

The Public is Concerned About What is Happening on Our Roadways and Are Demanding Action

Results from Online CARAVAN Survey
March 2026



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Introduction

Americans demand safety standards for autonomous vehicles, advanced safety technology and heavy trucks.

This online Caravan® public opinion survey commissioned by Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates) shows that a large majority of Americans are concerned with the state of safety on the nation’s roadways.

The poll results clearly illustrate that people have significant trepidations about autonomous vehicles and are demanding federal safety standards to ensure they operate safely among the traveling public. They also want advanced safety technologies like automatic emergency braking to be required to detect all road users and they want intelligent speed assistance to be used to stop “super speeders.” Another significant concern is sharing the road with large trucks whose drivers, they believe, should be required to complete a minimum number of training hours.

The online survey was conducted with 2,023 respondents in March 2026. The complete methodology can be found at the end of this report. Note: Due to rounding, the sum of individual subsets may differ from the displayed total.

Each year, motor vehicle crashes kill tens of thousands of people and injure millions more at a current economic cost of \$439 billion. According to the latest statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 39,254 people were killed on our Nation’s roads in 2024. Early estimates for 2025 find that 36,640 people were killed in traffic crashes. While these decreases are welcome, traffic fatalities remain high.

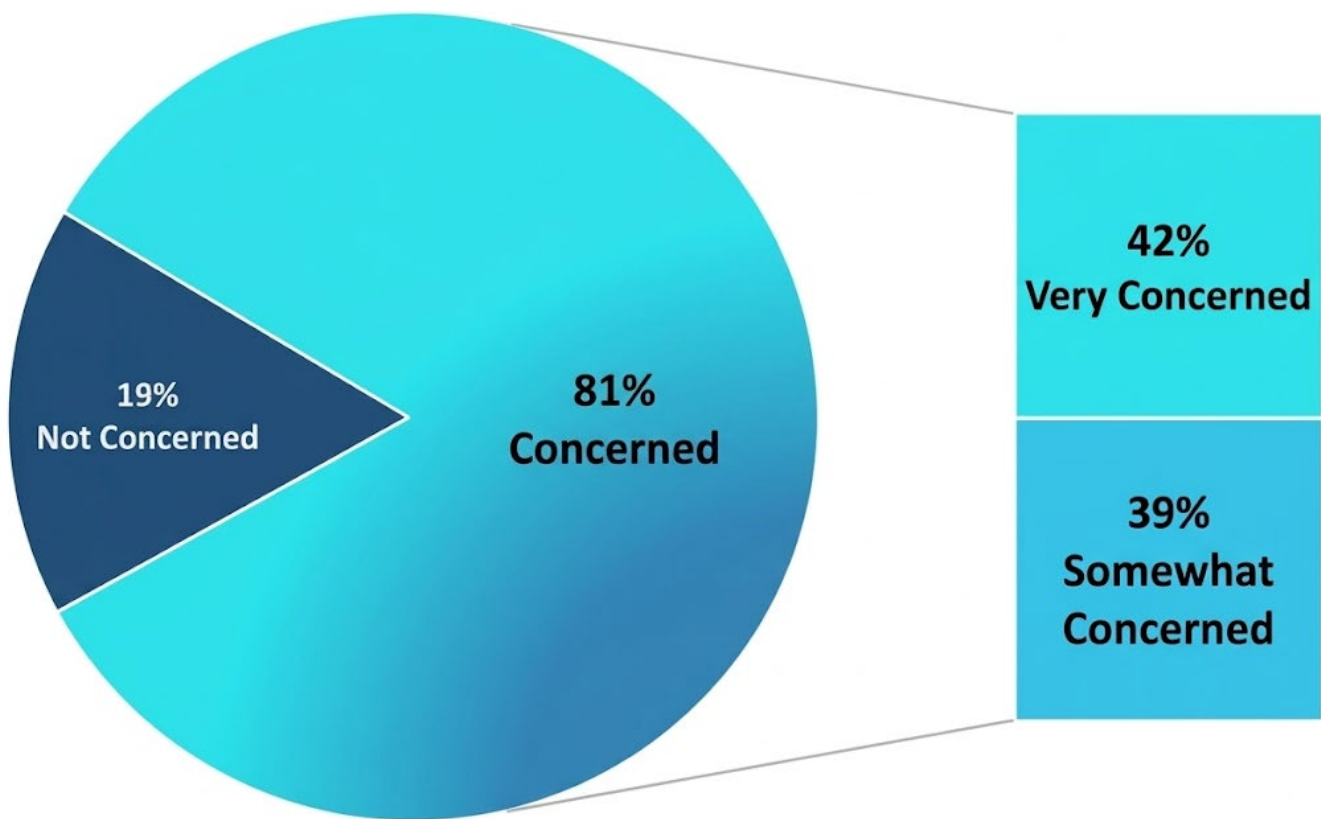
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety is an alliance of consumer, medical, public health, law enforcement and safety groups and insurance companies and agents working together to make America’s roads safer. Advocates’ mission is the adoption of federal and state laws, policies and programs that prevent motor vehicle crashes, save lives, reduce injuries, and contain costs.



