

# The Distracted Walking Dojo

The Toyota Technical Center needed to create a more tangible safety message.

- To accomplish this, a fun and informative walking obstacle course was created to demonstrate the degradation in performance due to trying to combine texting and walking.

Dojo went from this to that →



**Dojo** is a Japanese term which literally means "place of the way". The term typically refers to a formal training place.

So, the obstacle course quickly was known as the Walking Dojo.

See a YouTube video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsB4Yafrcm8>

- CSRC was asked to help with the distraction task and evaluation. In turn CSRC reached out to collaborative partners MIT AgeLab and University of Toronto.

MIT n-back task app

### The MIT n-back task

An emerging internationally accepted method for inducing graded cognitive workload for scaling comparisons of other tasks

- Series of 10 single digit numbers (0-9) presented in random order aurally at 2.25 sec intervals
- Subject instructed to respond with nth digit back (1-back used for Dojo)
- Across levels
  - Auditory demands constant
  - Vocal demands "relatively" constant

Stimulus	6 9 1 7 0 8 4
0-back Response	6 9 1 7 0 8 4
1-back Response	- 6 9 1 7 0 8
2-back Response	- - 6 9 1 7 0

(Mehler, Reimer, Dussak & Coughlin, 2011)



Download the **android** application from



U of Toronto SDDQ

The Susceptibility to Driver Distraction Questionnaire (SDDQ) investigates voluntary and involuntary factors associated with driver distraction. Modified for Distracted Walking.

Download SDDQ from



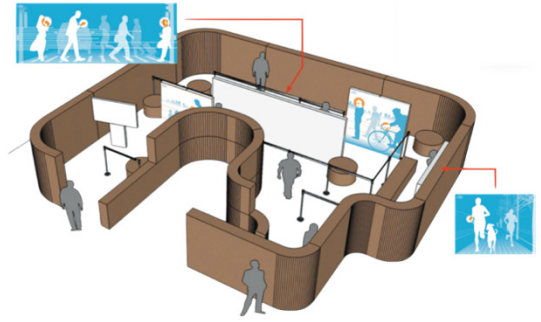
## Dojo evaluation at 2015 Lifesavers Conference

### Participants

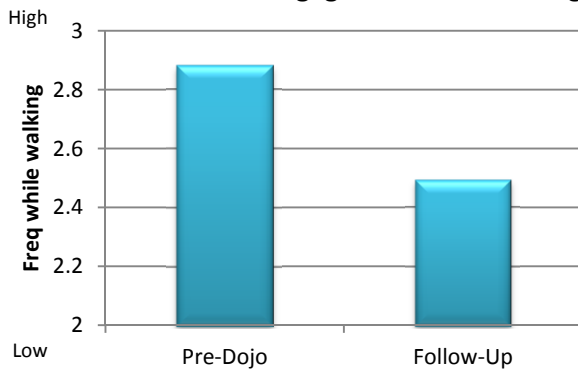
- 68 Lifesavers attendees agreed to participate
- 54% volunteered for a follow up survey in 1 month
- 38% filled out the follow up survey

### Results

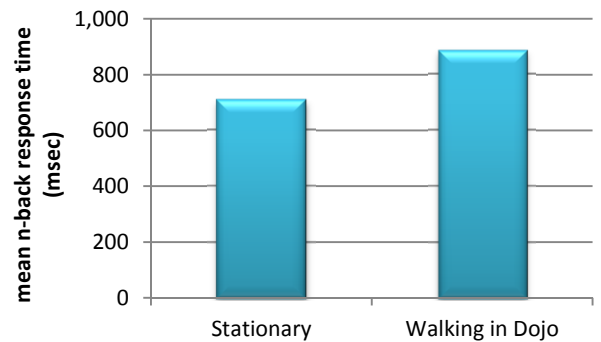
- The **time to respond to the n-back task increased significantly** while the participants navigated the dojo vs being stationary [right top chart,  $p < 0.01$ ].
- The **course completion time in the dojo increased significantly** when the participant simultaneously performed the n-back vs just walking through the dojo (right bottom chart,  $p < 0.01$ ).
- Neither the n-back response time nor the course completion time had any significant interactions with gender or age.
- Self-reports of walking while distracted decreased (below chart,  $p < 0.01$ ).



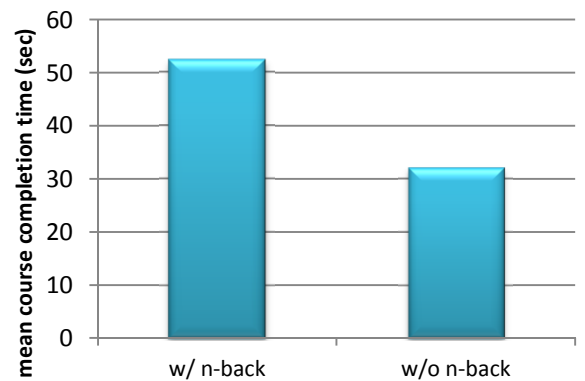
**WSDQ: Engagement while Walking**



**Response time to n-back task**



**Course completion time**



### Conclusion:

- The Dojo is effective in demonstrating the penalty of distracted walking
- The Dojo can change negative behaviors

