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Fact Sheet

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2024 California Traffic Safety Survey Summary

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2024 California Traffic Safety Survey Summary

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The UC Berkeley Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC) has released the California Traffic Safety Survey 2024. The study was led by Ewald & Wasserman Research Consultants (E&W) and conducted on behalf of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and SafeTREC.

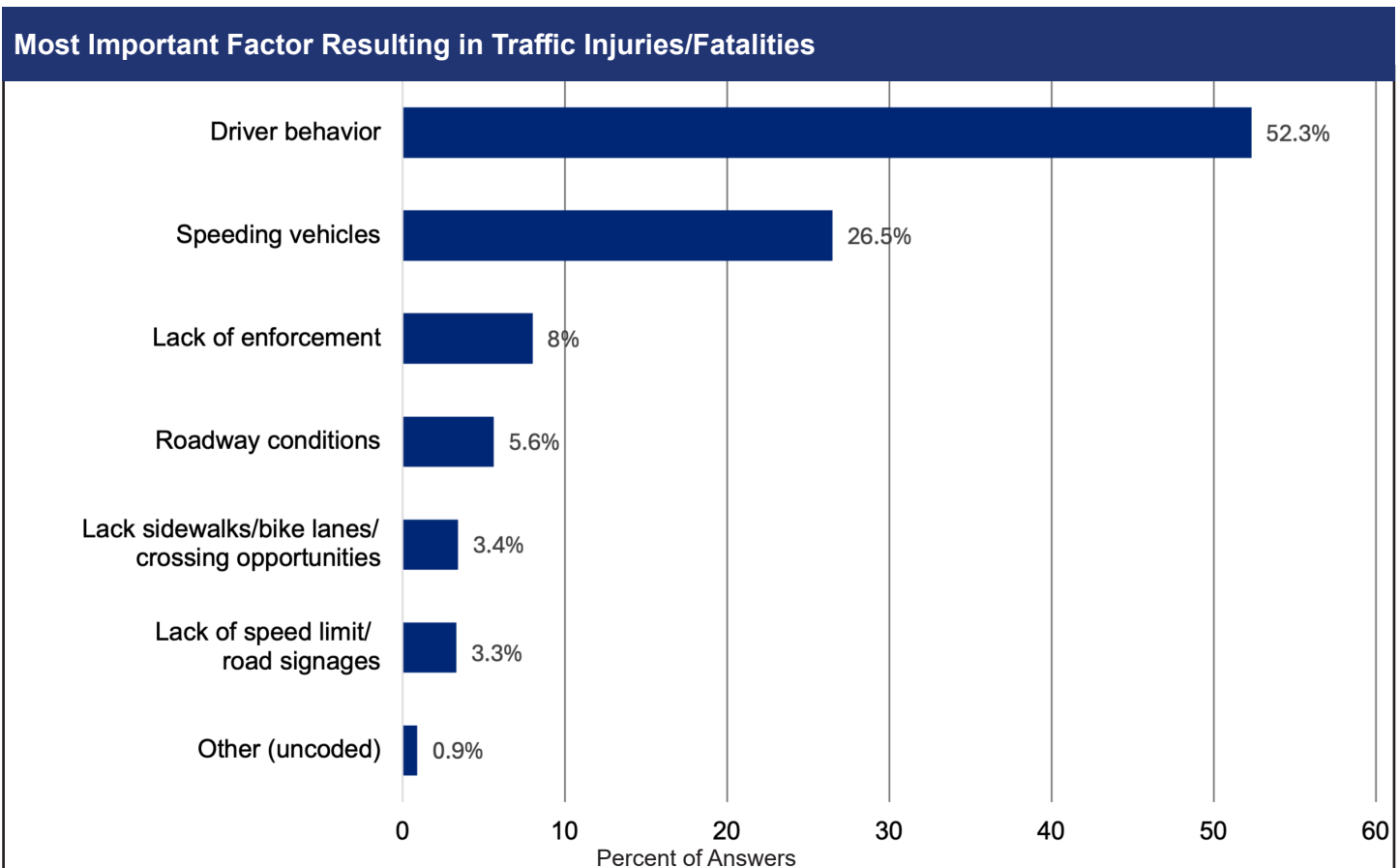
The California Traffic Safety Survey has been conducted annually since 2010 to gain a better understanding of a range of traffic safety behaviors, and to help inform traffic safety programs and public education campaigns. This year's survey was conducted with an online panel of California drivers in all California counties for a total of 2,507 respondents, with the majority of those surveyed (57.9% weighted) coming from Southern California and falling within the 18-44 age range.

