Distracted driving is any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increases the risk of crashing. Distractions include: texting or talking on a cell phone, talking to passengers, eating, adjusting the radio, using a navigation system, etc. (Source: [Distraction.gov](http://Distraction.gov))
- Distractions can be visual (taking eyes off the road), manual (taking hands off the wheel), or cognitive (taking mind off what you're doing). Since texting involves all three, it is particularly dangerous. (Source: [Centers for Disease Control](http://Centers for Disease Control))
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 10% (3,196) of U.S. fatal crashes in 2015 were reported as distraction-affected. These crashes killed 3,477 people (+9% from 2014) and injured an estimated 391,000 more. In 14% of these crashes, the distraction listed by police was a cell phone. (Source: [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](http://National Highway Traffic Safety Administration))
- In 2017, 13,997 drivers<sup>2</sup> in Ohio crashed while being distracted by something within their vehicles. Fifty-one (51) of these crashes were fatal and resulted in 55 deaths. Another 4,668 drivers were in injury crashes resulting in 6,988 injuries. The number of reported distracted driving fatal crashes nearly doubled from 2016 to 2017 (+96%).
- The biggest distraction category reported in 2017 in Ohio was “Other Inside the Vehicle” (e.g., passengers, food, music) which comprised 58% of all distracted drivers and 49% of distracted drivers in fatal crashes. “Phone” and “Texting/Emailing” were the listed distractions for 25% of all distracted drivers involved in crashes in 2017, but 39% of distracted drivers in fatal crashes.
- Ohio law bans all “electronic wireless communication device” usage for drivers under 18. Texting while driving is illegal for all drivers but only as a secondary offense. Across the U.S., 47 states ban text messaging for all drivers. Talking on a hand-held phone while driving is banned in 15 states.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the 2016 National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS). See [Electronic Device Use](http://Electronic Device Use). <sup>2</sup>Crash data provisional as of 3/14/2018.

Note: For purposes of this report, distracted driving includes all drivers involved in crashes who had a primary distraction coming from something inside the vehicle.