Autonomous Vehicles

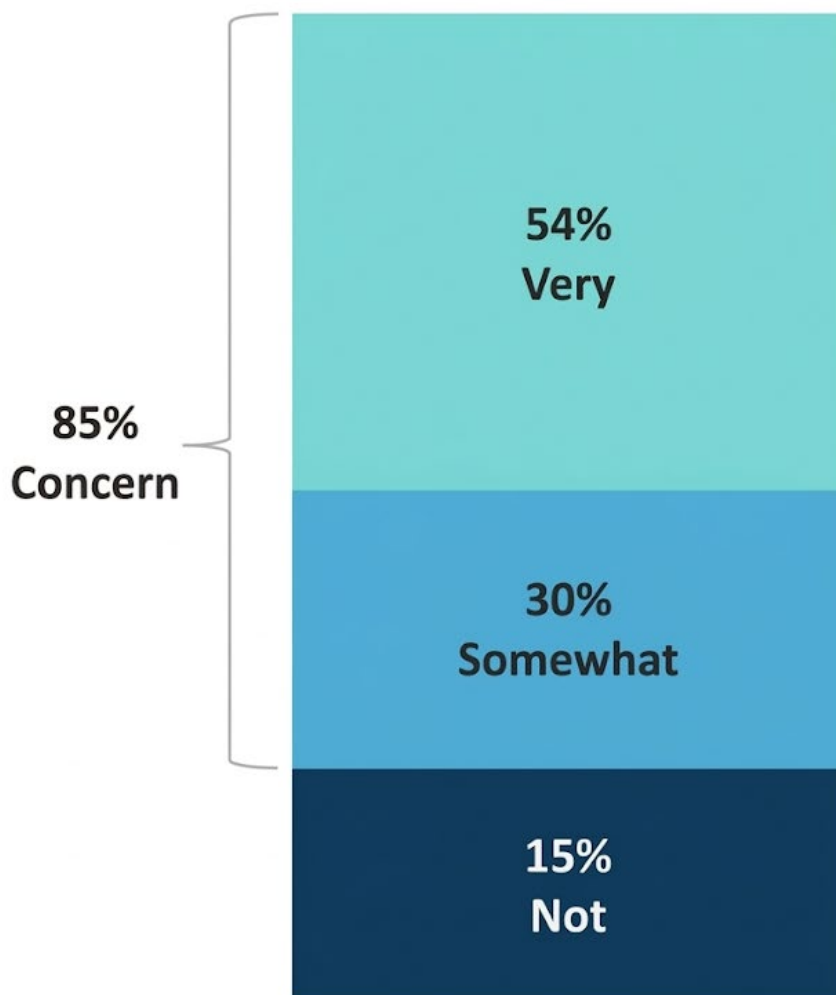
Americans have serious concerns about sharing the road with autonomous cars and trucks and they want the federal government to take action to ensure they are safe.

The public continues to express their trepidation with still developing driverless car technology on public roads. Over 80% responded with concern, including 42% who are “very” concerned.



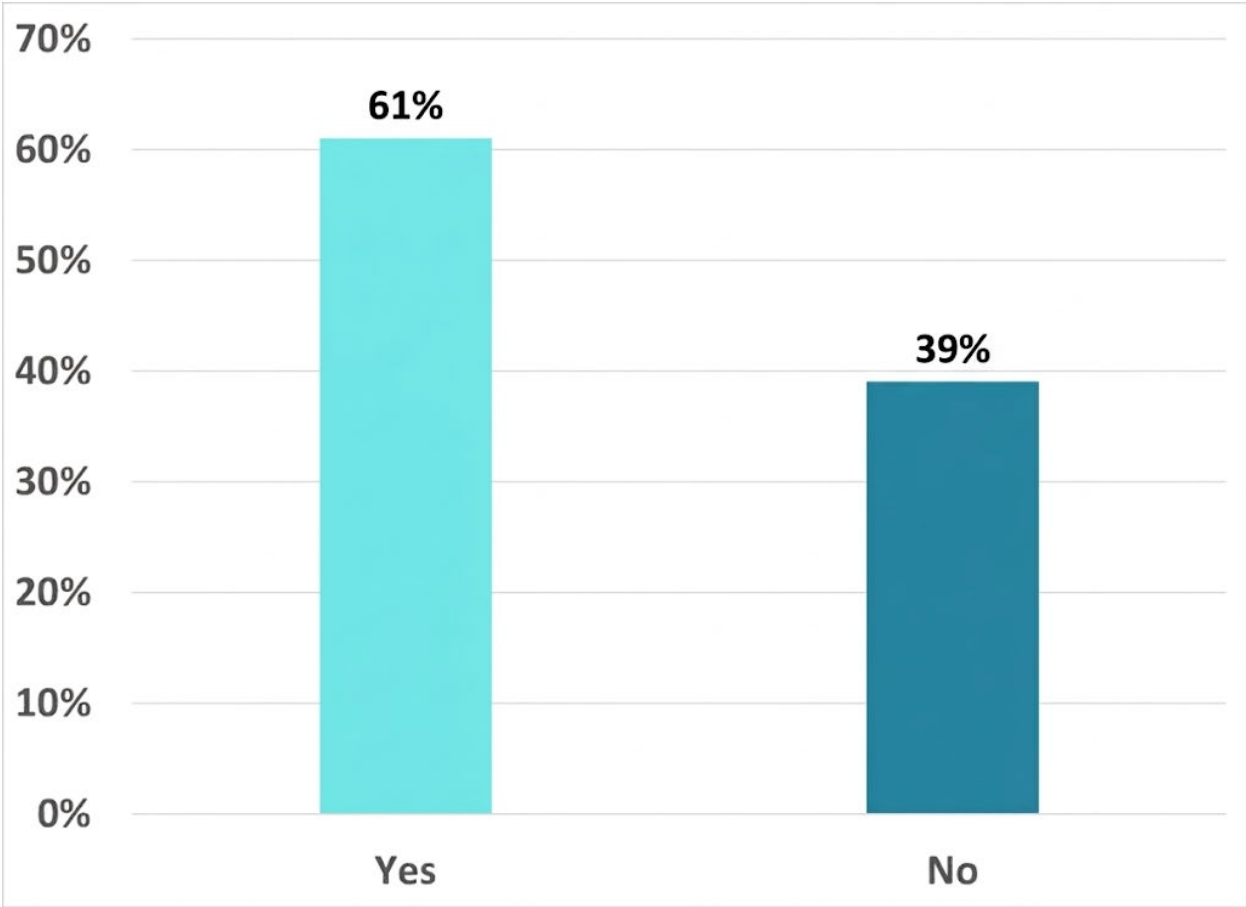
How concerned are you about sharing the road with driverless cars?

