

# Distracted Driving--A Deadly and Preventable Risk

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NCOIL

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David F. Snyder, PCI

david.snyder@pciaa.net

**At 55 mph, sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for about 5 seconds, long enough to cover a football field.**



# Unanimous View that Distracted Driving Is Deadly and Must Be Prevented

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:
  - ✓ 3,450 people killed in crashes involving distracted drivers, in 2016
  - ✓ 562 nonvehicle occupants (i.e. pedestrians, bicyclists) killed in distraction-affected crashes
  - ✓ 47 states and DC have laws banning texting while driving
  - ✓ “Remember, no text or call is worth a life.”

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- National Transportation Safety Board—widely known for its plane, train and bus crash investigations:
  - ✓ Cites studies showing nearly 1/3 of drivers admit to accessing the internet, reading a text message or email while driving
  - ✓ Recommends that “drivers must completely disconnect from an increasing variety of deadly distractions..”
  - ✓ Supports education, legislation/regulation and enforcement

# Unanimous View that Distracted Driving is Deadly and Must Be Prevented

- Centers for Disease Control:
  - ✓ Each day 9 people are killed and 1000 injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver
  - ✓ Distractions are: visual—taking your eyes off the road; manual—taking your hands off the wheel, and cognitive—taking your mind off of driving
  - ✓ Recommends: “Drive without distractions such as using a cell phone or texting”

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- Insurance Institute for Highway Safety:
  - ✓ In 2016, 2.1% of all drivers and 4.5% of drivers age 18-24 were observed texting or otherwise manipulating hand-held devices—up 250% from 2009 for all drivers and 309% increase for drivers age 18-24
  - ✓ Crash risk is 2-6 times greater when drivers were manipulating a cellphone

# Distracted Driving Is Particularly Dangerous Today

- Driving is most dangerous daily activity for most Americans
- Driving conditions, including congestion, more drunk and drugged driving and higher speeds mean that more concentration on driving, not less, is critical to avoiding crashes
- Experts are unanimous that distracted driving is an epidemic and increases risk of a crash, death and serious injury
- Experts are unanimous it must be stopped

# Why Prevent Distracted Driving?