Over 25 questions were created to address a variety of topics concerning road safety, including distracted driving, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, statewide safety campaigns, and driverless vehicles. First introduced to the California Traffic Safety Survey in 2022, respondents were also asked to rate five elements of increasing road safety that comprise the Safe System Approach.

Highlights of Findings

Most Important Factor Resulting in Traffic Injuries/Fatalities

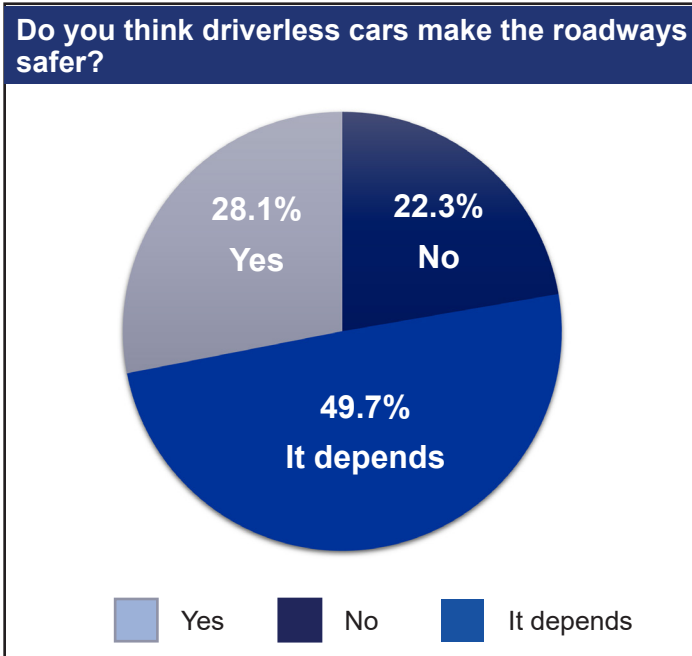
Similar to previous years, the most frequently given answer to the question about the most important factor resulting in traffic injuries/fatalities was "Driver Behavior" (52.3%) followed by "Speeding Vehicles" (26.5%) accounting for 78.8% of all answers. (See Table Safe2, page 27 in the full survey).



Most Serious Distraction	
Texting or Checking Phone While Driving	72.7%
Talking on Phone While Driving	13.0%
Car Crashes causing Rubbernecking	5.1%
Passengers in Car	2.6%
Eating While Driving	2.0%
Dashboard/Navigation Systems	2.7%
Roadside Billboards	0.7%
All Other Responses Combined	1.2%
Total	100%

Do you think it is safe to drive 10 miles over the speed limit on freeways?	
Yes	34.9%
No	29.5%
It Depends	35.6%
Total	100%

Do you think it is safe to drive 10 miles over the speed limit on residential streets?	
Yes	11.2%
No	77.2%
It Depends	11.5%
Total	100%



Most Serious Distraction

The question about the most serious distraction for drivers on California roadways has been asked since 2010. As in previous years and since 2013 “Texting or Checking Phone While Driving” is the most frequently given answer.

(See page 15, Table Q3_1 in the full survey)

Safety of Driving 10 Miles Over the Speed Limit on Freeways

Over a third of all survey respondents believe it to be safe to drive 10 miles over the speed limit on freeways, similar to previous years.

(See page 24, Table Q16 in the full survey)

Safety of Driving 10 Miles Over the Speed Limit on Residential Streets

Similar to the 2023 survey, a majority of respondents, 77.2%, did not believe it to be safe to drive above the speed limit on residential streets.

(See page 24, Table Q17 in the full survey)

Perceptions of Driverless Vehicles

Almost half of all surveyed drivers do not believe that driverless vehicles will make roadways safer.

(See page 29, Table Q20 in the full survey)

View the [full report on the SafeTREC website](#).

The study was led by Ewald & Wasserman Research Consultants (E&W) and conducted on behalf of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and UC Berkeley SafeTREC.

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