

Reduction in Fatalities per 100 MVMT

Observations from this data:

- 12 of the 15 states experienced a decrease in fatalities within two years after their hands-free law passed, while two other states (New Hampshire and Oregon) did not have sufficient data; and
- Six of these states saw a greater than 20% decrease in fatalities.

As noted below, traffic fatalities have noticeably been reduced in the years after passage and enforcement of hands-free laws.

Discussion of State's Hands-Free Laws

To determine the effectiveness of hands-free law, the Georgia House of Representatives House Study Committee on Distracted Driving reviewed NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) data of fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled ("VMT").

As of September 2017, a total of 15 states and D.C. have hands-free laws governing mobile phone use while driving. Of note, New Mexico does not have a statewide ban, but rather a local option by Jurisdiction law against handheld cell phone use.

The chart to the left shows the fatality percentage increase/decrease for the 15 states and D.C. that have hands-free Laws.

State	Approximate year of law's passage	Fatality increase/(decrease) %:	
		From year before passage to 2 years after	Total since before law
California	2008	-31.1%	-22.1%
Connecticut	2005	-1.1%	-9.7%
Delaware	2010	-3.1%	-0.8%
D.C.	2004	-45.5%	-65.2%
Hawaii	2013	-26.6%	-26.6%
Illinois	2014	4.4%	4.4%
Maryland	2010	-13.1%	-10.1%
Nevada	2011	-6.9%	-0.9%
New Hampshire	2015	n/a	n/a
New Jersey	2007	-21.6%	-26.5%
New Mexico	2014	-12.1%	-12.1%
New York	2001	-1.8%	-22.1%
Oregon	2017	n/a	n/a
Vermont	2014	-19.6%	-19.6%
Washington	2007	-22.3%	-15.2%
West Virginia	2013	-23.3%	-23.3%
Average		-16.0%	-17.8%

Highlighted results indicate a more than 20% statistical decrease in fatalities over the period.

Source: NHTSA



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