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**Distracted Driving Key Messages**

# **Washington Distracted Driving Efforts are Working**

* Washington drivers are increasingly off the phone when they are on the road.
* In 2016, the year before the law passed, 155 people died in crashes involving a distracted driver. In 2019, two years after the new law, 33 fewer distracted driving-related deaths occurred.
* WTSC conducted a 2019 statewide Traffic Safety Culture Survey[[1]](#footnote-1) and found that most Washingtonians are familiar with the distracted diving laws:
* Most (74 percent) know that using a hand-held cell phone while driving is illegal
* Most (68 percent) know that using a cell phone at a traffic light is illegal
* Most (69 percent) agree that using a hand-held cell phone while driving is dangerous
* WTSC also estimates that Washington’s driver distraction rate was 6.8 percent in 2019, based on the [2019 Statewide Distracted Driving Observational Study](https://wtsc.wa.gov/download/11390/).
* Washington drivers are increasingly off the phone when they are on the road.

**Make it a Goal to Have Zero Injuries or Deaths from Distracted Driving**

**in Your Family**

* Continue to set a good example by turning your cell phone off, putting it on “Do Not Disturb” mode, or giving it to a passenger while driving.
* Encourage others to put their phone away while driving.
* Talk to your family about and make rules about cell phone use and other distractions.
* Avoid calling family members or friends when you know they are driving.

1. <http://wtsc.wa.gov/download/11394/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)