

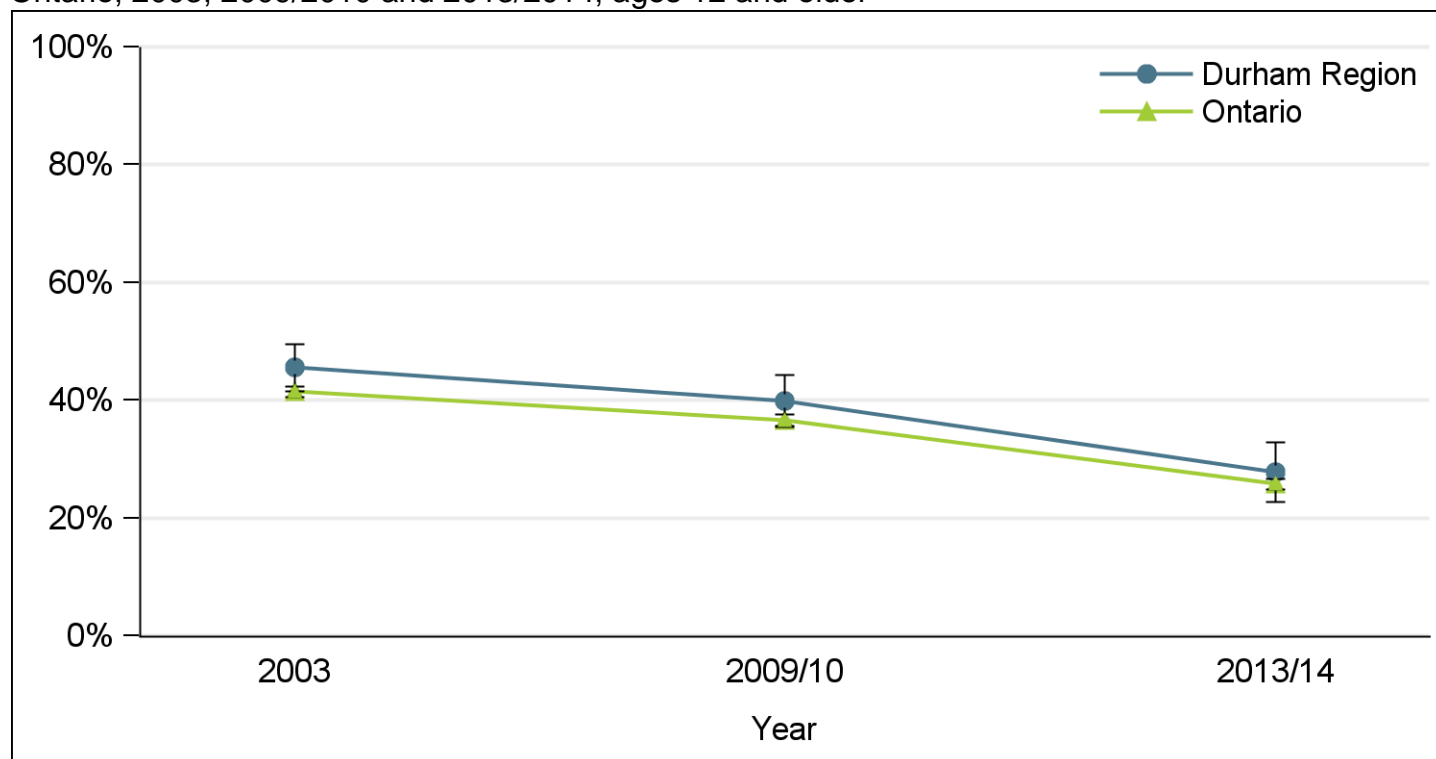
March 2017

Highlights

- In 2013/2014 28 per cent of Durham Region residents age 12 and older reported using a cell phone while driving in the past year. Rates for both Durham Region and Ontario have decreased since 2003.
- Among the 36 Ontario public health units, the proportion of respondents who reported using a cell phone while driving in the past year ranged from 15 to 32 per cent.
- Those most likely to report cell phone use while driving were those aged 18 to 24 and those with high income.

