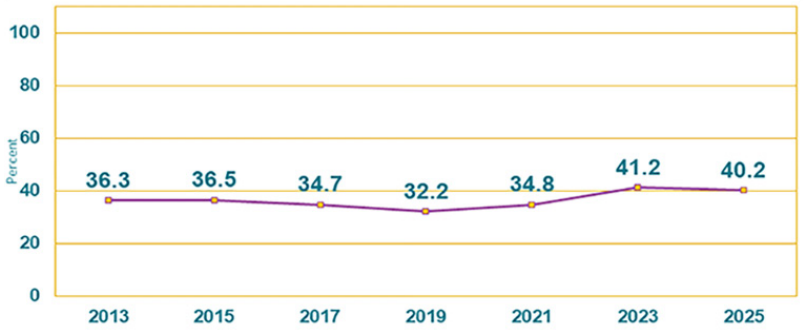
Teen Distracted Driving

2025 KENTUCKY YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

involves taking one's eyes off the road, hands off the wheel, or mind off driving.[1] The consequences can be deadly. It's hard to know the number of people who drive distracted, but one way to get an idea is through self-reported data, like with the Kentucky High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). According to YRBS data, the number of high school students self-reporting phone use while driving increased significantly from 2019 through 2025.

Distracted Driving Annual Trends, Kentucky YRBS 2013-2025



Significantly decreased from 2013-2019 and significiantly increased from 2019-2025.



40.2%
of high school students self-reported texting or emailing while driving at least once in the previous 30 days.

More than 23 out of 50 freshman high school students reported driving distracted in the previous month.



Kentucky law bans cellphone use of any kind while driving for drivers of all ages.

For drivers under age 18, no personal communication device is allowed while driving.



What do I do if my phone rings or chimes while I'm driving? Pull over before answering it or wait until you arrive safely at your destination to return the call.



Teen Driving Safety Resources

KSPAN's Evidence-based Checkpoints™ for parents and teens
Kentucky Graduated Driver Licensing Program
Traffic Safety Education Foundation Parent and Teen Education Toolkit

[1]https://transportation.ky.gov/HighwaySafety/Documents/Distracted.pdf
[2]Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (2025). Kentucky Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report, 2025.

KIPRC KENTUCKY INJURY PREVENTION AND RESEARCH CENTER

Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

KSPAN

This report is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of cooperative agreement 5NU87DP000047-02 totaling $215,000 with 0% financed with nongovernmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC, HHS, or the U.S. government. For more information, please visit CDC.gov.
Produced August 2026