



FACT SHEET September 16, 2009

Driver safety studies dating back to the '90's show the risks of cell phone use while driving and the dangers of texting while driving.* The following is a snapshot of completed studies and noteworthy statistics, as well as a handful of organizations, companies and technologies that are shaping the issues.

Study and Survey Statistics

Below is a mix of statistics gathered from a variety of sources. Please visit txtresponsibly.org for links to information sources.

- The No.1 source of driver inattention is use of a wireless device. (Virginia Tech/NHTSA)
- Nearly 80 percent of crashes and 65 percent of near-crashes involved some form of driver inattention within three seconds before the event. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI); April, 2006)
- There is no difference in the cognitive distraction between hand-held and hands-free devices. (Simulator studies at the U. of Utah.)
- Distraction from cell phone use while driving (hand held or hands free) extends a driver's reaction as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08 percent. (University of Utah)
- An August 2006 Teens Today survey showed that teens considered sending text messages via cellphones to be their biggest distraction. (August 2006 Teens Today survey conducted by the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety and Students Against Destructive Decisions)
- Four out of five drivers have been both guilty of, and witnesses to, DWD. (Nationwide Insurance Survey, May 19, 2008)
- The number of monthly text messages reached 110.4 billion in December 2008, more than 10 times the number three years before. (Cellular Telephone and Internet Association (CTIA))
- Driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent (Carnegie Mellon)
- Cell phone use contributes to an estimated 6 percent of all crashes, which equates to 636,000 crashes, 330,000 injuries, 12,000 serious injuries and 2,600 deaths each year. (Harvard Center of Risk Analysis).
- Drivers using cell phones place 139,000 emergency calls each day, something that state police generally appreciate. (Cellular Telephone and Internet Association (CTIA))

Resources

Safety Tips to Prevent Auto Accidents (November, 2007):
Insurance Information Institute: www.iii.org

Gauging Your Distraction (interactive reaction time game from The New York Times): www.nytimes.com

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Who is Studying and Shaping the Issues (a partial list)

Allstate Foundation, 1-800-ALLSTATE, www.allstate.com/foundation
Carnegie Mellon Center for Cognitive Brain Imaging, www.ccbi.cmu.edu, (412) 268-2791
Cellular Telephone and Internet Association (CTIA), (202) 736-3200, www.ctia.org
Center for Auto Safety, (202) 328-7700, www.autosafety.org
Harvard School of Public Health, www.hsph.harvard.edu
Insurance Information Institute, 202-833-1580, www.iii.org
Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety, www.libertymutualgroup.com, 617-357-9500
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 1-888-327-4236, www.nhtsa.dot.gov
National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS), 703-981-0264, www.noys.org
National Safety Council, (630) 285-1121, www.nsc.org
Nationwide Insurance Survey, www.nationwide.com
Safe Kids USA, www.usa.safekids.org, 202-662-0600
Students Against Destructive Decisions, 1-877-SADD-INC, www.sadd.org
Transport Research Laboratory, www.trl.co.uk
United States Department of Transportation, 202-366-4000, www.dot.gov
University of Utah Applied Cognition Labor, www.utah.edu
Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Center for Automotive Safety Research, www.vtti.vt.edu/casr

Mobile Device Technologies (a partial list)

Aegis Mobility: www.aegismobility.com
CellControl: www.cellcontrol.com
k2sd: www.key2safedriving.net
Web Safety: www.websafety.com
ZoomSafer: www.zoomsafer.com

* (Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, Carnegie Mellon, NHTSA, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, New England Journal of Medicine, University of Utah)

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