Trend over time

Figure 1. Proportion who used a cell phone while driving in the past year, Durham Region and Ontario, 2003, 2009/2010 and 2013/2014, ages 12 and older

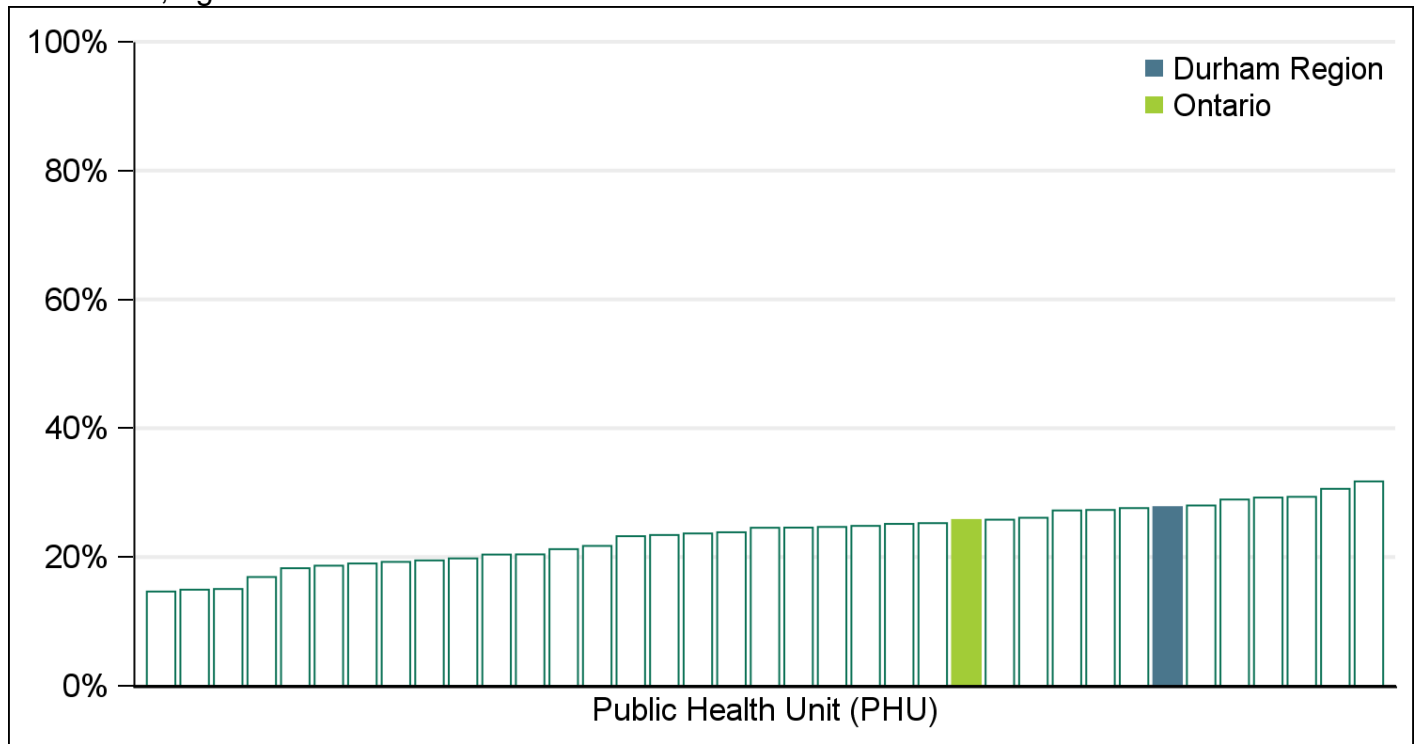


Place of residence	2003	2009/10	2013/14
Durham Region	46%	40%	28%
95 per cent CI (Durham)	41-50%	35-44%	23-33%
Ontario	41%	37%	26%
95 per cent CI (Ontario)	41-42%	36-38%	25-27%

In 2013/2014, 28 per cent of Durham Region residents aged 12 and older used a cell phone while driving in the past year. This rate is similar to the rate observed for Ontario of 26 per cent. Figure 1 shows that rates for both Durham Region and Ontario have decreased since 2003.