Sharing the roads with driverless trucks presented similarly high levels of concern, 85% responded affirming such.



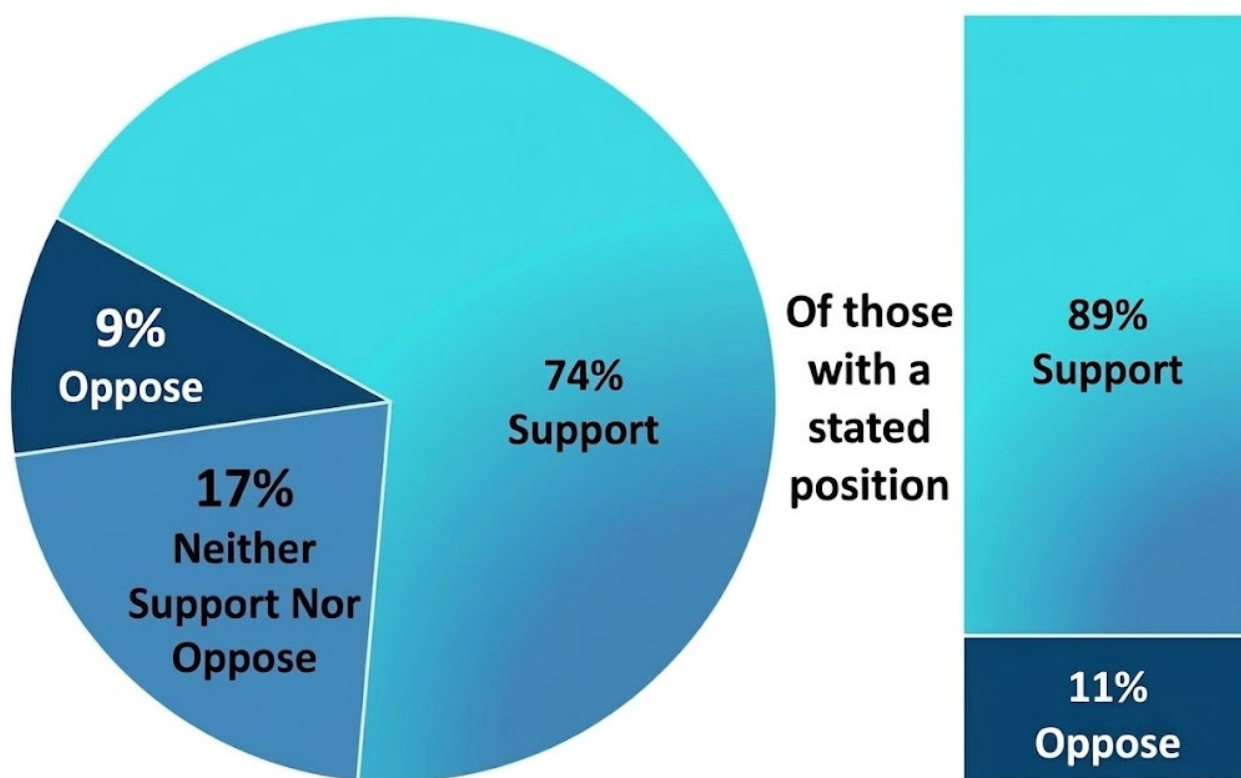
How concerned are you about sharing the road with driverless tractor-trailer and delivery trucks as a motorist, bicyclist or pedestrian?

A strong majority say their concerns would be addressed if companies had to meet minimum government safety requirements.



