

Center for Public Health Law Research

Summary Report

Cell Phone Use while Driving Laws

With the spread of smart phones, GPS devices and other wireless technologies, there has been a steady increase in the number of injuries and deaths related to distracted drivers in recent years. In response to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates, the federal government has pushed for stricter distracted driving laws across the country. Currently, every state except Montana has passed laws addressing distracted driving. The existing state laws vary, but most laws have focused on prohibiting texting while driving, and cellphone use by young or inexperienced drivers. This report summarizes key queries from the LawAtlas Distracted Driving Law Map. You can see additional maps and tables by visiting www.lawatlas.org.

| Distracted Driving Laws: 2015 Today, 50 jurisdictions have laws that regulate cellphone use while driving. Jurisdictions: 50 (AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NM, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WV, WI, WY) |
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| Distracted Driving Laws: 2005 In 2005, 22 jurisdictions had laws regulating cellphone use while driving. Jurisdictions: 22 (AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, GA, IL, KY, LA, ME, MD, MI, NJ, NM, NY, OK, OR, RI, TN, TX) |
| School Bus Drivers Today, 23 Jurisdictions explicitly restrict cellphone use by school bus drivers. Jurisdictions: 23 (AR, AZ, CA, CT, DC, DE, GA, IL, KY, LA, MA, MD, MI, MN, MS, NC, NE, NJ, OK, RI, TN, TX, VA) |