



Distracted driving

Distracted driving is any activity that takes a person's attention away from the road. This includes texting, loud music, talking on the phone, eating and drinking, using a GPS, adjusting radio controls and talking with passengers. All of these distractions can lead to injury or death.

- In Wisconsin, crashes involving distracted drivers caused 23 deaths and 3,586 injuries in 2023.
- Having fewer teen passengers in the car reduces the crash risk for teen drivers.
- Ninety percent of teen drivers say they would stop texting while driving if a friend asked them to.

Source: *Impact Teen Drivers*

How Wisconsin law protects

- Cell phone use is not allowed for drivers with a probationary license or instruction permit.
- In Wisconsin, it is illegal to drive while sending a text or email. Police can pull you over just for texting.
- It is illegal for drivers to use a handheld phone in Wisconsin road work zones.
- Wisconsin limits the number of passengers teen drivers can have during their instruction permit and probationary periods.

Source: *Wisconsin Department of Transportation*

Reduce your risk

- Always wear your seat belt.
- Drive safely and avoid distractions.
- Turn off your phone while driving.
- Ask your passengers to help you stay focused.
- Speak up if your driver is distracted.
- Plan ahead: eat, get ready, and know where you are going before you start driving.

childrenswi.org/teendriving
teendriving@childrenswi.org