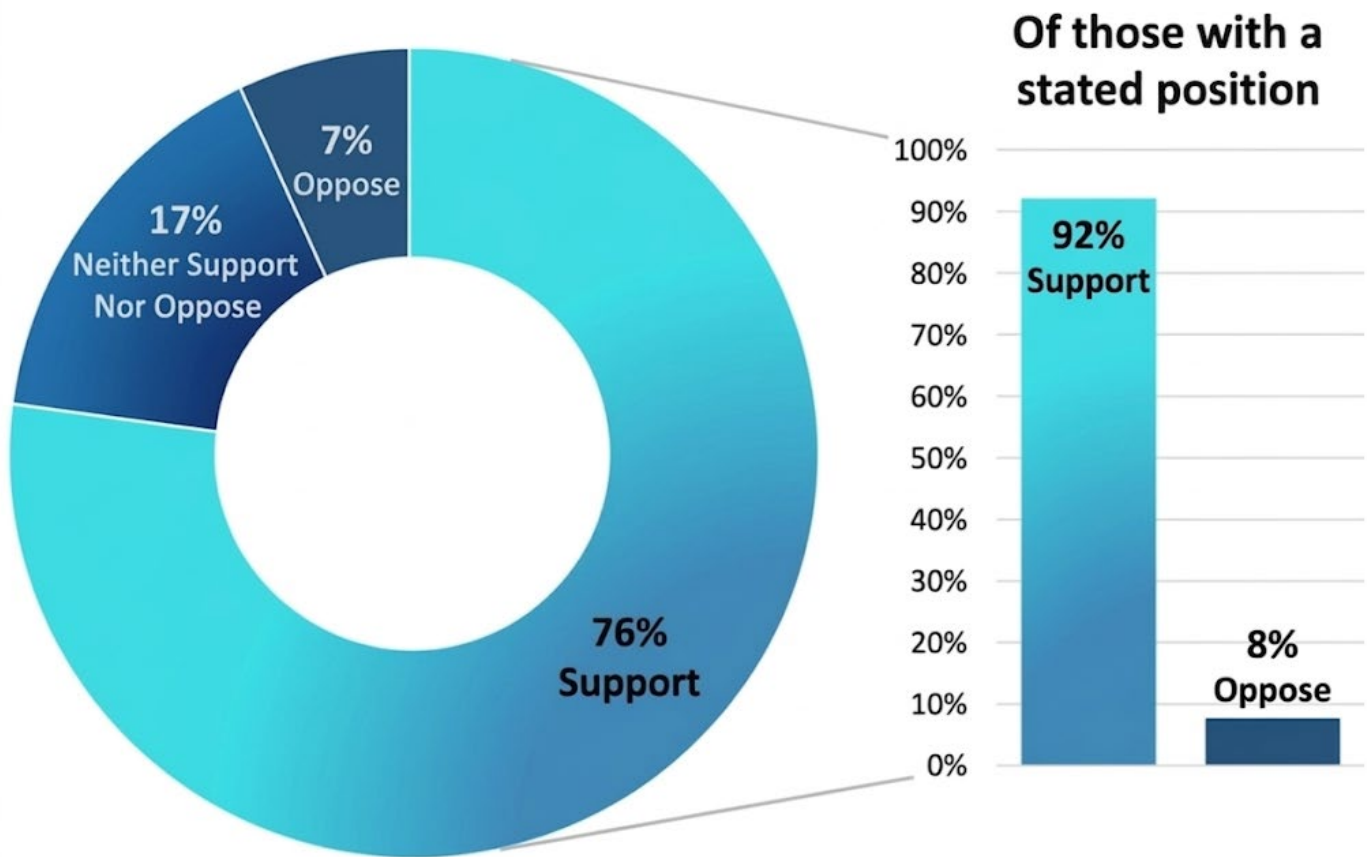
If you knew that companies had to meet minimum government safety requirements for their driverless cars and trucks, would that address your concerns?

Nearly 90% of those with a stated position support requiring manufacturers of driverless cars to affirm the conditions in which they can safely drive and bar them from operating outside those conditions.



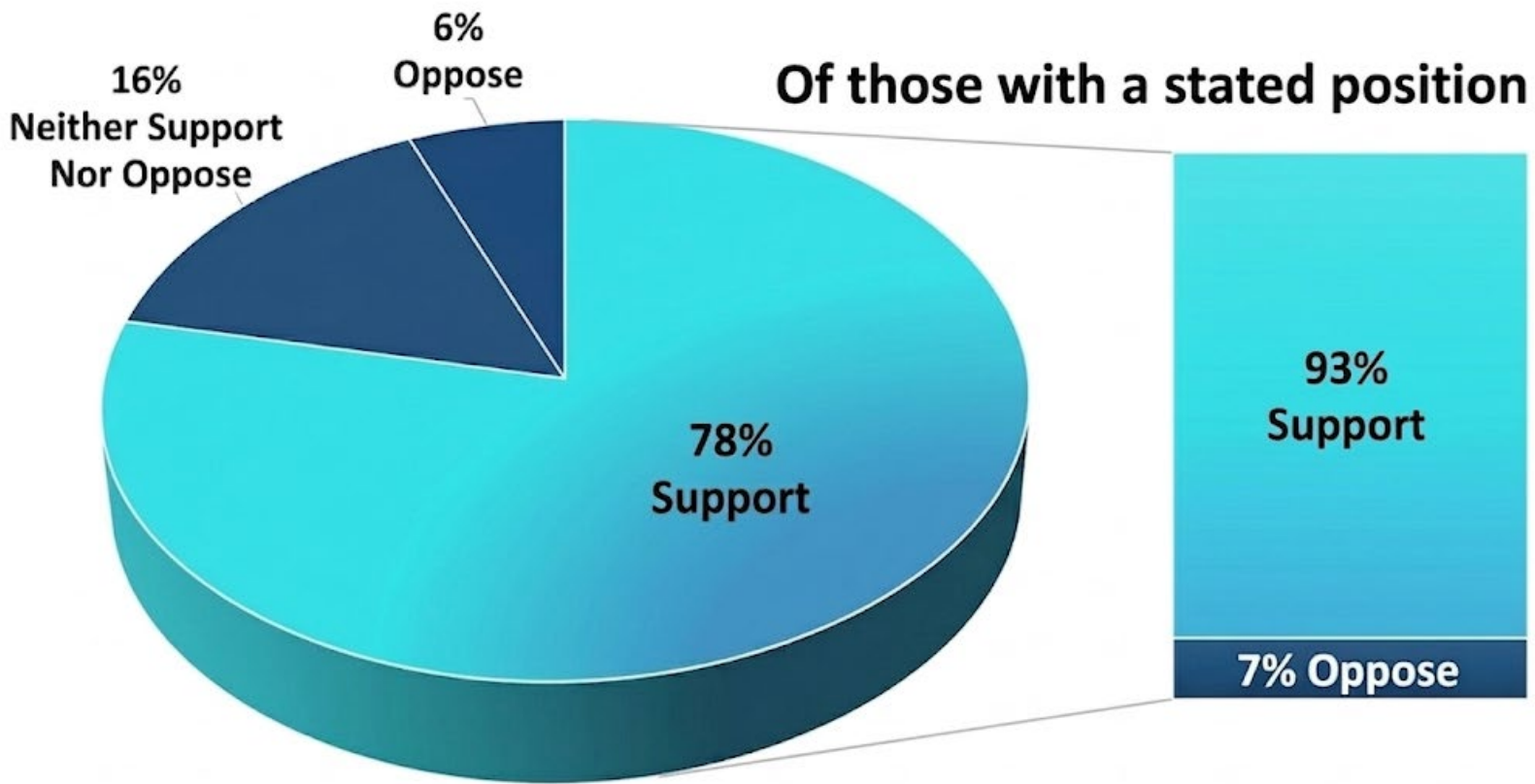
To what extent do you support or oppose a requirement for manufacturers of driverless cars to provide information about the conditions they can safely drive in (such as certain roads, speeds and weather conditions) and to ensure that the driverless cars don't operate outside of those conditions?