Provincial Comparison

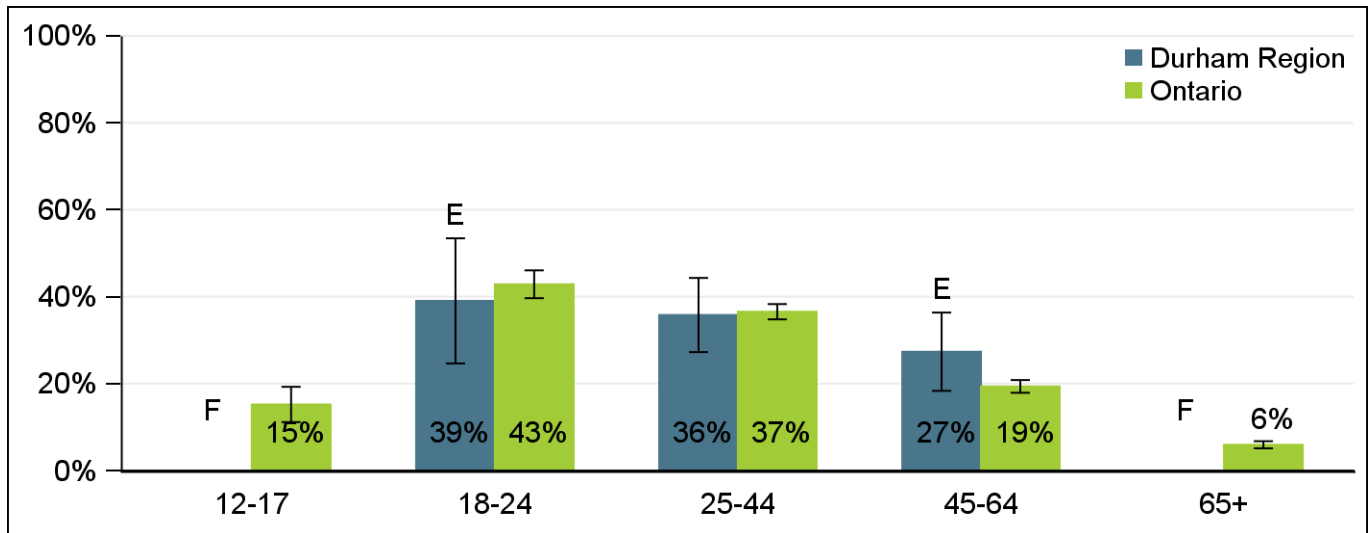
Figure 2. Proportion who used a cell phone while driving in the past year by public health unit, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



For 2013/2014, the proportion of respondents who reported using a cell phone while driving in the past year ranged by public health unit from 15 per cent to 32 per cent. The rate for Durham Region was in the upper end of this range at 28 per cent (see Figure 2 above.)

Cell phone use while driving and the determinants of health

Figure 3. Proportion who used a cell phone while driving in the past year by age group, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



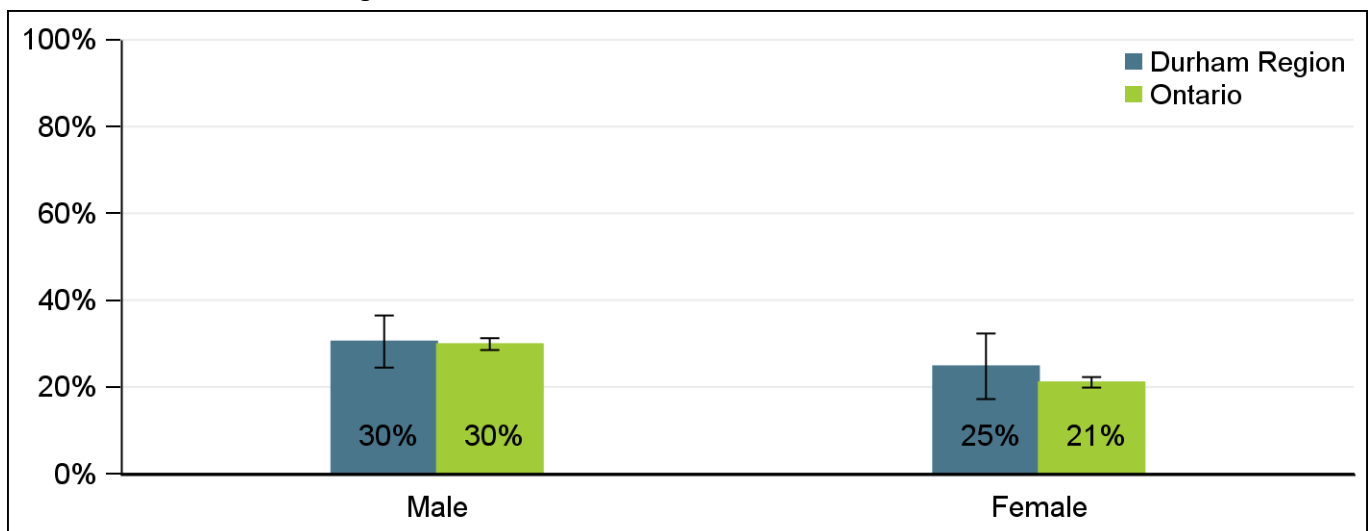
The association between age groups and cell phone use while driving is significant for both Durham Region and Ontario.

