

# WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

---

## Texting and E-Mailing While Driving

May 2014

The Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project is a national survey of teens' use of smartphones. Based upon findings from 799 youth ages 12 to 17, the median number of texts sent and received each day by each youth in 2011 was 60.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, some of the texting may have occurred while teens were driving a vehicle.

Nevada is 1 of 41 states that has enacted legislation that prohibits texting on a handheld cell phone while driving a vehicle.<sup>2</sup> And, it is 1 of 11 states that has banned hand-held cell phone use while driving.<sup>3</sup> However, outlawing texting while driving has not stopped teens from doing so, as revealed by a statewide survey.

Findings from the 2013 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) on Nevada youths' texting and e-mailing behavior while driving a vehicle are presented below and in a table on page 2.<sup>4</sup> The survey was administered during academic year 2012-2013.

- Nearly 36 percent of students in grades 9 through 12 texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle 1 or more times during the 30 days before the survey.
- Female students were slightly more likely than male students to text or e-mail while driving (37.0 percent versus 34.5 percent).
- Older students were more likely to text and e-mail while driving than younger students. (A larger percentage of older students than younger students may have had their driver's license, as teenagers in Nevada can apply for a learner's permit at age 15 1/2 and a full license at age 16. This may account for the difference.)
- Native American and white students were more likely to text and e-mail while driving than Hispanic/Latino, black (African American) or Asian students.
- A higher percentage of students living in rural Nevada texted and e-mailed while driving than students living in urban areas. Lyon, Mineral, and Storey counties had the highest percentage of students reporting the behavior. Clark and Washoe counties had the lowest percentage of students texting and e-mailing while driving.

---

<sup>1</sup>Lenhart, Amanda, *Teens, Smartphones & Texting*, Pew Research Center, Pew Internet & American Life Project, available at: [http://www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media//Files/Reports/2012/PIP\\_Teens\\_Smartphones\\_and\\_Texting.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media//Files/Reports/2012/PIP_Teens_Smartphones_and_Texting.pdf), as of 2/21/14.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "Driver Electronic Device Use in 2012," *Traffic Safety Facts Research Note*, February 2014, available at: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811884.pdf>, as of 2/21/14.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology. Division of Public and Behavioral Health. *2013 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, Carson City, Nevada, February 2014, available at: [http://health.nv.gov/PUBLICATIONS/2013\\_Nevada\\_YRBS\\_Report\\_e\\_1.0\\_2014-02-13.pdf](http://health.nv.gov/PUBLICATIONS/2013_Nevada_YRBS_Report_e_1.0_2014-02-13.pdf), as of 4/11/14.

**Number and Percent of High School Students Who Texted or E-Mailed While Driving a Car or Other Vehicle\* by Gender, Age, Grade, Race/Ethnicity, and Region: 2012-2013 Academic Year**

		Yes			No		
		Number	Percent**	Confidence Interval***	Number	Percent**	Confidence Interval***
<i>Total Who Responded to Question</i>		953	35.7	(32.9-38.4)	1,400	64.3	(61.6-67.1)
<i>Gender</i>	Female	477	37.0	(33.1-40.9)	694	63.0	(59.1-66.9)
	Male	476	34.5	(30.6-38.4)	706	65.5	(61.6-69.4)
<i>Age</i>	14 years old or younger	33	24.0	(14.0-33.9)	87	76.0	(66.1-86.0)
	15 years old	65	14.1	(9.6-18.6)	346	85.9	(81.4-90.4)
	16 years old	276	32.7	(28.0-37.5)	448	67.3	(62.5-72.0)
	17 years old	352	46.6	(41.2-52.1)	333	53.4	(47.9-58.8)
	18 years old or older	228	49.2	(41.8-56.5)	186	50.8	(43.5-58.2)
<i>Grade</i>	9th grade	60	19.3	(13.4-25.2)	242	80.7	(74.8-86.6)
	10th grade	177	21.9	(17.6-26.2)	467	78.1	(73.8-82.4)
	11th grade	315	41.8	(36.5-47.1)	375	58.2	(52.9-63.5)
	12th grade	390	49.6	(44.0-55.1)	310	50.4	(44.9-56.0)
<i>Race/ Ethnicity</i>	American Indian/ Alaska Native	27	40.9	(23.4-58.3)	31	59.1	(41.7-76.6)
	Asian	16	33.0	(17.6-48.5)	39	67.0	(51.5-82.4)
	Black (African American)****	19	15.5	(7.1-23.9)	65	84.5	(76.1-92.9)
	White****	464	39.9	(35.5-44.3)	617	60.1	(55.7-64.5)
	Hispanic/Latino	342	34.9	(30.5-39.3)	522	65.1	(60.7-69.5)
	Other/Multiple	60	37.4	(26.7-48.1)	96	62.6	(51.9-73.3)
<i>Region</i>	Carson City and Douglas	93	44.8	(38.0-51.6)	118	55.2	(48.4-62.0)
	Elko, White Pine, and Eureka	144	45.0	(39.1-50.8)	158	55.0	(49.2-60.9)
	Churchill, Humboldt, Pershing, and Lander	147	44.5	(38.9-50.0)	170	55.5	(50.0-61.1)
	Lyon, Mineral, and Storey	125	52.1	(45.7-58.6)	118	47.9	(41.4-54.3)
	Nye and Lincoln	48	39.9	(30.9-48.9)	77	60.1	(51.1-69.1)
	Washoe	201	36.8	(32.7-40.9)	359	63.2	(59.1-67.3)
	Clark	197	33.2	(29.4-37.0)	403	66.8	(63.0-70.6)

Note: A total of 3,928 students from 16 school districts in Nevada participated in the survey (Esmeralda County students attend high schools in the neighboring Nye County School District).

\*Among students who drove a car or other vehicle one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.

\*\*Weighted row percent.

\*\*\*95 percent confidence interval.

\*\*\*\*Non-Hispanic.

Source: Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology. Division of Public and Behavioral Health. *2013 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey*. Carson City, Nevada. February 2014, available at: [http://health.nv.gov/PUBLICATIONS/2013\\_Nevada\\_YRBS\\_Report\\_e\\_1.0\\_2014-02-13.pdf](http://health.nv.gov/PUBLICATIONS/2013_Nevada_YRBS_Report_e_1.0_2014-02-13.pdf), as of May 30, 2014.