There is overwhelming support to require a 'vision test' for driverless cars to ensure they can operate safely in all weather and road conditions.



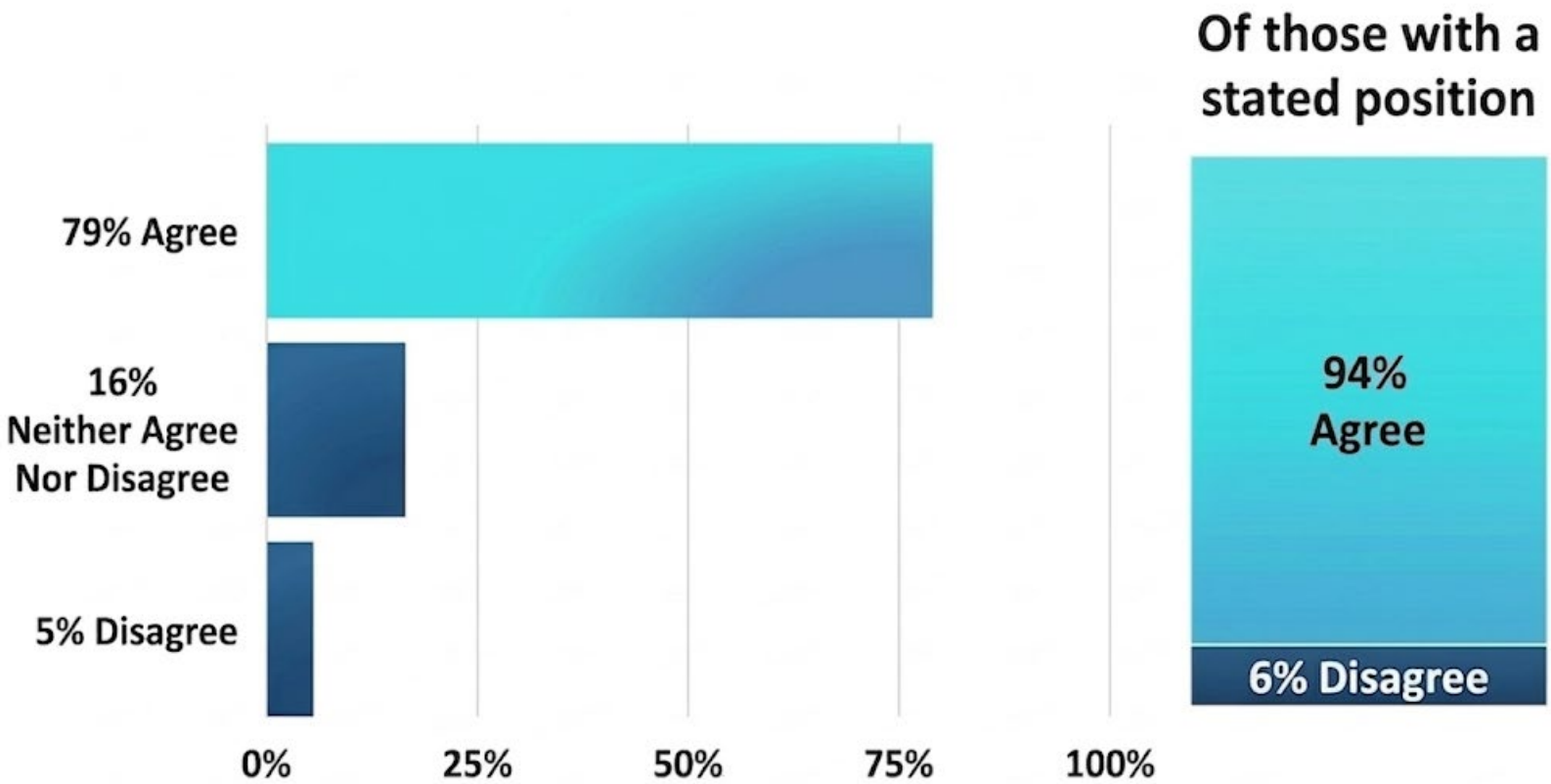
Would you support or oppose government officials requiring a 'vision test' to make sure driverless cars can operate safely in different weather and road conditions, and correctly identify or 'see' all people and objects on the road?

