



SAFE DRIVING FOR KIDS: TEXTING BEHIND THE WHEEL



Melinda Luth

"Arrive Alive" Scholarship



Teen Driving Cell Phone and Texting Statistics

Car accidents involving cell phones have been limited in the past. Recently more information has been released. These statistics are the latest from 2007 and 2008.

- 48% of young Americans from 12-17 say they have been in a car with someone that has been using there cell phone
- 52% of 16 and 17 year old drivers confessed to making and answering phone calls
- 34% say they have texted while driving
- In 2007 nearly 1000 car accidents have been because of teens and there cell phones
- Over 60% of American teens have admitted to being risky drives while almost all admit to texting behind the wheel
- Each year 21% of fatal accidents are caused by teenagers who use there cell phones. That rate is expected to go up 4% each year.

Stories of Real Life Texting While Driving Fatal Accidents

Stories found from momlogic.com



Sixteen-year-old Kayla Preuss (left) died of head injuries when she lost control of her car and slammed into a center median. Phone records show that she was texting just before the accident.

Fact: AAA found that the risk for a car accident increases by 50% for those who text and drive.



Stories Continued..

Bailey Goodman (right), 17, was killed along with four of her fellow cheerleaders when she swerved into oncoming traffic, hit a tractor trailer and her SUV burst into flames. Five days earlier, the five girls graduated high school. Two minutes before the crash was reported, her phone was used to send a text to a friend.



Fact: Almost 50% of drivers between the ages of 18-24 are texting and driving.



Stories Continued..



Fact: In 2009 80% of teens responded to a text message while driving.

Dana Trammell (above), 17, was texting someone on her way to her first day of senior year when she crashed and was thrown from her car. She was pronounced dead at the scene.



Video on Teens Texting While Driving

In 2009 British high school students made a graphic public service announcement about teens texting while driving. The video shows the teen texting while driving, the crash, and the aftermath. While this was the first time I've ever seen this video I thought it was horrible. I think they should show this to teens in high school to show that even though this was fake, IT CAN HAPPEN.

[Video on Teen Texting and Driving](#)

Next time you're the passenger in the car send a text message and take notice at how long your eyes are off the road for. If your going 40 mph the safe following distance is 3 seconds. If your eyes are off the road it takes longer then 3 seconds to send a text and if that car stops you will hit it.