

- Texting while driving has become an especially problematic trend among millennials. Young drivers, 16 to 24 years old, have been observed using handheld electronic devices while driving at higher rates than older drivers since 2007.

### **Right or risky according to AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety:**

- In analyzing 2009-2012 data, that even while more than 8 in 10 drivers believed it completely unacceptable for a motorist to text or e-mail behind the wheel, more than a third of those same respondents admitted to reading text messages while driving.
- Just as disturbing, even as fatalities go up, fewer drivers seem concerned about texting while driving. According to Foundation's 2015 Traffic Safety Culture Index, significantly fewer motorists (77%) believed texting while driving is a problem, down from 96 percent in 2013, a 19-point drop in just two years.
- Texting while driving is more than just personally risky. When you text and drive, you become a danger to everyone around you.

(<https://i1.wp.com/www.positivelynaperville.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/dont-text.jpg>)

Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week was coordinated by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police in partnership with AAA and supported by the Illinois State Police, SafetyServe.com, the National Safety Council, the Illinois Insurance Association and almost 300 law enforcement/fire agencies, including the Naperville Police Department.



These partnerships have been formed to help further a traffic safety culture in Illinois and to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries resulting from distracted driving.

*News submitted by Commander Louis Cammisio, Public Information Officer, for the Naperville Police Department.*

### **UPDATE / Feedback on FB regarding Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week**

Thank you so much. I lost a friend who was run over and killed while bicycling, by a driver distracted by downloading a ringtone on her phone. —*Shawn D. Lapetino*

They need to start taking people's licenses away, just remove them from the road. No one puts their phone down anymore and they get belligerent and angry if anyone gets upset with them. — *Ed Teune*

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**Editor's Notes** / The three-minute "Faces" videos feature individuals from across the nation whose lives have been forever changed because of texting or cell phone use behind the wheel. Texting and driving is seriously dangerous. Turn off electronic devices before you drive so you won't be tempted to answer calls on the road. Watch the videos at [www.distracted.gov/faces](http://www.distracted.gov/faces). (<http://www.distracted.gov/faces>)

In addition Julie Smith's Focus on Safety column in Nov. 2015 (<http://www.positivelynaperville.com/2015/11/15/focus-on-safety-the-dangers-of-distracted-driving/51550>) addressed texting and other driving distractions.