Nearly 80% want to require driverless car manufacturers to report details of crashes that cause injury or property damage to the U.S. Department of Transportation.



Do you support or oppose requiring manufacturers of driverless cars to report certain information to the U.S. Department of Transportation, such as the number of miles their vehicles drive/crash that injure someone or cause property damage/instances when the vehicle stops unexpectedly.

A large majority want remote personnel who provide guidance to driverless cars to be subject to minimum federal safety standards.

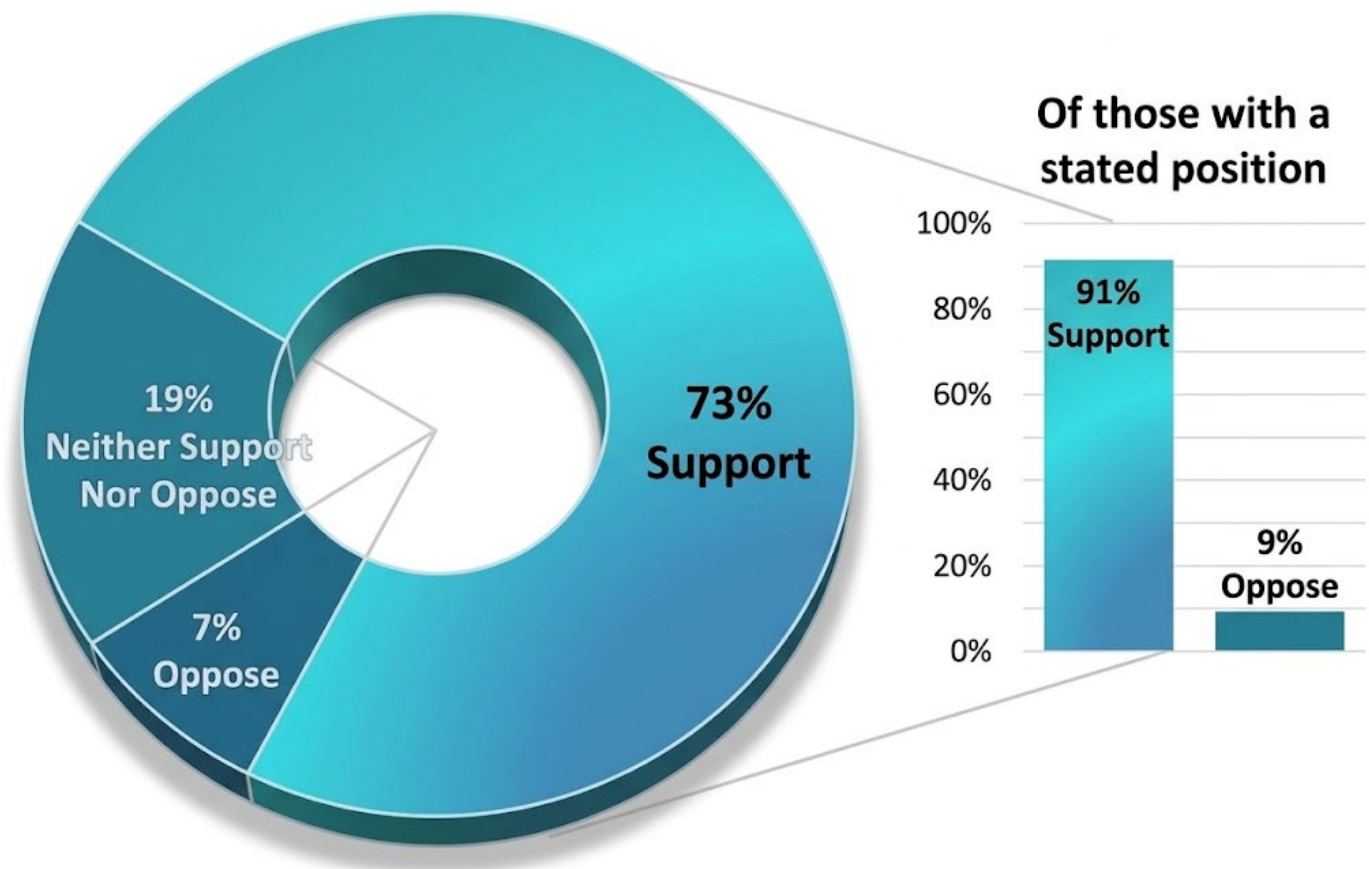


To what extent do you agree or disagree that there should be safety standards for these remote personnel of driverless cars?

