



California Reckless Driving Statistics

Reckless Driving: Know the Facts



California defines reckless driving as driving a vehicle with "willful or wanton disregard for the safety of people or property."

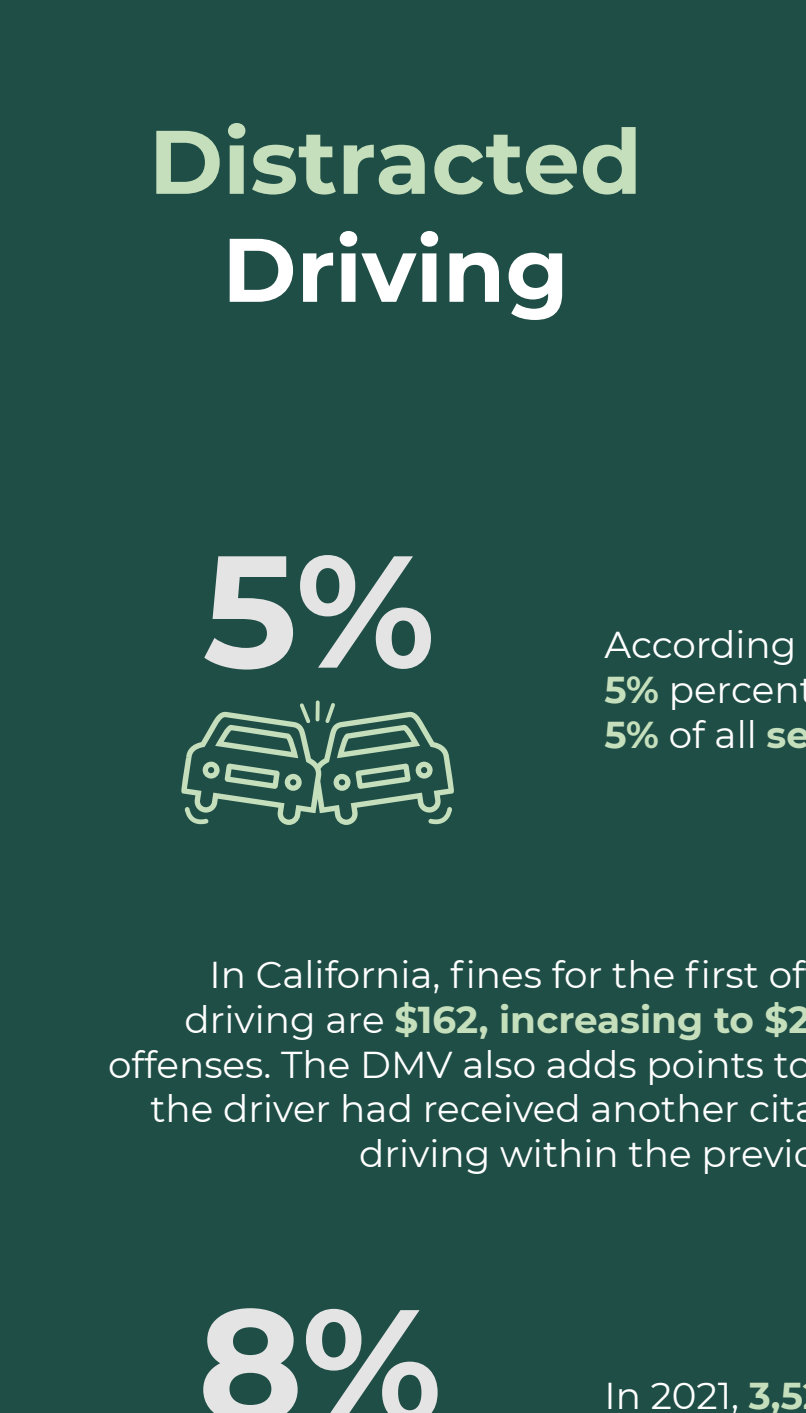
IMPORTANT RECKLESS DRIVING ACCIDENT STATISTICS



