



# DISTRACTION AND INATTENTION IN FATAL AND INJURY CRASHES

Distraction and inattention can lead to poorer driving performance but there is limited evidence of their role in crashes. A new study reveals the contribution of distraction and inattention in fatal and injury crashes.

## What we found

Of the 160 fatal/injury crashes:

- 31% due to driver inattention.
- 14% due to distraction.
- In-vehicle distractions were most common (e.g., phones, passengers, searching for items).
- Mobile phones were responsible for 2.5% of all crashes (18% of distraction crashes).

77% of distractions were avoidable

**System wide solutions** can prevent these crashes:

- Vehicle safety technologies
- Infrastructure treatments
- Blocking capabilities within technologies
- Automated enforcement
- Campaigns communicating risks

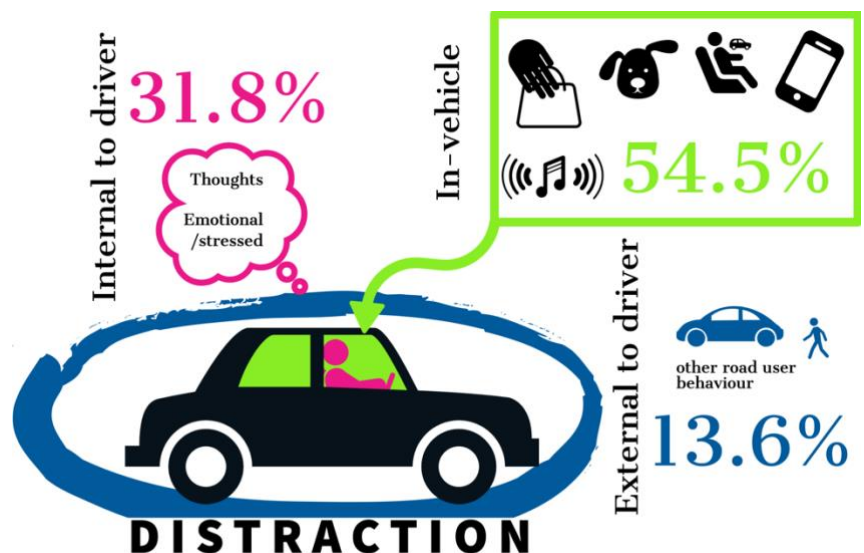
## What is driver inattention and driver distraction?

**Driver inattention:** Insufficient attention to activities critical for safe driving.

**Driver distraction:** Diversion of attention away from activities critical for safe driving toward a competing activity.

## What we did

- Investigated the contribution of distraction and inattention in fatal and injury crashes in SA, 2014–2018, using in-depth crash data.
- Captured all types of distractions and any motivations.
- Examined the context in which behaviour occurred.



Wundersitz, L. N. (2019). Driver distraction and inattention in fatal and injury crashes: Findings from in-depth road crash data. *Traffic Injury Prevention*, 20(7), 696-701.

