

APPENDIX

DISTRACTED DRIVERS GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS (2019)

This document is the appendix for the **2019 Distracted Drivers Georgia Traffic Safety Facts**. Visit <https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/highway-safety/shsp/> to access the full report.

Distracted Driver convictions are convictions processed at the Georgia Department of Driver Services. The total convictions include the following codes based on the county where the violation occurred.

O.C.G.A. 40-6-241	Failure to exercise due care/careless driving
O.C.G.A. 40-6-241(b)	Failure to exercise due care
O.C.G.A. 40-6-241(c)	Unlawful use of wireless device
O.C.G.A. 40-6-241(d)	Unlawful use of wireless device in cmv
O.C.G.A. 40-6-241.1	Unlawful use of wireless device <18/using hand-held phone, driving
O.C.G.A. 40-6-241.2	Operating a vehicle while text messaging/texting while driving
O.C.G.A. 40-6-241.2(b)(1)	Operating a vehicle while text messaging/texting while driving
O.C.G.A. 40-6-241.2(b)(2)(A)	Holding wireless device for voice communication/using hand-held phone, driving
O.C.G.A. 40-6-241.2(b)(2)(B)	Using >1 button on wireless device for voice comm./using hand-held phone, driving
O.C.G.A. 40-6-241.2(b)(2)(C)	Reaching for wireless device/using hand-held phone, driving

Data Considerations:

- On July 1, 2018, Georgia’s Hands-Free Law furthered the “no texting while driving” law and made it illegal for drivers (including young drivers) to physically hold or support a wireless communications device while driving. Under Georgia’s Hands-Free Law, drivers can be cited and convicted for distracted driving that may or may not have resulted in a motor vehicle traffic crash. While first time offenders of Georgia’s Hands-Free Law can be excused if they provide evidence that they have obtained a device that allows them to use hands-free communication technology, the increase in enforcement and convictions for distracted driving is indicative of a growing traffic safety concern.
- Gwinnett County has consistently had the highest number of distracted driving convictions compared to any other county. From 2011-2017 (prior to the Hands-Free Law), Gwinnett represented 26 percent of all distracted driving convictions across the state. The number of distracted driving convictions in Gwinnett increased nearly sixfold (5.9 times) from 2,013 in 2015 to 11,869 in 2019 – indicative of consistent enforcement of distracted driving laws.
- Some Georgia counties may not have reported all or any distracted driver convictions in 2019. There were seven (7) distracted driving convictions in 2019 where the county of violation was not known.

Licensed Drivers, Citations Issued after Motor Vehicle Crash, Distracted Driving Convictions, and Percent Confirmed or Suspected Distracted Drivers (Distraction-Related) Involved in Motor Vehicle Crashes by County, 2019

County Name	Licensed Drivers	Distracted Driving Citations Issued After a Crash	Distracted Driving Convictions	Percent Distraction-Related MV Traffic Crashes
APPLING	13,520	3	21	65%
ATKINSON	5,459	3	1	48%
BACON	7,815	2	2	51%
BAKER	2,289	1	37	72%
BALDWIN	29,177	3	269	60%
BANKS	15,387	8	473	58%
BARROW	64,875	13	238	59%
BARTOW	86,811	34	433	61%
BEN HILL	11,840	1	82	39%
BERRIEN	13,609	7	184	56%
BIBB	105,684	7	309	54%
BLECKLEY	8,975	2	91	49%

Licensed Drivers, Citations Issued after Motor Vehicle Crash, Distracted Driving Convictions, and Percent Confirmed or Suspected Distracted Drivers (Distraction-Related) Involved in Motor Vehicle Crashes by County, 2019 (con't)

County Name	Licensed Drivers	Distracted Driving Citations Issued After a Crash	Distracted Driving Convictions	Percent Distraction-Related MV Traffic Crashes
BRANTLEY	13,369	3	8	61%
BROOKS	11,023	6	69	53%
BRYAN	33,574	9	129	60%
BULLOCH	50,446	51	649	60%
BURKE	17,851	5	64	66%
BUTTS	19,157	2	93	58%
CALHOUN	3,521	0	13	37%
CAMDEN	40,701	4	166	53%
CANDLER	7,786	1	40	52%
CARROLL	91,947	26	1,061	58%
CATOOSA	52,990	59	641	59%
CHARLTON	7,207	2	4	67%
CHATHAM	208,895	151	1,763	49%
CHATTAHOOCHEE	4,616	0	--	48%
CHATTOOGA	18,383	1	3	54%
CHEROKEE	205,880	54	1,492	63%
CLARKE	78,589	42	847	55%
CLAY	2,166	1	20	34%
CLAYTON	199,564	70	1,024	54%
CLINCH	4,689	2	8	54%
COBB	580,629	220	1,495	58%
COFFEE	28,061	16	825	48%
COLQUITT	31,604	11	496	55%
COLUMBIA	118,545	43	601	64%
COOK	12,804	9	232	55%
COWETA	115,002	24	1,302	58%
CRAWFORD	9,826	0	5	78%
CRISP	14,614	8	72	60%
DADE	12,936	5	20	63%
DAWSON	23,129	12	373	66%
DECATUR	20,479	4	156	48%
DEKALB	534,974	89	1,604	53%
DODGE	13,410	4	10	54%
DOOLY	6,973	3	56	40%
DOUGHERTY	60,085	30	796	51%
DOUGLAS	108,055	40	442	57%
EARLY	7,898	0	7	71%
ECHOLS	2,430	2	3	54%
EFFINGHAM	51,098	16	307	60%
ELBERT	15,433	3	149	55%
EMANUEL	16,295	3	115	49%
EVANS	7,459	3	16	49%

