

Deadly Complexity

Since the creation of the first stone tools and the harnessing of fire, civilization has constantly adapted and changed in response to the development of new technologies. As technology pushes forwards, complexity increases with it. With this complexity, comes an inflation of pressure to utilize new devices consistently, as well as an upsurge in the amount of attention needed to operate such devices (Richtel). The utilization of cellphones while driving was apparent within the earliest models of these mobile devices, and today it is no different. The popularity of cell phone use among teens has increased exponentially, and it is reported that “27 percent of teens admit to texting and driving, [but] a bigger concern is that two out of three teens (68 percent) admit to using apps while driving”(Liberty Mutual Insurance 1). Texting and driving poses an extreme safety concern for all drivers, as lapses in attention and focus while on the road can lead to deadly accidents. To combat this issue, we must turn to a nationwide education policy to spread the word on texting and driving.

Despite consistent efforts to diffuse texting and driving among teens, administrators have failed to completely solve this issue independently. It has been “revealed that approximately 80 percent of teens fundamentally view app use while driving as not distracting”(Liberty Mutual Insurance 1). Thusly, I propose that a nationwide education policy be implemented, uniting administrators together to help educate teens on the dangers of app usage and texting while driving. Areas with a high concentration of student activity should be targeted for the distribution of posters and flyers. These locations could include schools, places of worship, grocery stores, sporting facilities, etc. Education liaisons should also be provided for school wide assemblies and panels to further describe the dangers of te xting and driving. Additionally, driving education programs and installations should be mandated to provide sections of instruction on texting and driving. Temporary permit testing centers should also be required to revise their testing interfaces with questions pertaining to texting and driving. BMV’s across the nation should also hand out flyers upon licensing completion as well as increase poster usage within their facilities. This education protocol will hopefully disseminate information effectively to driving teens across the nation

The legislation on cell phone usage while driving should also be adapted across the nation. To this day, only twenty-nine states have labeled texting and driving as a primary offense, causing many drivers (young and old) to ignore the laws altogether. State legislators should be implored to adapt their state legislations to label texting and driving as a primary offence. Additionally, the emphasis and explanation of these legislations should be expanded to increase awareness of the severity of the punishments.

Through the proposed programs and changes, I believe that the issue of texting and driving can be successfully mitigated, leading to a safer road for all drivers. Attention capacities are too weak to allow for such a attention heavy practice to occur while drive, as it can cost the lives of countless innocent people. Technological developments should be celebrated, and the complexity that ensues should be embraced, but the pressures and dangers that accompany these developments cannot be ignored.

Works Cited

- "App and Drive." *Liberty Mutual Insurance*, Liberty Mutual, libertymutualgroup.com/about-lm/news/news-release-archive/articles/app-and-drive.
- Richtel, Matt. *A Deadly Wandering*. William Morrow.