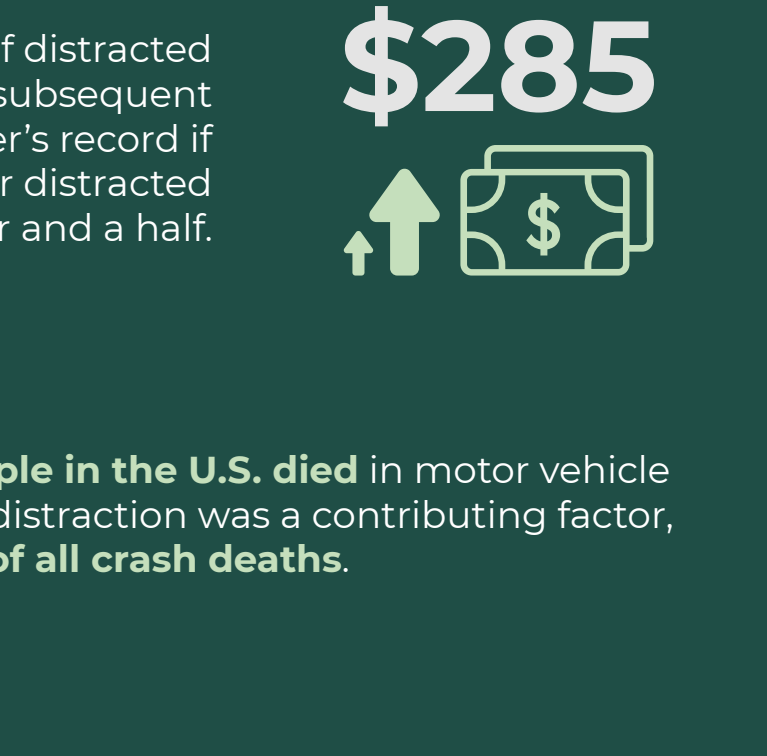
33% of people polled in California confirmed they've witnessed a crash involving reckless driving.



88% of young millennials engaged in at least one risky behavior behind the wheel in the past 30 days, earning the top spot for worst-behaved U.S. drivers.



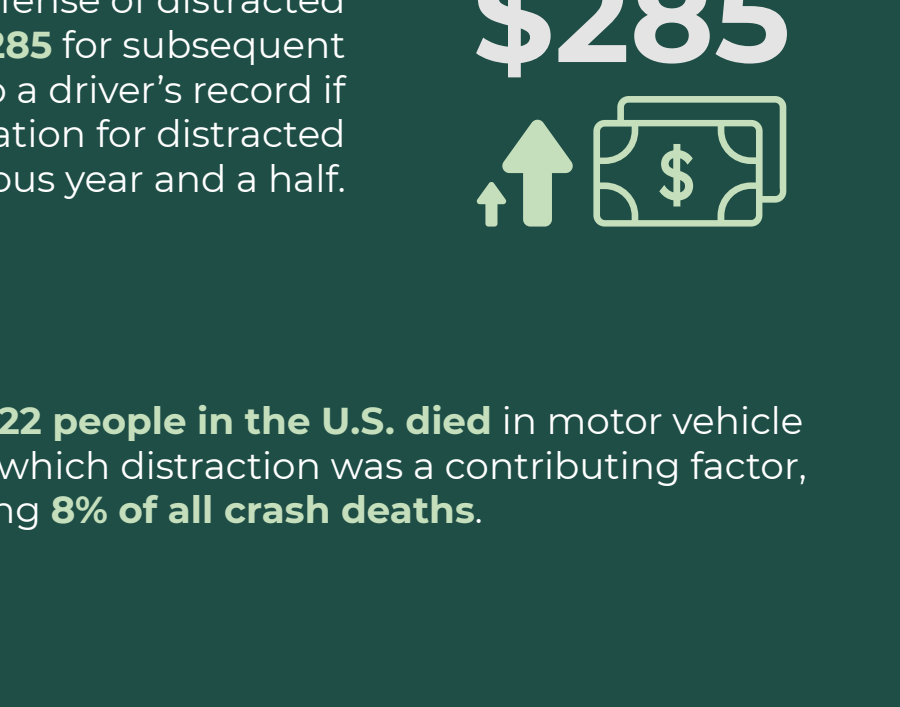
Reckless driving refers to a wide range of unsafe behaviors, including speeding, tailgating, disregarding traffic signs and signals, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and aggressive driving behaviors such as road rage, purposefully running other vehicles off the road and weaving in and out of lanes in a way that endangers other motorists.



