

2021 New Jersey Student Health Survey

VEHICLE SAFETY

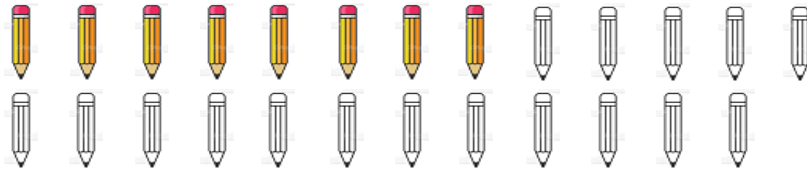
Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death among youth aged 15 to 19 in the United States⁽¹⁾ and alcohol use is associated with 19% of all traffic fatalities among drivers 16 to 20 years of age.⁽²⁾ Among high school students nationwide in 2021, 39.9% did not always wear a seat belt while 14.1% rode with a driver who had been drinking in the 30 days before the survey.⁽³⁾

31%

of students texted or e-mailed while driving
(on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)

8-Year Linear Trend: Decreasing

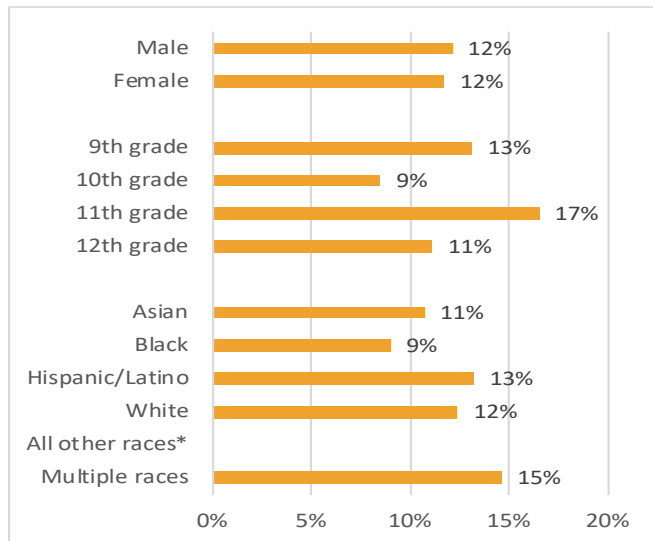
In a class of 25 students,
almost 8 students texted
or e-mailed while driving.



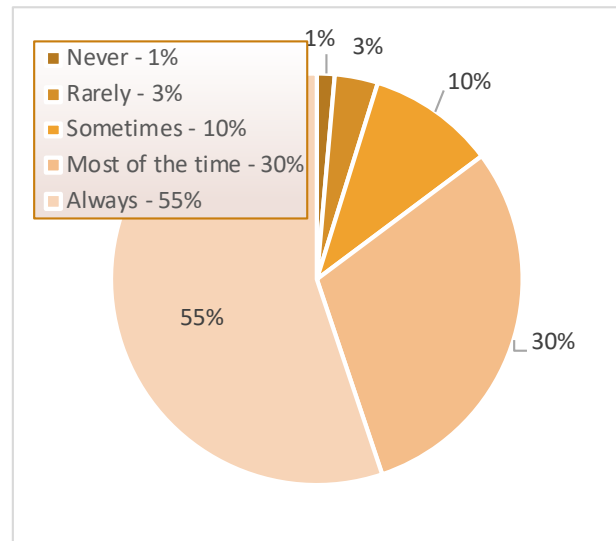
New Jersey Student Health Survey Highlights

- *Seat Belt Use:* 45% did not always use a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else.
- *Drinking and Driving:* 2% drove after drinking alcohol during the past 30 days.
- *Drinking and Riding:* 12% rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days.
- *Texting and Driving:* 31% texted or e-mailed while driving during the past 30 days.

Rode in a Car with Someone who had been Drinking Alcohol by Demographic












Frequency Wearing a Seat Belt Riding in a Car



*Fewer than 30 students in this subgroup.

NJSHS 10-Year Trend Analysis: 2011-2021 Vehicle Safety

Percentage of New Jersey Youth Who:	2011	2013	2019	2021	Trend Analysis
Did not always wear a seat belt	53%	50%	46%	45%	
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol	21%	20%	12%	12%	
Drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol	—	9%	3%	2%	
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle	—	36%	29%	31%	
Increase in negative behavior	Decrease in negative behavior	Increase in a positive behavior	Decrease in a positive behavior	No change in behavior	Trend not reported by CDC
					—
Trend analysis was performed by the CDC on data from 2011 to 2021 to determine which differences across years were statistically significant. For questions not asked in all survey years, the trend analysis was performed from 2021 back to the last consecutive year in which the question was asked.					

Additional New Jersey Student Health Survey Findings

- The percentage of students who did not always wear a seatbelt decreased with grade from 51% for 9th grade students to 37% for 12th grade students.
- Among students who had driven a car in the 30 days before the survey, 20% of 11th graders and 52% of 12th graders texted or e-mailed while driving.
- The percentage of students who drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol was higher for males at 3%, compared to 1% for females.
- The percentage of students who texted or emailed while driving was higher for females at 33%, compared to 29% for males.

Definitions

- Statistics about student drivers are in reference to the 30 days before the survey, among students who had driven a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey.
- Questions about seatbelt wearing are in reference to riding in a car driven by someone else.

Resources

- Teen Driving | NHTSA: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving>
- NJ MVC: <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/press/archives/2017/101817.htm>
- Parents -- New Jersey Drives: <https://jerseydrives.com/parents/#anchor4>
- Teen Driver Safety Programs | NJM: <https://www.njm.com/teen-driver-safety>