

Driver Electronic Device (Cell Phone and Texting) Survey Results

Observational Survey Results

Table 1 provides descriptive statistics on driver visible electronic device use. As shows in this table, a total of **33,666** drivers were observed. The percentage of drivers holding cell phones or any other electronic devices close to their ears and faces stood at **11.8** percent. As we expected, the percentage of hand held electronic device use was higher among female drivers than male drivers (**13.9** percent among female drivers versus **10.2** percent among male drivers)

Overall, the city of Chicago had the highest driver electronic device use at **17.6** percent followed by the upstate counties (DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, and Winnebago) at **12.6** percent. The Cook County, excluding the city of Chicago had a usage rate of **12.1** percent. The downstate counties (Champaign, Bureau, Effingham, Rock Island, Madison, and St. Clair) had the lowest usage rate at **9.4** percent. The usage rate patterns by four regions among males and females are similar to the overall usage rate patterns, except the Cook County female drivers who tend to have slightly higher use of visible hand held cell phones or any other electronic devices than the upstate or downstate counties female drivers do.

Table 1: Driver Electronic Device Use in Illinois in 2013 (Total Number of Vehicle Observed=33,666)						
Region	Total		Male		Female	
	Total Observed	Electronic Device Use	Total Observed	Electronic Device Use	Total Observed	Electronic Device Use
Total	33,666	11.8%	18,980	10.2%	14,686	13.9%
Chicago	2,545	17.6%	1,475	15.3%	1,070	20.8%
Cook	5,613	12.1%	3,357	10.1%	2,256	15.1%
Upstate ¹	13,947	12.6%	7,815	10.8%	6,132	14.8%
Downstate ²	11561	9.4%	6,333	8.3%	5,228	10.8%

1. Upstate region includes the following counties: DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Winnebago

2. Downstate Region includes the following counties: Champaign, Bureau, Effingham, Rock Island, Madison and St. Clair

Telephone Survey Results

IDOT Cell-Phone Related Questions¹ (N=603)

Do you use a cell phone or other mobile device while driving?

	Statewide Respondents	Chicago Area Respondents	Downstate Respondents
Yes	30.1% (104)	25.1% (43)	34.9% (61)
No	69.1% (239)	73.7% (126)	64.6% (113)
Dk/na	0.9% (3)	1.2% (2)	0.6% (1)

What type of cell phone/mobile device do you currently use while driving?

	Statewide Respondents	Chicago Area Respondents	Downstate Respondents
Hands-free cell phone (including earbuds and in-car Bluetooth)	48.1% (50)	60.5% (26)	39.3% (24)
Hand-held cell phone	51.9% (54)	39.5% (17)	60.7% (37)

On an average trip, how often do you use a hand-held cell phone/or other mobile device to make telephone calls while driving?

	Statewide Respondents	Chicago Area Respondents	Downstate Respondents
Always	5.8% (6)	4.7% (2)	6.6% (4)
Sometimes	26.0 (24)	20.9% (9)	29.5% (18)
Seldom	47.1% (49)	39.5% (17)	52.5% (32)
Never	21.2% (22)	34.9% (15)	11.5% (7)

On an average trip, how often do you use a hand-held cell phone/or other mobile device to text while driving?

	Statewide Respondents	Chicago Area Respondents	Downstate Respondents
Always	2.9% (3)	0.0% (0)	4.9% (3)
Sometimes	7.8% (8)	9.5% (4)	6.6% (4)
Seldom	17.5% (18)	16.7% (7)	18.0% (11)
Never	70.9% (73)	71.4% (30)	70.5% (43)
Dk/na	1.0% (1)	2.4% (1)	0.0% (0)

¹ All results from this preliminary analysis are unweighted.

Currently, Illinois has a law requiring all drivers not to text when they drive. In your opinion, *should* police be allowed to stop a vehicle for just texting while driving, when no other traffic laws are broken?

	Statewide Respondents	Chicago Area Respondents	Downstate Respondents
Should be allowed	89.9% (310)	92.4% (157)	87.4% (153)
Should not be allowed	5.8% (20)	3.5% (6)	8.0% (14)
Dk/na	3.4 % (15)	4.1% (7)	4.6% (8)

Starting January 1, 2014, using a hand-held cell phone/ mobile device while driving becomes a primary offense in Illinois. This means that police can use that as the sole reason for stopping a driver.

Do you favor or oppose allowing police to stop and ticket motorists for just using a hand held cell phone/mobile device while they drive?

	Statewide Respondents	Chicago Area Respondents	Downstate Respondents
Favor	77.4% (267)	81.2% (138)	73.7% (129)
Oppose	18.8% (65)	16.5% (28)	21.1% (37)
Dk/na	3.8% (13)	2.4% (4)	5.2% (9)