



Quarterly Report



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Even parents with kids in the car can't stop texting and driving

There has been a historic surge in U.S. traffic fatalities over the last four years as more drivers use their phones to respond to texts or scroll through Instagram feeds. Even parents can't keep their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road, new research shows.

Half of all parents use their cellphones while driving with young children in the car, according to a

study by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. About a third of parents reported reading text messages, one in four sent text messages and one in seven used social media over the last three months while driving children between the ages of 4 and 10 in a moving vehicle.

The study was conducted in

2017 from a national sample of 760 parents and caregivers of children aged 4 to 10.

It's not a surprise, given that American adults use smartphones "almost constantly" throughout the day. Seventy-seven percent now own a smartphone, according to the Pew Research Center.

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Speed cameras at New York City public schools

ALBANY — The speed cameras that were installed around many New York City public schools several years ago seemed like an unqualified success: Traffic deaths near the cameras fell by more than half, and speeding was reduced by more than 60 %.

And yet, last summer, the cameras went dark, a casualty of partisan politicking in Albany and a potent reminder of the capital's reputation for dysfunction.

Now they are being revived, and then some: State Legislature voted to renew and vastly expand the speed camera program, in a nearly fivefold increase that city officials say will cover every elementary, middle and high school in the city.

The authorization to place cameras

in 750 school zones would make New York's school speed camera program the most robust in the nation.

Since 2014, the city has reported a 63% reduction in speeding in those school zones, and a 17% reduction in traffic injuries. The average number of deaths each year in school zones with a camera fell from 18 to 8.

Thirteen states currently have some form of speed camera program, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Some, like New York's, are limited to certain localities, while others are statewide. Nationwide, 139 communities have adopted speed cameras.



Backseat passengers

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) released a report about backseat safety. Even in a head-on crash, you may be safer in the front seat than the rear seat.

Crash tests show up-front belts automatically tighten while front and side airbags deploy, keeping people away from the steering wheel and dashboard. Those belts also have force-limiters to reduce the risk of chest injuries.

But in the back, there are no front airbags and seat belts lack those potentially life saving features, making it possible for passengers to collide with parts of the vehicle interior.

Rear seat passengers are often

subject to more severe injuries than their front seat passengers in the same vehicle.

IIHS looked at 117 front-end crashes where the backseat passenger was injured or killed while wearing a seat belt, and the most common injury was to the chest. Most of the 37 fatalities were in crashes that were considered survivable. Head injuries were found in nine injured backseat passengers and 18 fatalities.

Source & video (for information only. Not approved for use in course).

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/passengers-in-the-back-seat-may-be-more-prone-to-injuries-study-2019-04-25/>



RETRAIN

Check your expiration date!
All Driving Safety Instructors must possess a current drivers license and attend a recertification class every 2 years.

Contact USA Trainers
Mary Ann Loiacono,
917.208.1910
safetym1@aol.com

Jim Meehan, 718.383.9259

for scheduled RETRAIN dates, locations & fees

Children and disabled man left in car

In the past 20 years, 800 children died while trapped inside oven-like cars.

A mother has been arrested after a young child called 911 to report he and six other kids had been left alone in a hot car, according to authorities.

Officers found seven children between the ages of 2 and 4 in the vehicle with the windows rolled up and the car not running. Shortly after the children were removed from the car and treated at the scene, the driver arrived.

The woman is the mother of two of the children and was babysitting the others, according to the sheriff's office. She was arrested and charged with confinement of children inside a motor vehicle, but may face additional charges.

Cars turn into ovens when direct sunlight heats objects inside. Temperatures can soar to 120 or 130 degrees even when the outdoor tem-

perature is only in the 80s. The body's natural cooling methods, such as sweating, begin to shut down once the core body temperature reaches 104 degrees. Death can occur at 107 degrees.

On average, 38 children die while trapped in hot vehicles every year, according to Jan Null, an adjunct professor of meteorology at San Jose State University. Last year, a record 52 children died.

Also, a caretaker has been charged with manslaughter as well a one count

of dependent care abuse for leaving a disabled man to die in a hot car. Investigators learned the man had likely been left sitting in a parked car outside the caretaker's residence for several hours amid triple-digit temperatures. Authorities were called after the disabled man did not come back from his day program. The caretaker responsible for taking him back to the facility drove to his own house and left the disabled man, who according to report had the mental capacity of a child, in the hot car.



