

## Research project:

### Identifying State-Specific Distracted Driving Target Group

#### What's the issue?

Distracted driving is one of several significant factors contributing to crashes and causes of death. In 2019, some 3,142 people were killed by distracted driving in the United States. Moreover, an average of 181 people were killed each year in Maryland due to distracted driving from 2015 to 2019. To have effective countermeasures, the characteristics of distracted drivers and the technologies that distract drivers must be identified.

#### What did the research discover?

Researchers developed a survey in the state of Maryland to find out who gets distracted the most and what is the most distracted driving behavior. They found that teenagers (16 to 19 years old) get distracted the most among all age groups. Teenagers engage more times in distracted driving behaviors (such as texting, using handheld cell phone, reading, or updating social media, etc.) than other age groups. The most common distracted driving behaviors among older drivers (more than 65) are talking on the phone (hands-free), using GPS and eating and drinking.



Handheld cell phone can cause the most distraction. Using a handheld cell phone while driving increases the probability of near-crashes by 7.6 and distraction by 13 times. Also, using voice to text while driving increases the probability of distraction by 6.49 times.

#### How can I implement this?

Set your phone to automatic messaging while driving. Use feature on their phone that restricts using it while driving (such as Do Not Disturb While Driving on the phone's setting, T-Mobile Drive Smart, AT&T ICW, etc.).

#### Learn more:

The full report is available on our website:

[https://www2.morgan.edu/school\\_of\\_engineering/research\\_centers/urban\\_mobility\\_and\\_equity\\_center/research/completed\\_research.html](https://www2.morgan.edu/school_of_engineering/research_centers/urban_mobility_and_equity_center/research/completed_research.html)