E – Use with caution as these data have a coefficient of variation between 16.6 and 33.3 per cent.

F – Data are suppressed as these data have a coefficient of variation greater than 33.3 per cent.

Figure 3 shows that 39 per cent of adults in Durham Region between 18 and 24 years reported using a cell phone while driving in the past year. This result was similar to this age group in Ontario at 43 per cent. This age group was most likely to report this behaviour in both Durham Region and Ontario.

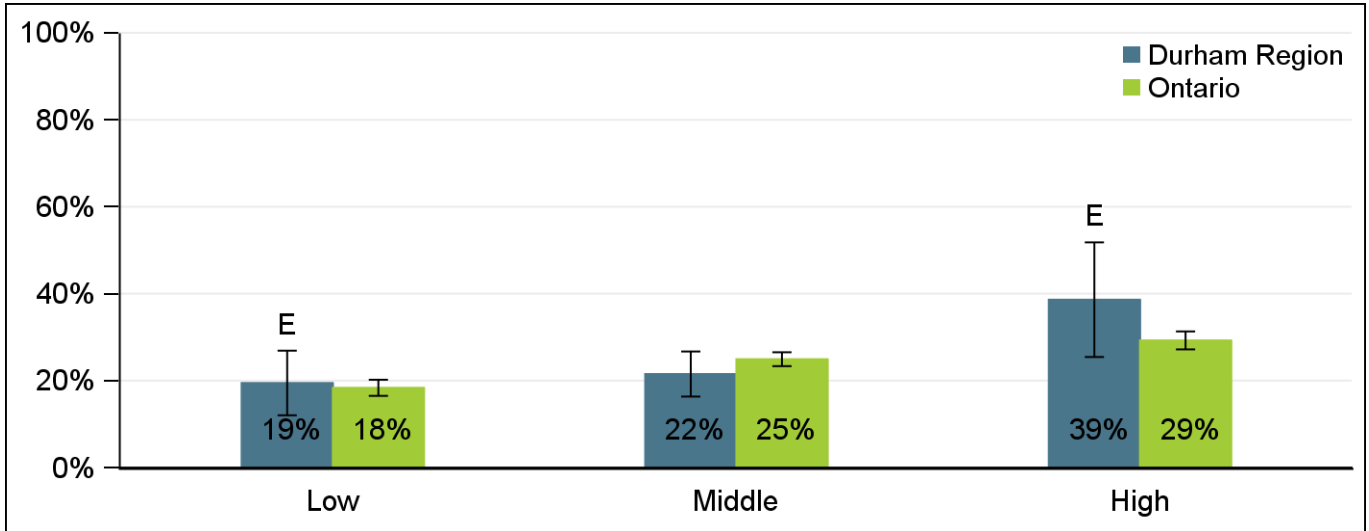
Figure 4. Proportion who used a cell phone while driving in the past year by sex, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



The association between sex and cell phone use while driving is significant for Ontario only.

Males in Ontario were more likely than females to report using a cell phone while driving in the past year (see figure 4 above.) Thirty per cent of males in Ontario reported this behaviour compared with 21 per cent of females. No association was observed between sex and using a cell phone while driving in Durham Region.

Figure 5. Proportion who used a cell phone while driving in the past year by household income category, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older

