Ever since cell phones became popular, it seems like everyone has one. At first they were used in cars in case there was an emergency, but now they have become the main social item to everyone.

The negative affect of using cell phones while driving is they distract drivers and cause drivers to make careless mistakes. Teenagers should be especially careful talking on a cell phone while driving because they are beginner drivers and talking on a cell phone is one more distraction to worry about.

Even though cell phones don’t usually cause huge car accidents, they do commonly cause people to run a red light or stop sign. These little mistakes could cause a very deadly accident.

Most people talking on their cell phones are talking to their friends instead of something urgent and important. While cell phones are a distraction they are also very convenient and should be used responsibly. So, next time you go to pick up a cell phone in the car, consider these statistics.

Who is talking on their cell phone while driving and what are they talking about?

♦ 90 percent of people use their cell phones while driving alone
♦ 78 percent are talking to friends or family
♦ More than 61% of people using cell phones while driving are men
♦ 71 percent are between the ages 18-34
♦ 60 percent of people said they have not used their cell phone for emergencies
♦ 32 percent pay less attention to their driving when receiving bad news
♦ Men are almost 2 times more likely than women to run a red light while talking on their cell phones

Negative effects of talking on a cell phone while driving
♦ 46 percent swerve into another lane
♦ 41 percent have sped up
♦ 23 percent have tail gated another car
♦ 21 percent have cut someone off
♦ 18 percent nearly hit another car
♦ 10 percent have run a red light

NEW YORK (AP) — Gov. George Pataki signed into law Thursday the nation’s first statewide legislation banning the use of handheld cell phones by drivers.

“By requiring drivers to put down their cell phones and pay attention to the road, this new law will help make our roads safer and save lives,” Pataki said. He signed the bill, passed earlier this week by the state Legislature in Albany, in an outdoor ceremony at a Manhattan park.

“Too many families have suffered the tragedy of seeing a loved one injured — sometimes fatally — in an accident caused by someone who was driving and was using a cell phone,” Pataki said.

The law is slated to go into effect Nov. 1. First-time violators of the ban would face a $100 fine. A second conviction calls for a $200 fine and every subsequent violation would cost $500.

The legislation allows for an exception for making emergency 911 calls but does not address the issue of dialing while driving. Speaker phones and CB radios are permitted.
Other Distractions

Pets
- transport small animals in carriers
- pet restraint systems

Children
- don’t get involved in arguments, stop the car and settle it
- don’t allow distracting games that are noisy or interfere with controls in the car

Eating/Drinking
- have snacks at easy reach and in small bags
- drinks should be closed and fit in the beverage holder

Cell phones
- use a hands free device
- the conversation is the distraction, not the phone, so keep it short
- allow other cars more space because if you are talking on the phone your reaction time is slower

Make-up
- check make-up when you are parked, it’s worth it to wait to put it on than to get in a car accident

Friends
- avoid having a lot of people in your car that can distract you and get you involved with conversations instead of paying attention to the road

Facts
69 percent of people use a cell phone on the highway

24 percent of people use a cell phone in a neighborhood/residential area

7 percent of people use a cell phone in downtown areas

Less than 1 percent of people use a cell phone in school areas

Works Cited Page

