

Have you ever seen cars swerving across lanes while driving? Maybe someone was trying to balance food and some drinks while driving or even just texting while driving. Distracted driving is defined as the practice of driving a motor vehicle while engaged in another activity. In 2017, Maine had 611 accidents due to drug and alcohol use.

"Can you change the song?" my sister asked as we were driving to a party on Forest Ave in Portland. 30 minutes down the road, we came to the destination of where cars were on sidewalks, curbs, and one neighbor's properties. "You ready?" my sister questioned as she was getting out of the driver's side, getting ready to walk in. Loud music, flashing lights and many teenagers dancing with alcohol in their hands was the description of the party. Although it was an amusement party, it was time to head back home before it got worse. I exited the party and quickly ran down the hill to the car and sat in the driver's seat. I had dialed my sister's number to notify her that I was in the car waiting for her. I then thought to myself to reach McKenzie's friend, Sydney who was inside with my sister. "Hello" she had screamed as loud music and loud voices were in the background. "Hey, Can you please tell my sister that I am in the car waiting for her." "Yeah, I'll tell her." She hung up instantly after. I got nervous and worried that she wasn't outside after five minutes. McKenzie, my sister, had finally come out 20 minutes later laughing, crying and having mixed emotions. " Sydney is bringing me home tonight! Just go home!" she screamed as neighbors could hear. I had moved my car and waited around the corner for her to leave with her friends to make sure she got home safely. An hour later, they had started to drive away. Once I saw Sydney's car move, I put my ignition on and started following them. I thought to myself what can only happen with young adults under the influence, driving around at night. "Hey Siri, call 911," I said quietly and clear while still following them. "I am behind my sister in a car with people under the influence. I am scared something is going to happen to her." Law enforcement had shown up rapidly and took my sister out of the car and placed her into mine. I was so thankful for the police officers making sure my sister was returning home safe and sound.

The driver of the car she was in, was arrested for driving under the influence and endangering others. Nobody's life should be caused by distracted driving nor driving under the influence.

In today's scenario, arriving alive is a privilege. Drunk driving had affected my sister and my family as it could have left us a loss. If you are under the influence, call a friend to come to pick you up.