



# First Responder Safety Public Opinion Poll

March 2019

## Objective

The overall objective of this research is to provide the National Safety Council with an understanding of attitudes and behaviors of the driving public related to the safety of first responders and others providing services on the sides of active roads.

Results from this research will be used to develop policies, programs and educational material that will reduce traffic fatalities.

## Methodology

This research was conducted with Toluna Group's proprietary panel of pre-screened, validated, de-duplicated and well-profiled respondents. Sample outgo (invitations) and completes were monitored to ensure returns were balanced to US Census for age, gender, ethnicity, geographic region, income, and ethnicity.

To qualify for the study, respondents had to:

- Live in the United States
- Be 21 or older
- Have an (unrestricted) driver's license
- Drive at least 15 minutes on a typical weekday

A total of 2,001 surveys were completed with between January 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

Statistical significance is not shown in this report, but at the 95% confidence level +/- 2% is considered significant.

**Questionnaire with results** (All numbers are percentages. Unless otherwise noted n=2,001)

1. Do you have a driver's license?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Yes	100%	100%
Yes, restricted teen driver's license	0%	0%
No	0%	0%

2. On average, how much time do you spend in total driving on a typical weekday?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
None	0%	0%
Less than 15 minutes	7%	4%
15 minutes to less than 30 minutes	16%	17%
30 minutes to less than 1 hour	23%	23%
1 hour to less than 2 hours	24%	24%
2 hours to less than 4 hours	14%	18%
4 hours or more	16%	14%
Don't know/Refused	0%	0%

3. The simple act of driving a car involves many risks to both those inside and outside the vehicle. If we describe the typical driver as facing an average amount of risk of injury when driving, how would you rate the risk of each of the following?

<i>Somewhat Higher/Much Higher Risk (net)</i>	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Motorcyclists	80%	78%
Pedestrian walking on the highway shoulder	79%	83%
Emergency responder out of their vehicle on a highway road	79%	83%
Construction worker on highway	79%	77%
Bicyclist on an urban/suburban road	74%	78%
Emergency responder out of their vehicle on an urban/suburban road	71%	71%
Construction worker on urban/suburban road	71%	71%
Pedestrian on the side of an urban /suburban road	61%	66%

4. Overall, how would you rate your own driving behavior overall?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Above average	51%	53%
Average	48%	45%
Below average	1%	1%

5. How would you rate the driving behavior of others?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Above average	12%	12%
Average	60%	55%
Below average	28%	33%

6. How often do you do the following while driving?

	National				Florida			
<i>n size</i>	1,000				250			
	<u>Often</u>	<u>Occasionally</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Occasionally</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>
Program / search GPS	15%	25%	20%	40%	11%	26%	28%	34%
Make or answer phone calls	12%	25%	28%	34%	10%	24%	36%	30%
Review or send text messages	9%	13%	17%	61%	6%	5%	10%	78%
Use social media	9%	10%	10%	71%	5%	9%	19%	66%
Photos or video (exclude dash cam)	8%	7%	9%	76%	4%	8%	12%	75%
Review or send emails	8%	8%	8%	76%	3%	7%	10%	78%

7. When you see an emergency vehicle (Police, Fire, or Emergency Medical Services) with its lights flashing stopped on or near the side of the road due to situations like a fire, crash or traffic stop, how often do you do the following while driving?

	National				Florida			
<i>n size</i>	1,000				250			
	<u>Often</u>	<u>Occasionally</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Occasionally</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>
Update/Post to GPS app	14%	19%	12%	54%	9%	13%	17%	60%
Call someone about situation	12%	14%	18%	56%	5%	19%	18%	59%
Text about situation	17%	19%	13%	51%	7%	22%	26%	46%
Social media about situation	25%	20%	14%	40%	10%	17%	24%	50%
Photo or video situation	30%	25%	16%	29%	16%	31%	29%	27%
Email about situation	25%	23%	18%	34%	19%	14%	21%	47%
Slow down / get a good look	23%	27%	30%	20%	24%	31%	26%	20%

8. As a driver, how likely are you to notice a first responder vehicle with its lights flashing stopped on or near the side of the road?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
<b><u>Definitely/Probably would (net)</u></b>	<b><u>97%</u></b>	<b><u>95%</u></b>
Definitely would	85%	83%
Probably would	12%	12%
Might or might not	3%	3%
Probably would not	1%	1%
Definitely would not	0%	0%

9. How would you rate your driving behavior when you pass an emergency vehicle with its lights flashing stopped on or near the road?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Above average	62%	62%
Average	36%	37%
Below average	2%	1%

10. Please rate your agreement with each of the following statements.

<b><i>Strongly/Somewhat Agree (net)</i></b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Drivers have a legal responsibility to take precautions when passing first responders stopped on or near the road	94%	94%
First responders serve the community, drivers owe it to them to be more careful	92%	94%
I know what to do when I pass a first responder vehicle stopped on or near the road	91%	92%
Distracted motorists are a major source of risk to first responders	89%	90%
Zero is the only acceptable number of first responders injured by distracted drivers	81%	80%
Possibly being struck by a vehicle is just part of the risk of being a first responder	49%	42%
My own inattentive driving has probably put first responders at unnecessary risk	19%	20%
I've struck or nearly struck a first responder or emergency vehicle stopped on or near the road	16%	15%