IMPACT OF RECKLESS DRIVING

In California, reckless driving is a misdemeanor offense that can result in up to three months in jail, between \$145 and \$1,000 in fines, and as many as two years probation.

Distracted Driving



5%



According to Cal Trans, distracted driving contributes to 5% percent of all fatal crashes in California and another 5% of all serious injury crashes.

In California, fines for the first offense of distracted driving are \$162, increasing to \$285 for subsequent offenses. The DMV also adds points to a driver's record if the driver had received another citation for distracted driving within the previous year and a half.

\$285



8%



In 2021, 3,522 people in the U.S. died in motor vehicle crashes in which distraction was a contributing factor, representing 8% of all crash deaths.

Aggressive Driving



14%

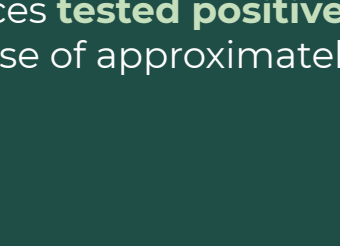


Failure to yield the right of way or keep in the proper lane accounted for nearly 14% of all accident-related deaths in 2021.

The NHTSA defines aggressive driving as operating a motor vehicle "in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger persons or property."

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, drivers running red lights in the U.S. kill more than two people each day.

200/day



4%



Failure to obey traffic signs, signals, or officers accounted for 4% of all accident-related deaths in 2021.

4%



Alcohol and Drug-Impaired Driving



52.9%



In 2021, 52.9% of all California drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes tested for substances tested positive for legal or illegal drugs—a decrease of approximately 5.5% from 2020.

In 2021, an alcohol-driving-related fatality occurred every 39 seconds nationwide.

39sec



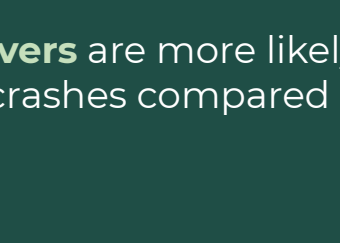
15-24yo



Alcohol-impaired driving is the leading cause of death among California drivers ages 15-24.

Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in California involving a driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration, or BAC, of 0.08 or higher increased 16% from 1,180 in 2020 to 1,370 in 2021.

1,370



29%



NHTSA data also shows that speed-related crashes accounted for 29% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2021, representing 29% of all traffic deaths.

Total speeding-related fatalities increased in the U.S. by 18% in 2021.

18%



A report by IIHS shows younger drivers are more likely to be involved in speeding-related crashes compared to older age groups.

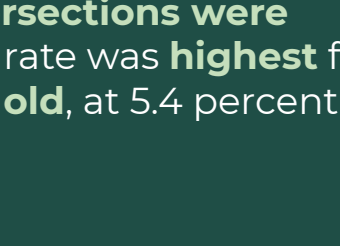
14.8%



Teen drivers (age 15-20) involved in fatal crashes rose by 14.8% from 413 in 2020 to 474 in 2021.

In California, drivers under 18 are banned from using a cell phone for any reason because it triples the crash risk.

3x



2.5%



Nationwide, a 2021 recent observational survey found that 2.5% of drivers stopped at intersections were talking on hand-held phones. The rate was highest for drivers estimated to be 16-24 years old, at 5.4 percent.



Here are several safe driving tips to help prevent accidents and ensure the safety of everyone on the road:



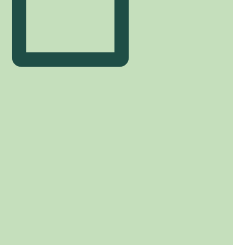
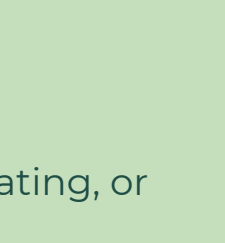
Keep your vehicle in good working condition with regular maintenance checks.

