



2012 Statewide Traffic Safety Survey

2012 saw the third annual statewide traffic safety survey, intended to help continuously fine-tune traffic safety programs, enforcement efforts and public education campaigns to ensure they are effective and on target with individual populations.

California's 2012 survey included 1,887 drivers aged 18 and over at gas stations in 15 counties throughout Central, Northern and Southern California. Participants were asked a range of traffic safety questions regarding impaired driving, seat belts, distracted driving and traffic safety laws and campaigns. The figures below are the top line totals for each question.

In your opinion, what are the biggest safety problems on California roadways?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Talking on cell phone	15.9%	20.3%	26.6%
Texting on cell phone	2.4%	18.5%	24.9%
Speeding/Aggressive Driving	21.5%	17.6%	22.7%
Bad Road Surfaces	11.4%	11.6%	16.5%
Other Driver Behavior	17.4%	7.2%	15.3%
Drunk Driving	10.1%	12.6%	6.2%
Internal Car Distractions	1.2%	3.8%	5.1%
Other/Don't Know	20.1%	8.4%	17.3%

In your opinion, what is the most serious distraction for drivers?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Cell Phone talking (handheld or hands-free)	61.9%	56.0%	42.8%
Texting While Driving	12.7%	27.6%	37.2%
Passengers in Car	3.3%	1.8%	1.4%
Roadside Billboards	2.1%	1.3%	1.9%
Eating While Driving	1.9%	1.2%	0.8%
Adjusting Radio/Stereos	1.2%	0.7%	0.8%
Personal Grooming	0.6%	0.9%	0.4%
GPS/Navigation Systems	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%
Other	19.2%	10.0%	14.2%

How often in the past 30 days have you texted or emailed while driving?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Regularly	9.4%	6.3%	6.2%
Sometimes	10.4%	7.8%	10.3%
Rarely	10.6%	14.2%	14.9%
Never	69.6%	71.7%	68.6%

How often in the past 30 days have you talked on a handheld cell phone while driving?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Regularly	14.0%	10.5%	10.7%
Sometimes	13.6%	11.7%	11.5%
Rarely	19.4%	22.6%	22.3%
Never	52.9%	55.2%	55.4%

How often in the past 30 days have you talked on a hands-free cell phone while driving?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Regularly	29.4%	30.6%	26.1%
Sometimes	13.2%	15.7%	14.5%
Rarely	8.1%	10.2%	12.9%
Never	49.2%	43.5%	46.5%

Do you talk less, more or the same amount on a cell phone because of the hands-free law?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
More	8.5%	10.6%	9.3%
The same	56.9%	49.0%	56.9%
Less	34.5%	40.4%	33.8%

Have you ever been hit or nearly hit by a driver who was talking or texting on a cell phone?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	57.5%	60.1%	60.1%
No	42.5%	39.9%	39.9%

Do you believe using a hands-free cell phone is safer than a hand-held phone while driving?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	70.4%	70.7%	70.4%
No	29.6%	29.3%	29.6%

Have you ever made a driving mistake while talking on a cell phone?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	46.5%	45.8%	44.6%
No	53.5%	54.2%	55.4%

What do you think is the likelihood of being ticketed for hand-held cell phone use or texting?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Very Likely			20.1%
Somewhat Likely	(Question not included in 2010 or 2011 survey)		31.2%
Neither Likely nor Unlikely			8.4%
Somewhat Unlikely			19.5%
Very Unlikely			20.7%

What do you think is the minimum ticket cost for a first time offense while using a handheld phone or texting while driving?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
\$20			9.3%
\$85	(Question not included in 2010 or 2011 survey)		15.7%
\$159 (correct amount)			41.7%
\$229			33.4%

Do you believe that men or women use cell phones and/or text more while driving?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Men	(Question not included in 2010 survey)	6.0%	7.8%
Women		41.2%	42.3%
Neither/Both the same		52.9%	49.9%

Do you recall hearing or seeing "Report Drunk Drivers - Call 911" in the past 6 months?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	60.6%	62.6%	64.6%
No	39.4%	37.4%	35.4%

Do you think the "Report Drunk Drivers - Call 911" program has helped police make more DUI arrests?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	73.5%	71.9%	76.1%
No	26.5%	28.1%	23.9%

In your opinion, is the "Report Drunk Drivers - Call 911" program resulting in fewer drunk drivers on the roadways?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	50.6%	57.2%	52.6%
No	49.4%	42.8%	47.4%

Since seeing or hearing "Report Drunk Drivers - Call 911," are you less likely to drive after drinking too much?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	38.2%	38.1%	38.9%
No	39.1%	27.9%	32.0%
I don't drink at all	22.7%	34.0%	29.0%

In the past 30 days, did you drive when you thought you had too much alcohol to drive safely?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	6.0%	6.7%	5.5%
No	73.5%	70.7%	68.6%
I don't drink at all	20.5%	22.6%	25.8%

How serious of a problem is driving under the influence of drugs, both legal and illegal?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Very Big Problem	73.2%	70.2%	71.5%
Somewhat of a problem	20.8%	23.6%	24.1%
A Small Problem	4.7%	4.9%	3.6%
Not a problem at all	1.4%	1.3%	0.8%

In your opinion, should the penalty for driving under the influence of drugs be more serious, less serious or the same?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
More serious penalty	18.4%	14.9%	17.6%
Less serious penalty	7.1%	9.9%	0.5%
The same penalty	74.5%	75.2%	76.8%

In the past 6 months, have you seen or heard anything about police setting up sobriety/DUI checkpoints to catch drunk drivers?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	69.7%	72.9%	67.8%
No	30.3%	27.1%	32.2%

Do you support the use of sobriety/DUI checkpoints?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	88.4%	88.3%	89.6%
No	11.6%	11.7%	10.4%

Do you believe the penalty for driving under the influence of drugs is as serious as the penalty for driving under the influence of alcohol?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	71.6%	72.3%	72.4%
No	28.4%	27.7%	27.6%

Do you recall hearing or seeing "Click It or Ticket" in the past 6 months?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	84.1%	88.6%	86.5%
No	15.9%	11.4%	13.5%

How often do you wear a seatbelt?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Always wear a seatbelt	96.3%	95.3%	97.6%
Sometimes wear a seatbelt	2.7%	3.9%	1.9%
Never wear a seatbelt	1.0%	0.8%	0.7%

Do you think the chances of being stopped for not wearing a seatbelt have changed because of the "Click It or Ticket" campaign?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	64.5%	72.0%	58.1%
No	35.5%	28.0%	41.9%

Are you aware of the law requiring drivers to move over safely or slow down when approaching stationary vehicles that display flashing lights?

Reply	2010	2011	2012
Yes	(Question not included	92.5%	88.7%
No	in 2010 survey)	7.5%	11.3%