
Driver Distraction in NHTSA Databases

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Data Sources

- **Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) – census of all fatal crashes that occur on nation's roadways**
- **National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) General Estimates System (GES) – sample of police-reported crashes of all severities**
- **FARS and GES based on police accident reports; investigations conducted after crash occurred**

Fatalities in Crashes with Driver Distraction

Distraction Crashes in 2008

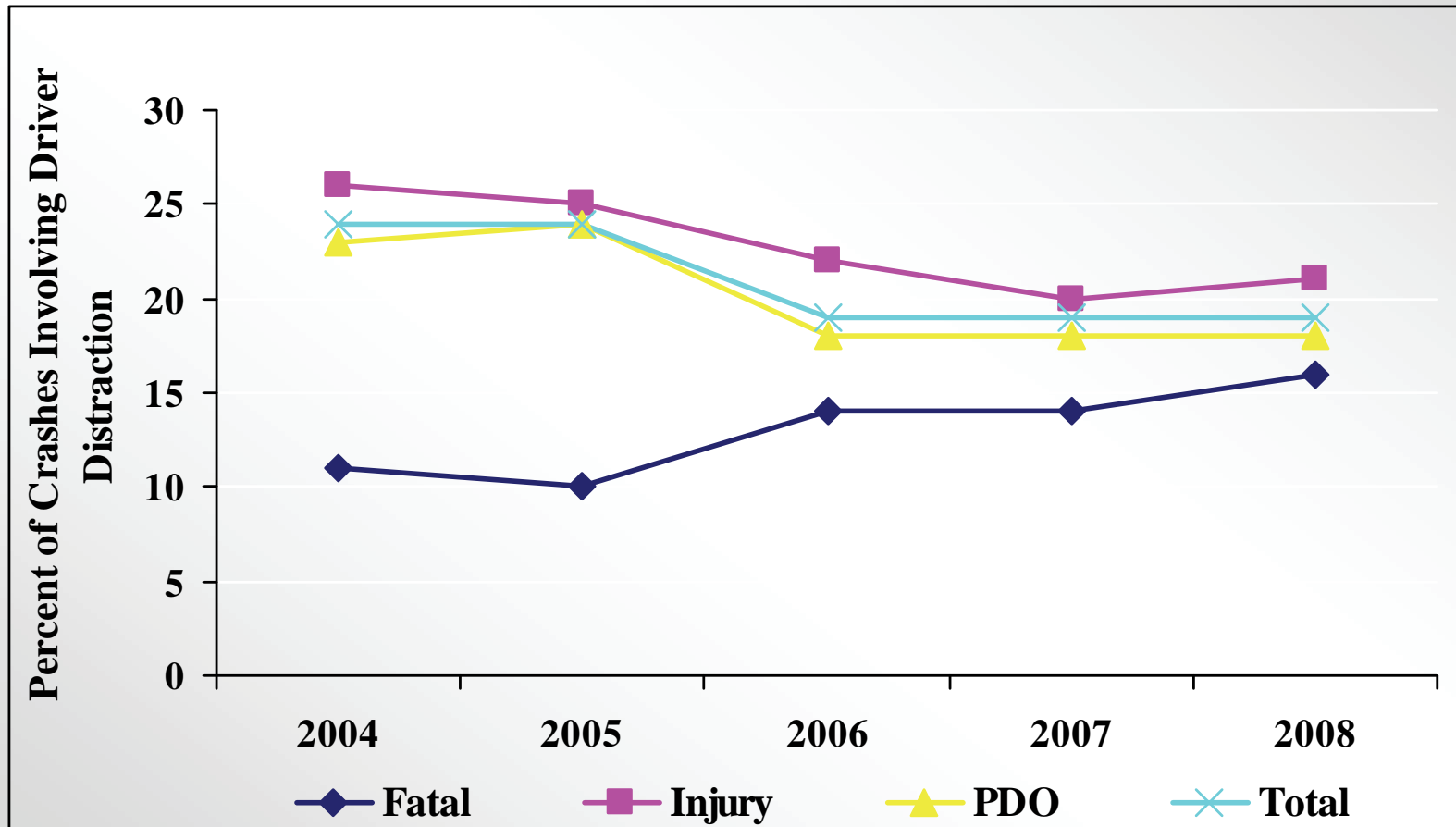
Fatal Crashes	Drivers	Fatalities
5,331 (16%)	5,501 (11%)	5,870 (16%)

- **Driver distraction reported in 16% of fatal crashes**
- **Age group with greatest portion of distracted drivers was the <20 age group**
 - ◆ **16% of all <20 drivers in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving**
- **Light truck drivers and motorcyclists greatest percentage of total drivers reported as distracted at time of fatal crash**

People Injured in Crashes Involving Driver Distraction

- **Estimated 515,000 people injured during crash with reported distraction in 2008**
- **22% of all injured people**

Crashes of All Severities with Distraction



Limitations

- **Police accident reports vary across jurisdiction – potential inconsistencies among reporting**
- **Underreporting of negative behavior – especially in self-reports**
- **Missing information for driver fatalities**

Recent NHTSA-Sponsored Studies Involving Distraction

- **National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey (NMVCCS)**
 - ◆ **In cases when critical reason of pre-crash event attributed to driver:**
 - 3% Inattention
 - 11% Internal distraction
 - 4% External distraction
 - ◆ **18% drivers engaged in at least one non-driving activity (crash-associated factor)**
- **100-Car Naturalistic Driving Study**
 - ◆ **Secondary task distraction contributed to over 22% of all crashes (69) and near crashes (761) in study**

Recent NHTSA-Sponsored Studies Involving Distraction

- **National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS)**
 - ◆ **6% of drivers use hand-held cell phone at any given daylight hour (812,000 vehicles)**
- **Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey (MVOSS)**
 - ◆ **81% people 16+ have wireless phone in vehicle**
 - 16% talk while driving most/all trips
 - 17% talk while driving half of trips

Summary

Distraction data from different data sources:

- Driver distraction reported in 16% of all fatal crashes in 2008 (FARS).
- Driver distraction reported in 21% of injury crashes in 2008 (GES).
- Distraction involved in 18% of crashes with critical reason for crash attributed to driver during study period (NMVCCS).
- Secondary task involved in over 22% of crashes and near crashes recorded in study (100-Car).

For Further Information...

- ***An Examination of Driver Distraction as Recorded in NHTSA Databases, DOT HS 811 216***

www.distraction.gov