

## Pennsylvania study indicates college students continue to text and drive

Written by Australian Business

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According to a study recently released by researchers from King's College in Pennsylvania, most college students persist in engaging in the risky practice of texting while behind the wheel, despite the fact that they know it is dangerous and increases the likelihood of car accidents.

Specifically, the recent study, which was published in the International Journal of Sustainable Strategic Management, found that four out of five college students have used their cellphones to text while driving, even though a majority of those surveyed recognized the threat in doing so. Researchers also discovered that male drivers are more likely to text and drive - although the survey also indicated that male drivers consider themselves better drivers than most, and thus less likely to jeopardize the safety of others on the road if they do elect to text while driving.

However, regardless of this presumed confidence, there is little to dispute the notion that texting while driving is extremely dangerous. Indeed, researchers made note of the fact that prior studies have revealed that texting while driving may be just as risky as driving while intoxicated. Texting laws in Pennsylvania

Last year, Pennsylvania lawmakers passed a law banning the practice of texting while driving. In particular, the statute states that "no driver shall operate a motor vehicle" on a Pennsylvania roadway while using an interactive wireless communications device - such as a cellphone or p.d.a. - to read, write or send a text message while the vehicle is moving.

Interestingly, the texting-while-driving ban in Pennsylvania also expressly preempts cities from creating their own texting-while-driving laws. Sadly, this means that cities are unable to make stricter texting-while-driving prohibitions, and laws that were already established in Pennsylvania cities - such as Harrisburg and Philadelphia - are no longer enforceable. Consequences of texting while driving

While any person who violates Pennsylvania's texting ban may be subject to a \$50 fine, the true costs of texting while driving can often be much more than this small sum. For instance, drivers

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distracted by their cellphones are more likely to get into car accidents, which can ultimately result in thousands of dollars in damage, not to mention injury or death.

If you or a loved one has been injured by a driver too distracted by his or her cellphone to pay attention to the road, it is often best to seek the counsel of a skilled car accident injury attorney. A knowledgeable attorney can help investigate the cause of your accident and assist in seeking the compensation you may be entitled.