

One driver in two admits sometimes ignoring speed limits

SUMMER DIGIPOLL



Which of the following driving laws do you break most regularly...

Speeding		49.9%
Failing to indicate		14.9%
Driving while using cell phone		11.6%
None I'm a perfect driver		19.6%
Refused		4.1%

By gender...



	MALE	FEMALE
Speeding	53.1%	46.9%
Failing to indicate	16.5%	13.2%
Driving while using phone	10.3%	12.8%
None	18.9%	20.2%
Refused	1.2%	7.0%

Herald-DigiPoll survey of 500 people / 4.4% margin of error. DIGIPOLL / HERALD GRAPHIC

by Yvonne Tahana

One driver in two admits speed rules are the ones they are most likely to break in a *Herald-DigiPoll* survey.

National road policing manager Superintendent Paula Rose says the result rings true for frontline officers who had to deal with 18 road deaths this holiday season. In 12 speed and/or alcohol were factors.

A shade under half of 500 respondents, 49.9 per cent, said speeding laws were the ones they were most likely to break, followed by failing to indicate at 14.9 per cent, while 11.6 per cent cited driving

while using a cellphone.

About a fifth, 19.6 per cent, claimed they were perfect drivers while 4.1 per cent refused to answer the question.

Ms Rose said many respondents probably just drifted over the speed limit through inattention. However, some flouted the laws regularly.

"We've also got people who repeatedly speed who are in a hurry, who seem to be in a hurry all of the time and don't see the risks associated with speeding.

"We're all human and we fail. Unfortunately, when we fail and crash the cost of that can be our lives. If you think about the 18 dead,

to be honest 12 of them would have been alive if we had not had the cocktail of speed and/or alcohol — and then throw in seatbelts.

"We know four are very likely to have survived their crashes had they been wearing seatbelts."

Ms Rose was worried about the people who continued to use cellphones despite a ban, however she was optimistic that attitudes would change the way opinions had hardened against drink-driving.

Most surprising though, she said, was the size of the group who appeared to think they were bullet-proof: perfect drivers.

"I haven't met those 19.6 in that

category. When you're talking about driving it's amazing how many people think they're fantastic."

Broken down by gender, more men than women said they broke speeding laws, 53.1 versus 46.9 per cent, but slightly more women than men admitted it was harder to put away their cellphone while on the road — 12.8 per cent compared with 10.3 per cent. Younger drivers used cellphones more — 19.1 per cent of those aged 18-39.

Older drivers were more likely to say they they did not break traffic laws with 41.4 per cent of those aged 70 and over claiming clean records.