

From: (MTO)

Sent: June 9, 2021 12:09 PM

Subject: 2021 MTO Road Safety Survey RESULTS



I am pleased to share the results of the Ministry of Transportation's 2021 Road Safety Attitudinal & Behaviour survey.

BACKGROUND

MTO's Public Outreach and Education Office completed this survey biennially since 2011, with the exception of 2019. The survey covers a broad range of road safety issues. The focus is on capturing changes in road users' behaviours and attitudes; rather than uncovering what drives attitudes or behaviours.

The insights from the survey are intended to inform improvements in driver education and outreach via social media and partner advertising. As such, the survey also provides guidance on the target audiences that should be the focus of future outreach and the most effective channels to reach them.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Public Knowledge of the Law** - Survey results suggest there is a need for additional public awareness related to the Slow Down Move Over law as a **declining number of Ontario drivers are able to correctly identify actions required when driving past a stopped police/emergency vehicle** with flashing lights. The results also support increased education targeting more specifically young male drivers, novice drivers and motorcyclists who are least likely to correctly identify the actions that should be taken in various situations.
- **Aggressive Driving** – The survey validates there have been an overall **increase in the proportion of aggressive driving behaviours** since 2017 and suggests the need for strong targeted public education efforts directed at young male drivers and motorcyclists' segments of the population who are more likely to demonstrate risky road behaviours (including distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding, etc.) and more nonchalant attitudes related to road safety compared to 2017.
- **Distracted Driving** – The survey reveals a number of **significant changes in road users' attitudes and behaviours towards distracted driving** since 2017. Fewer Ontarians agree that it is dangerous to drive while sending/reading text messages or while using a hand-held phone. More individuals report driving distracted more frequently than they did in 2017.

- **Impaired Driving** - There is evidence of **increasingly ‘normalized’ attitudes and behaviours regarding impaired driving** compared to 2017. As such, there is a decreasing number of Ontarians (85%) who believe it is dangerous to drive after taking drugs or having three or more drinks and a significant increase in impaired driving behaviours especially among young male drivers.
- **Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** - COVID-19 has impacted the frequency of using specific modes of transportation. Just over one-third of Ontario residents say they are walking outdoors more and nearly one-quarter (22%) say they are riding a bicycle more often. On the other hand, nearly three-quarters (71%) are saying they are taking public transit less often, and over half are driving or traveling as a passenger less frequently than prior to COVID-19.

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Enclosed:

Appendix 1 - MTO Road Safety Attitudes and Behaviours Final Report dated April 9, 2021