

Cell Phone Use & Driving Among Teens



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

According to the Utah Department of Public Safety 2010 crash data

- Cell phone use is the leading driver distraction in Utah, accounting for 17.5% of the 20,885 distracted driving crashes from 2007-2010.
- In 2010, crashes involving a cell phone distracted driver were 1.5 times more likely to result in an injury when compared to all crashes.

According to the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

- 50% of high school students who drive admit they talk on a cell phone daily while behind the wheel.
- 61% of 12th grade students who drive report they talk on a cell phone daily while driving.

According to preliminary data from a survey conducted from December 2011 to January 2012

- 84% of Utah adults support a law banning cell phone use when driving for teens under age 18.
- 70% of Utah adults support a law banning cell phone use when driving for all drivers regardless of age.
- 94% of Utah adults think talking on a cell phone while driving increases someone's chance of being hurt or killed in a crash.

According to Cell Phone Studies

- A study by the University of Utah found that drivers who talk on handheld or hands-free cell phones are just as impaired as drunk drivers with a 0.08 blood-alcohol level. (Source: Strayer, D L, Drews, F.A, Crouch, D.J. A comparison of the cell phone driver and the drunk driver. Human Factors, 2006: 48; 381-391.)
- Talking on a cell phone while driving, even if it's hands-free, impairs driving ability. (Source: Just, MA, Keller, TA, Cynkara, JA. Decrease in brain activation associated with driving when listening to someone speak. Brain Research, 2008: 1205; 70-80.)
- Numerous studies show cell phone use impairs driving abilities of young adults. Drivers who used cell phones have 18% slower reaction times while driving and a two-fold increase in the number of rear-end crashes. (Source: Strayer, DL, Drews FA. Profiles in Driver Distraction: Effects of Cell Phone Conversations on Younger and Older Drivers. Human Factors, 2004: 46(4); 640-649.)