EFFECTS OF CELL PHONE USAGE ON DRIVING

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INTRODUCTION

- Cell phones are becoming more sophisticated every day.
- Using cell phone while driving is a growing cause of distracted driving.
- Texting while driving increases the risk of accident by 23%.
- This increased risk is equivalent to having Blood Alcohol Concentration of 0.08.\(^1\)
INTRODUCTION

- In Wisconsin, Injury is the number 1 cause of death among people aged 1-44 years.
- Motor Vehicle Accidents lead the unintentional category in Mortality and is 2nd in morbidity in WI, among all ages.²
DRIVING LAWS

• Currently (as of April 2011) while driving:
• 8 states ban handheld cell phone use while 32 states ban texting.
• 30 states ban all cell phone use by novice drivers.
• None of the states bans all cell phone use.
• WI only bans texting while driving.\(^3\)
Current (April 2011) State texting ban laws from Governors Highway Safety Association’s website³
OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

- To investigate if there are any effects of cell phone usage on driving.
- Literature review on OVID/Medline and Medical Journals.
- Keywords: Cell Phone & Driving.
- Examining abstracts and using studies with relevant data and available full text.
- Various Dept of Transportation Websites.
- Media search.
OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

- Articles used for the review include research data via:
  - Self reported behavioral surveys,
  - Driving simulations
  - Fatality Data from hospitals involving Motor Vehicle Crashes.
FINDINGS

- Highest incidence of talking on phone while driving is among 25-29 year olds.
- Texting while driving is most common among 18-24 age group.
- 70% young adults reported initiating texts, 80% replying to these & 92% reading texts.
- Many more report texting while stopped in traffic; only 2% young adults report never texting while on the driver seat of a running car.
- Texting ban has little effect on these drivers’ habits.
- Peer pressure and will/need to adopt emerging technology may be behind all this.
Figure 1  Percentage of Distracted Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes by Age, 2008

Source: National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NHTSA
61% of American adults say they have had conversations on a cell phone while behind the wheel.

82% of all adults have a cell phone.

61% have talked on their cell phone while driving.

Pew Internet & American Life Project, Spring Change Assessment Survey conducted from April 29 - May 30, 2010. N=2,252 adults ages 18 and older. The margin of error for all adults is ±2%. For results based on cell users (N=1917) and texters (N=1189), the margin of error is ±3%.
FINDINGS

- Risk of crash is 4.3 times higher in drivers who use cell phones while driving.\(^5\)
- Risk of fatality in a car crash is twice as high with just the presence of a cell phone in the car.\(^6\)
- Emotional conversation over the phone shows significantly worse driving behavior.\(^7\)
Dual-task/single-task ratio for three different experimental conditions.

Dec 2009 51: 762  
[http://hfs.sagepub.com/content/51/5/762](http://hfs.sagepub.com/content/51/5/762)
FINDINGS

- Conversation with a fellow occupant is much safer than talking over the phone, as the person on the other end of the phone is not aware of the road conditions and hazards.\(^8\)
- Hands-free devices do not reduce the risk of crash much – in fact physical presence of cell phone in hand may make driver conscious and compensate for their driving.\(^9\)
HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS TEXT WHILE DRIVING IF YOU WANT TO MEET HIM

SUN. SCHOOL 10:00 AM
SUN. WORSHIP 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM
WED. 7:00 PM

Pastor Floyd Ingram
CONCLUSION

- Cell phone usage and driving is a dangerous mix
- Many people realize when it’s too late – some may never get a 2\textsuperscript{nd} chance.
- Texting should be banned in all states
- Better devices and technology need to be developed to curb the need to text while driving.
- Extensive education in school alongside other ills of society may benefit the youth.
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REFERENCES

1. Virginia Tech Transportation Institute http://www.vtti.vt.edu/