Advanced Safety Technology

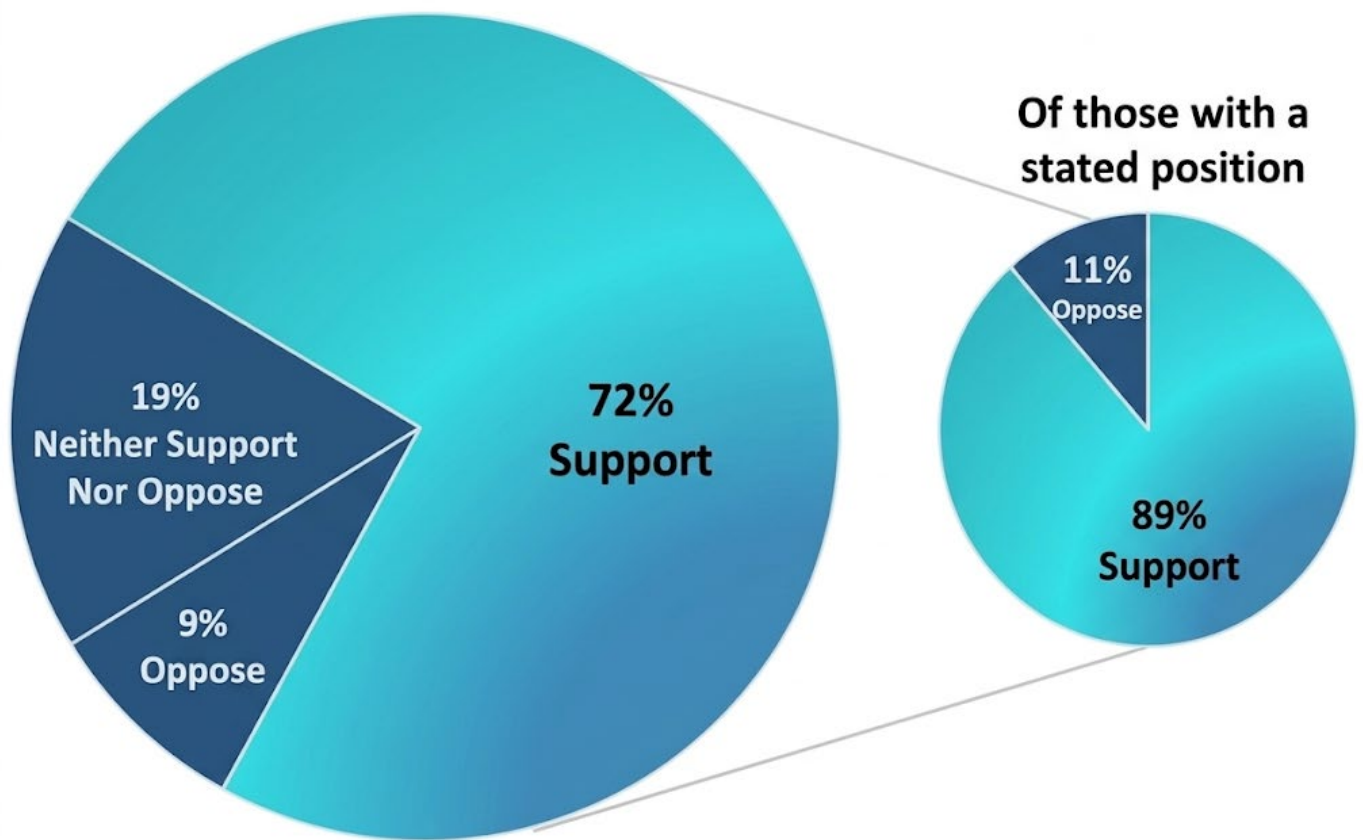
There is strong support to require vehicle safety technologies proven to reduce crashes with other vehicles and vulnerable road users.

Most want to require automatic emergency braking technology to respond to bicyclists and motorcyclists in addition to pedestrians.



Do you support or oppose having AEB also being required to respond to bicyclists and motorcyclists?

There is strong support for states to enact laws requiring convicted ‘super speeders’ to install intelligent speed assistance (ISA) technology in their vehicles to prevent them from driving at high speeds for a set amount of time.