11. If you are driving and see a first responder vehicle with its lights flashing stopped on or near the road, which of the following should you do?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
<b><u>Move over (net)</u></b>	<b><u>73%</u></b>	<b><u>78%</u></b>
Slow down and then move over	53%	54%
Move over and then slow down	20%	24%
Stay in your lane and carefully pass the situation	13%	11%
Stop your vehicle before the situation and await direction from an official	14%	11%

12. Which of the following is true about first responders vehicle (Police, Fire or Emergency Medical Services/EMS) parked on the side of the road with their lights flashing?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
There is a <b>law or legal requirement</b> for how drivers must react	77%	80%
There are <b>suggestions or protocols</b> drivers should follow	19%	18%
It is <b>up to the driver</b> to make a decision how to react	4%	2%

13. Have you heard of the term "Move Over" laws?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Yes	67%	77%
No	34%	23%

14. In all 50 states there is a category of law covering how motorist should react to seeing an emergency vehicle parked on the side of the road with its lights flashing. How confident are you that you know the details of this law?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Very confident	49%	51%
Somewhat confident	41%	44%
Not at all confident	10%	5%

15. Which of the following do you believe to be part of the law when a motorist passes a stopped emergency vehicle parked on or near the side of the road with its lights flashing? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

<i>Shading indicates 'correct' answers</i>	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	<i>(1,000)</i>	<i>(250)</i>
Requires driver to move away one lane, if safe to do so	66%	67%
Requires drivers to reduce speed, if safe to do so	61%	62%
Applies to Emergency Medical Vehicles (EMS), such as ambulances	51%	51%
Applies to police vehicles	48%	47%
Applies to fire vehicles	47%	47%
Requires driver to move to farthest lane from vehicle	43%	38%
Requires drivers to reduce speed to 20 miles below posted limit	33%	42%
Applies to tow trucks	33%	27%
Applies only to drivers moving in the same direction as the stopped vehicle	28%	31%
Applies only when emergency vehicle flashing lights are on	23%	22%
Requires drivers to stop	17%	12%
Applies only at night	4%	4%
Don't know/not sure	5%	4%

16. This law is commonly referred to as the 'Move Over' law. What, if anything, is the penalty for violating this law? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	<i>(1,000)</i>	<i>(250)</i>
Financial fines	43%	44%
Don't know/not sure	37%	34%
Points off license	28%	32%
Warning	18%	17%
Loss of license	16%	12%
Jail time	12%	9%
Nothing	1%	1%

17. What do you feel should be the penalty for violating the 'Move Over' law? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Financial fines	59%	54%
Points off license	39%	42%
Warning	27%	28%
Loss of license	15%	15%
Jail time	10%	7%
Don't know/not sure	10%	11%
Nothing	2%	1%

18. Which of the following do you wish first responders would do to make themselves more visible when stopped on or near the side of the road? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Turn on flashing lights	80%	82%
Wear reflective clothing	74%	73%
Additional reflective/high visibility surfaces on the vehicle	60%	60%
Put out additional cones or signage	58%	61%
Other (specify)	2%	1%

19. Do you have...? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Children younger than 15 living at home	30%	27%
Teenage children (ages 15 to 19) living at home	12%	8%
No children younger than 20	64%	67%



20. Does your job or occupation require you to drive, other than getting to and from work?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Yes	25%	25%
No	75%	75%

21. What is the highest level of education you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Less than high school	1%	2%
High school graduate or equivalent (e.g. GED)	21%	19%
Some college, but not degree	24%	19%
Associates degree	12%	14%
College graduate (e.g. BA, AB or BS)	21%	28%
Completed some graduate school, but no degree)	4%	3%
Completed graduate school (e.g. MS, MD or PHD)	15%	14%
Prefer not to answer	1%	0%

22. Would you say you drive mostly in...?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Urban areas (inside a city, more congested)	37%	40%
Suburban areas (outside the city, less congested)	48%	55%
Rural (far outside city, not at all congested)	16%	5%

23. Are you...?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Male	49%	49%
Female	51%	51%

24. How old are you?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	<i>(1,000)</i>	<i>(250)</i>
18-24	12%	10%
25-34	16%	15%
35-44	16%	16%
45-64	36%	35%
65+	20%	24%

25. What is your zip code?

26. State [COMBINED TO SHOW REGION]

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	<i>(1,000)</i>	<i>(250)</i>
<b>Northeast</b> <i>(ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA)</i>	18%	0%
<b>Midwest</b> <i>(WI, IL, MI, IN, OH, ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO)</i>	22%	0%
<b>South</b> <i>(FL, GA, SC, NC, VA, WV, DC, MD, DE, KY, TN, MS, AL, TX, OK, AR, LA)</i>	38%	100%
<b>West</b> <i>(MT, ID, WY, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM, WA, OR, CA, AK, HI)</i>	22%	0%

27. Which of the following categories best describes your total annual household income before taxes?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	<i>(1,000)</i>	<i>(250)</i>
Less than \$20,000	16%	16%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	20%	25%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	17%	20%
\$60,000 - \$79,999	14%	12%
\$80,000 - \$99,999	10%	10%
\$100,000 and over	23%	17%

28. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin or descent?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
Yes	17%	22%
No	83%	78%

29. What race do you consider yourself to be?

	<b>National</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<i>n size</i>	(1,000)	(250)
White	78%	78%
Black or African-American	13%	16%
Asian	4%	2%
Some other race	5%	4%

If you have additional questions about the content of this summary, please contact the National Safety Council at [media@nsc.org](mailto:media@nsc.org).