2019 Top Safety Pick+

SMALL CARS

Honda Insight
 Hyundai Elantra (built after Sept. 2018)
 Kia Forte
 Kia Niro hybrid
 Kia Niro Plug-In hybrid
 Subaru Crosstrek
 Subaru Impreza 4-door sedan
 Subaru Impreza wagon
 Subaru WRX

MIDSIZE CARS

Hyundai Sonata
 Kia Optima
 Subaru Legacy
 Subaru Outback
 Toyota Camry

MIDSIZE LUXURY CARS

Genesis G70
 Lexus ES

LARGE CAR

Toyota Avalon (built after Sept 2018)

LARGE LUXURY CARS

BMW 5 series
 Genesis G80
 Genesis G90
 Mercedes-Benz E-Class 4-door sedan

SMALL SUVs

Hyundai Santa Fe
 Kia Sorento
 Subaru Ascent

MIDSIZE LUXURY SUVs

Acura RDX
 BMW X3
 Mercedes-Benz GLC
 Mercedes-Benz GLE-Class

2019 Top Safety Pick

MINICARS

Hyundai Accent
 Kia Rio 4-door sedan

SMALL CARS

Hyundai Elantra GT
 Hyundai Ioniq hybrid
 Hyundai Ioniq Plug-in hybrid
(built after July 2018)
 Kia Soul
 Nissan Kicks
 Toyota Corolla 4-door hatchback

MIDSIZE CARS

Honda Accord
 Nissan Altima

MIDSIZE LUXURY CARS

Audi A3
 Audi A4
 Mercedes-Benz C-Class 4-door sedan

LARGE CAR

Kia Cadenza

SMALL SUVs

Honda Pilot
 Hyundai Santa Fe XL
 Mazda CX-9
 Nissan Pathfinder (built after Aug 2018)
 Toyota Highlander

MINIVANS

Chrysler Pacifica
 Honda Odyssey

For details on these and other vehicles go to iihs.org/ratings

Summer - Worst Season for Vehicle Theft

Motor vehicles are the primary mode of transportation for most of us and often indispensable in our lives. Over 770,000 drivers fall victim to vehicle theft each year and nearly half of the thefts are due to driver error. It is a multi-billion dollar crime with nearly \$6 billion in 2017. Summers prove to be the worst season for vehicle theft. Use common sense when parking or exiting your vehicle - take your keys, close and lock all windows, park in well-lit areas if possible and never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they can be seen from outside the window. If you are the victim of vehicle theft - contact the police to file a stolen vehicle report and report it to your insurance company immediately.

Michelin rolls out “Puncture-Proof” tire

Michelin has introduced a prototype of a “puncture-proof tire system” that has no traditional sidewall and carries the vehicle’s load courtesy of a newly developed fiberglass material.

The tires, known as Uptis (for Unique Puncture-Proof Tire System) could be available commercially on passenger vehicles as early as 2024, Michelin said.

Michelin’s new Unique Puncture-Proof Tire System (Uptis) does away with one of the defining aspects of tires as we’ve known them for more than 100 years: the air inside. Unlike past attempts at airless tires, Uptis functions the way other modern tires do and, Michelin claims, will provide a similar driving experience.

Parents can’t stop...

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“Engaging with a cellphone inherently takes our attention away from the roadway,” said Catherine McDonald, a senior fellow at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia who co-authored the study. “As technology rapidly changes and accelerates, we need to intervene.”

Parents who reported using their phone while driving young children in a moving vehicle were more likely to

have demonstrated other risky behaviors, including driving under the influence, not using a seatbelt and not using proper child restraint systems, according to the study.

Deterring cellphone use while driving is going to take a multi-pronged approach, pointing to increased law enforcement, insurance penalties and health-education counseling as possible solutions. But insurance companies and police departments have been fairly lenient in terms of identifying and punishing distracted drivers. Laws banning the use of hand-held phones have also had little effect.

2019 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE USA TRAINING

USA Training Company will be closed on the following dates:

- July 4 (Thurs) - July 4th Holiday
- August 27 (Tues) - LBJ's Birthday
- Sept. 2 (Mon) - Labor Day
- Oct. 14 (Mon) - Columbus Day
- Nov. 11 (Mon) - Veteran's Day
- Nov. 28 & 29 (Thurs/Fri) Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24, 25, 26 (Tues, Wed, Thurs) Christmas



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lbagwell@usatraining.com

REMINDER:

Make sure you have enough postage on your envelopes and preferably use 6 x 9 envelopes (so student information sheets are NOT folded). It is also a good idea to keep copies of the student information sheets.