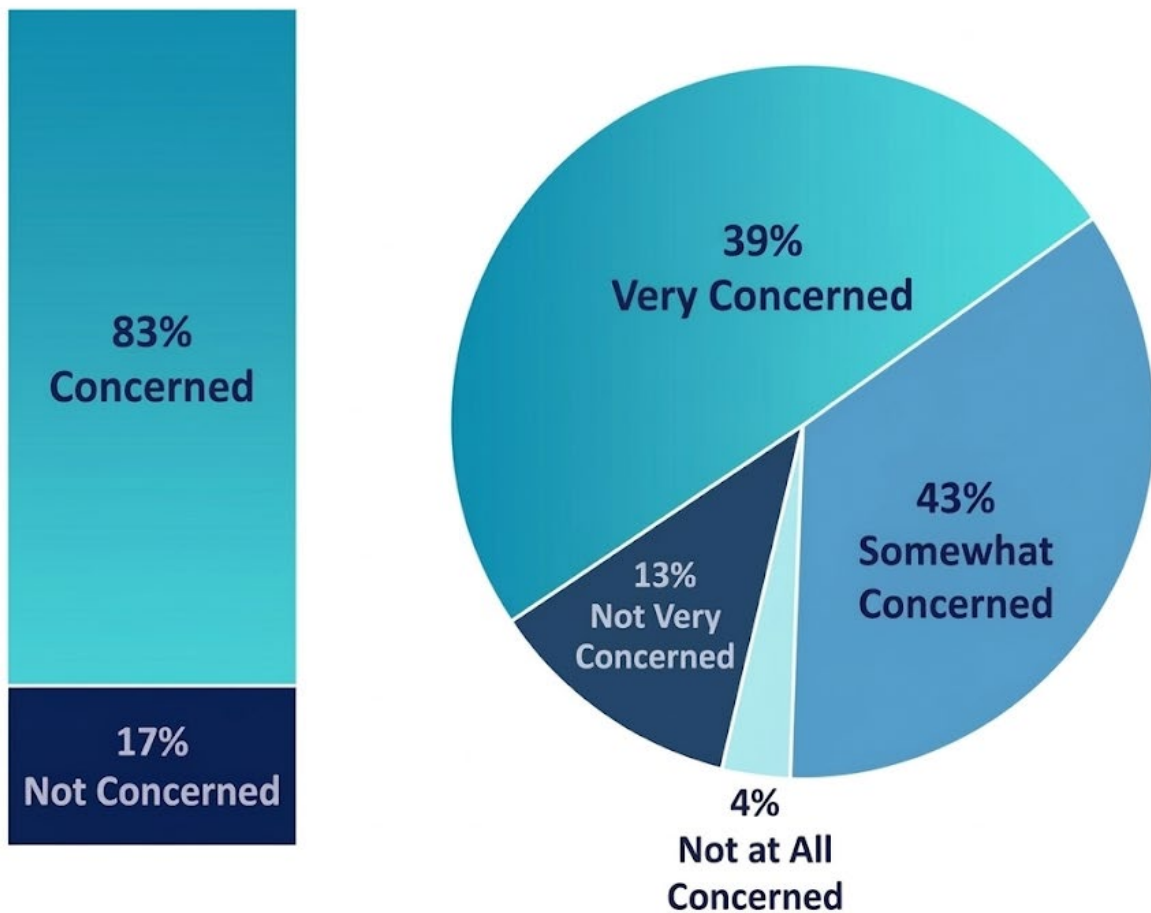


Do you support or oppose these types of ISA laws?

Truck Safety

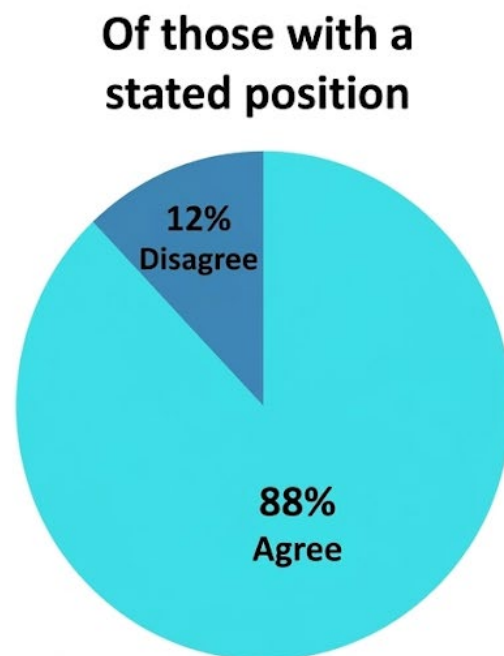
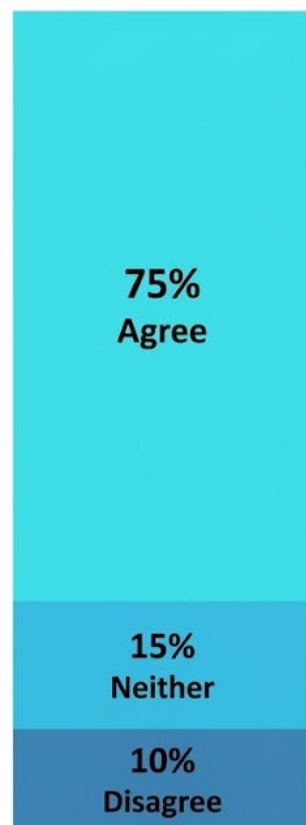
A large majority are concerned about sharing the road with tractor-trailers and want to ensure drivers have adequate training.

When given the number of annual crash fatalities involving tractor-trailers, most people are concerned about sharing the road with them.



How concerned are you about sharing the road with large and heavy tractor-trailer trucks?

A large majority believe that individuals seeking a commercial driver's license (CDL) should complete a minimum number of hours of behind-the-wheel training in a large truck.



To what extent do you agree or disagree that there should be a behind-the-wheel driver training requirement?

Methodology

The material contained in this report was drawn from a 2026 public opinion poll commissioned by Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety.

This CARAVAN survey was conducted by Big Village among a sample of 2,023 adults 18 years of age and older. The online omnibus study is conducted three times a week among a demographically representative U.S. sample of 1,000 adults 18 years of age and older. This survey was live on March 4-8, 2026.

Completed interviews are weighted by five variables: age, sex, geographic region, race and education to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total U.S. population, 18 years of age and older. The raw data are weighted by a custom designed program which automatically develops a weighting factor for each respondent. Each respondent is assigned a single weight derived from the relationship between the actual proportion of the population based on U.S. Census data with its specific combination of age, sex, geographic characteristics, race and education and the proportion in the sample. Tabular results show both weighted and unweighted bases.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have volunteered to participate in online surveys and polls. The data have been weighted to reflect the demographic composition of the 18+ population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments.

Big Village is a collaborative and consultative research partner to hundreds of organizations around the globe. We possess a wide variety of resources, tools and technologies to collect and analyze information for our clients. As a member of the Insights Association and ESOMAR (the European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research), Big Village adheres to industry ethics and best practices, including maintaining the anonymity of our respondents. Our authorization is required for any publication of the research findings or their implications. Big Village has exercised its best efforts in the preparation of this information. In any event, the company assumes no responsibility for any use which is made of this information or any decisions based upon it.

Contacts:

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Thank you for your interest.