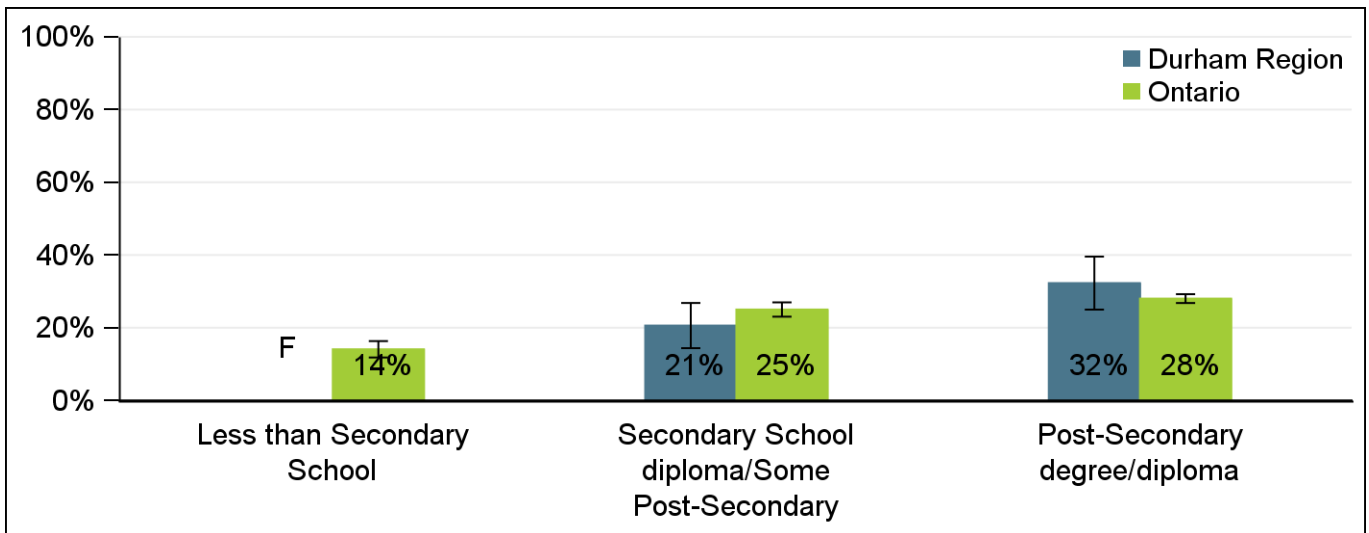


The association between household income group and cell phone use while driving is significant for Durham Region and Ontario.

E – use with caution (these data have a coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%).

In 2013/2014, individuals in the highest income category were most likely to report using a cell phone while driving the past year at 39 per cent in Durham Region and 29 per cent in Ontario (see figure 5 above.)

Figure 6. Proportion who used a cell phone while driving in the past year by education level, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



The association between education level and cell phone use while driving is significant for Ontario only.

F – Data are suppressed as these data have a coefficient of variation greater than 33.3 per cent.

The results in figure 6 show that those with a post-secondary degree or diploma in Ontario were most likely to report using a cell phone while driving in the past year. This association was not observed in Durham Region. The proportion reporting this behaviour in Durham region, 32 per cent, was similar to the proportion observed provincially of 28 per cent.

Data Notes

Data Source: The **Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)** is a cross-sectional survey that collects information related to health status, health care utilization and health determinants for the Canadian population. It surveys a large sample of respondents and is designed to provide reliable estimates at the health region level. Since 2007, data are collected on an ongoing basis with annual releases, rather than every two years as was the case prior to 2007. The CCHS data are collected from persons aged 12 and over living in private dwellings, excluding individuals living on Indian Reserves and on Crown Lands, institutional residents, full-time members of the Canadian Forces, and residents of certain remote regions. Interviews are conducted using computer assisted interviewing, either in person or over the telephone.

Definitions and Survey Questions: Proportion of the population 12 years and older that reported using a cell phone while driving in the past year.

Data Analysis: The CCHS share file obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care was used for analysis. Data were analyzed using SAS version 9.4. Estimates were weighted using the final CCHS sampling weight. Error bars in the graphs represent the 95 per cent confidence interval (CI) around the estimate. The true or actual estimate falls within the range of values 95 out of 100 times. For all analyses, response options of “refusal”, “don't know”, “not stated” and “not applicable” were excluded, unless otherwise stated.

The CCHS 2013/2014 dataset was used for the cell phone use while driving and the determinants of health analysis. Statistical significance was assessed based on a chi-square test with a p-value less than 0.05. A statistically significant difference between groups means that the association is not likely due to chance.

The income categories of low, middle and high were based on a CCHS derived variable which distributed residents according to the adjusted ratio of their total household income to the low income cut-off corresponding to their household and community size. The ten categories in this variable were grouped with “low” income corresponding to the lowest 30 per cent, “middle” including the middle 40 per cent, and “high” corresponding to highest 30 per cent of earners.