Adhere to speed limits and adjust your speed according to road conditions, traffic, and weather.



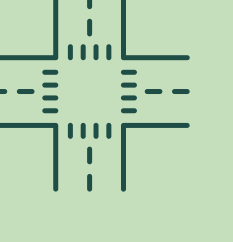
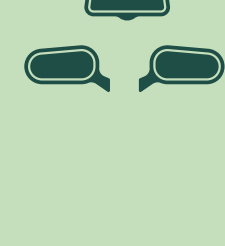
Obey traffic lights and signs.

Always keep your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel.



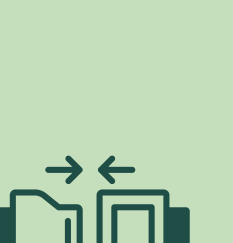
Avoid distractions such as mobile phones, eating, or adjusting the radio.

Regularly use mirrors to stay aware of your surroundings, and always check blind spots before changing lanes.



Look both ways at intersections, even if you have the right of way.

Be aware of the actions of other drivers and be prepared to react safely to their unexpected moves.



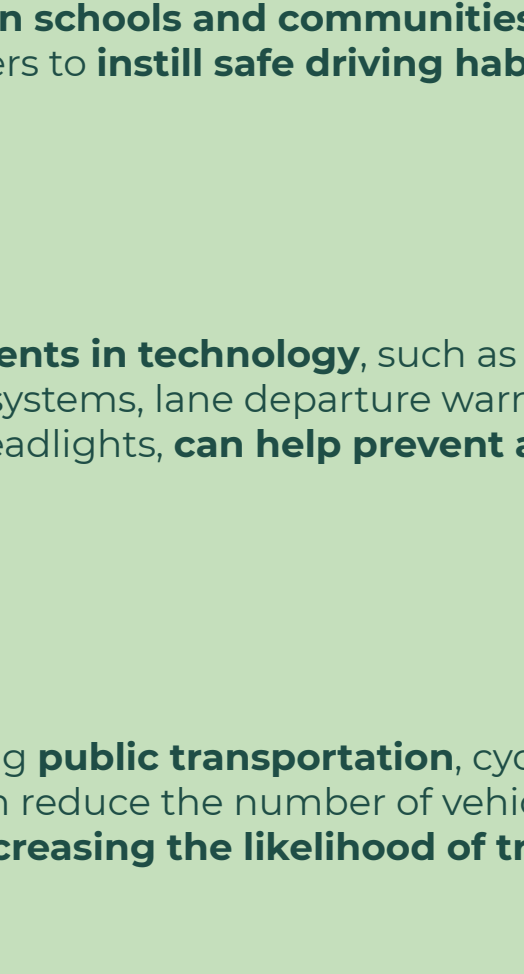
Always wear your seatbelt.

In poor weather conditions such as rain, fog, or snow, drive more cautiously and increase your following distance.



These tips can contribute to a safer driving experience for you and everyone else on the road.

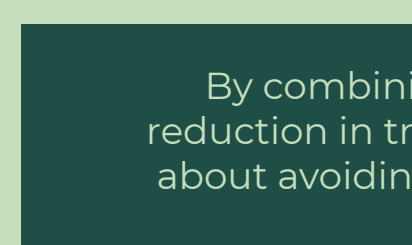
Preventative Measures



It is crucial to take proactive measures to prevent road accidents before they occur. Here's how we can work towards accident prevention:



Regular educational campaigns can raise awareness about the dangers of reckless and distracted driving. Programs in schools and communities can target young drivers to instill safe driving habits early on.



Advancements in technology, such as collision avoidance systems, lane departure warnings, and adaptive headlights, can help prevent accidents.



Encouraging public transportation, cycling, and walking can reduce the number of vehicles on the road, thereby decreasing the likelihood of traffic accidents.

Each driver must take personal responsibility for their actions on the road. This includes driving sober, avoiding distractions, and adhering to traffic laws.

By combining these efforts, we can work towards a significant reduction in traffic-related injuries and fatalities. Prevention isn't just about avoiding accidents; it's about creating a culture of safety that permeates every aspect of driving.