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FANNIN	22,228	11	80	58%
FAYETTE	99,950	41	1,353	64%
FLOYD	72,282	17	715	56%
FORSYTH	186,515	31	594	63%
FRANKLIN	18,612	11	215	62%
FULTON	757,833	346	10,526	52%
GILMER	25,759	16	81	59%
GLASCOCK	2,170	2	--	62%
GLYNN	64,678	32	684	55%
GORDON	43,492	24	409	58%
GRADY	17,118	1	149	41%
GREENE	15,015	3	15	62%
GWINNETT	691,085	172	11,869	57%
HABERSHAM	34,756	13	375	62%
HALL	154,518	125	2,111	62%
HANCOCK	5,940	0	17	48%
HARALSON	24,301	10	10	58%
HARRIS	28,344	13	165	63%
HART	20,308	10	57	62%
HEARD	9,398	1	35	64%
HENRY	186,955	33	1,135	61%
HOUSTON	120,573	77	959	57%
IRWIN	6,929	5	30	59%
JACKSON	57,935	18	629	58%
JASPER	11,831	1	31	73%
JEFF DAVIS	10,319	1	63	48%
JEFFERSON	11,893	0	60	45%
JENKINS	5,508	2	30	44%
JOHNSON	5,854	0	46	56%
JONES	22,681	0	81	73%
LAMAR	14,525	1	17	63%
LANIER	6,345	7	29	66%
LAURENS	37,300	12	385	53%
LEE	25,810	10	147	58%
LIBERTY	44,311	86	660	51%
LINCOLN	6,416	1	4	56%
LONG	10,966	3	217	59%
LOWNDES	78,964	118	554	49%
LUMPKIN	24,655	14	213	66%
MACON	7,723	2	122	45%
MADISON	23,867	5	21	67%
MARION	5,694	2	2	60%

Licensed Drivers, Citations Issued after Motor Vehicle Crash, Distracted Driving Convictions, and Percent Confirmed or Suspected Distracted Drivers (Distraction-Related) Involved in Motor Vehicle Crashes by County, 2019 (con't)

County Name	Licensed Drivers	Distracted Driving Citations Issued After a Crash	Distracted Driving Convictions	Percent Distraction-Related MV Traffic Crashes
MCDUFFIE	16,413	6	167	54%
MCINTOSH	9,557	0	87	48%
MERIWETHER	17,813	2	237	63%
MILLER	4,284	0	22	36%
MITCHELL	15,162	1	26	55%
MONROE	28,720	2	244	57%
MONTGOMERY	6,171	2	15	48%
MORGAN	16,838	5	282	62%
MURRAY	29,469	6	303	57%
MUSCOGEE	137,355	68	36	50%
NEWTON	90,116	13	556	59%
OCONEE	33,362	5	338	62%
OGLETHORPE	12,248	0	112	64%
PAULDING	128,522	64	583	61%
PEACH	19,452	7	169	51%
PICKENS	29,400	6	71	63%
PIERCE	15,105	2	3	53%
PIKE	16,024	0	148	70%
POLK	32,508	4	62	58%
PULASKI	6,357	7	43	51%
PUTNAM	17,582	2	6	72%
QUITMAN	1,665	0	3	65%
RABUN	14,460	2	61	61%
RANDOLPH	4,629	0	5	57%
RICHMOND	138,226	37	753	53%
ROCKDALE	70,708	15	640	57%
SCHLEY	3,497	2	11	65%
SCREVEN	10,928	4	33	55%
SEMINOLE	7,030	1	40	40%
SPALDING	52,839	15	1,371	54%
STEPHENS	21,131	4	206	54%
STEWART	2,851	0	12	54%
SUMTER	20,136	12	258	43%
TALBOT	4,790	0	--	66%
TALIAFERRO	1,209	1	--	67%
TATTNALL	14,720	5	117	52%
TAYLOR	6,008	0	64	45%
TELFAIR	7,230	0	150	37%
TERRELL	6,680	3	128	49%
THOMAS	35,065	6	454	53%
TIFT	28,790	14	518	49%
TOOMBS	20,044	4	341	57%

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TOWNS	10,865	0	66	62%
TREUTLEN	4,687	0	31	51%
TROUP	52,056	38	259	54%
TURNER	6,373	0	66	49%
TWIGGS	6,768	0	57	76%
UNION	21,685	3	34	68%
UPSON	21,551	4	240	45%
WALKER	52,575	14	207	56%
WALTON	78,316	28	416	59%
WARE	25,054	4	196	53%
WARREN	3,977	7	12	67%
WASHINGTON	14,389	1	36	62%
WAYNE	21,784	1	55	55%
WEBSTER	1,843	0	5	62%
WHEELER	3,684	0	14	50%
WHITE	23,720	7	51	62%
WHITFIELD	74,188	94	805	56%
WILCOX	5,353	1	-	46%
WILKES	7,449	2	38	61%
WILKINSON	7,222	1	1	66%
WORTH	15,121	1	134	64%