Currently there is no national ban on texting or using a wireless phone while driving, but a number of states have passed laws banning texting or wireless phones or requiring hands-free use of wireless phones while driving (2)
- In California, the maximum penalty for a first-time offender is just $20, the lowest in the country, while Alaska will slap you with a whopping $10,000 fine and a year in prison (2)
- Arizona, Montana, South Carolina, South Dakota have no cellphone use in the car bans(2)

**It is extremely dangerous to text and drive**

- distraction was the cause of 18 percent of all fatal crashes – with 3,092 people killed – and crashes resulting in an injury – with 416,000 people wounded.(1)
- text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted. (1)
- 95% of people say texting and driving is a serious risk for their safety(2)
- About half of teens who say they never text while driving admitted to texting at red lights or stop signs (4)

**If parents do it, it will influence their kids to do the same**

- Forty percent of all American teens say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger, (1)
- the leading cause of death for teenage drivers is now texting, not drinking, with nearly a dozen teens dying each day in a texting-related car crash. (2)
- Children learn from their parent’s behavior. No one should text and drive. Be an example for your children and if you need to text or talk on the phone, pull over to a safe place. (1)
- “Often it was the parent who was engaging in dangerous behavior that the teens themselves thought was crazy,” said Amanda Lenhart(3)
**Texting and Driving is Not a Good Habit**

Have you ever seen someone texting and driving? (H) Well, it's not a good habit. (F) Text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted. (F)(1) The fines are a really small amount of money in most states, which provides very little incentive to not do it. (B1) Also, people shouldn't text and drive because it is very dangerous and is a serious risk for injury or death. (B2) Finally, when parents text and drive, it has an influence on their kids that causes them to pick up the bad habit. (B3) While not all might agree, texting and driving is **definitely** a dangerous habit. (T)

First of all, people shouldn't text and drive because the fine is too small. Currently, there is no national ban on texting or using a wireless phone while driving, but a number of states have passed laws banning texting or wireless phones or requiring hands-free use of wireless phones while driving (2) But the fines they pass create little incentive for drivers with the bad habit. In California, the maximum penalty for a first-time offender is just $20, the lowest in the country, while Alaska will slap you with a whopping $10,000 fine and a year in prison (2) In California, you barely even have an incentive to not text and drive. But in Alaska, people will kick the habit if they have to pay a huge fine and spend some time in jail. In New Jersey, the maximum penalty is just $400. Frankly, this doesn't stop people. This is not always the most efficient way to get people to stop from texting and driving. Many people think that the fine is not too much, so it isn't a big deal. In four states, Arizona, Montana, South Carolina, South Dakota, have no cellphone use in the car bans(2) **Therefore**, if America doesn't get these fine charges up, there will a lot of crashes and no incentive to not do it.

Secondly, texting and driving is extremely dangerous. Texting and driving makes the risk of crashing 23 times more likely(1) This is extremely dangerous. If you are driving while distracted, you make yourself unsafe and become more likely to crash. Distraction was the cause of 18 percent of all fatal crashes – with 3,092 people killed – and crashes resulting in an injury – with 416,000 people wounded.(1). The worst part of it is that people know that it is dangerous- yet they still do it. This is a safety risk that is and accidents are the 5th leading cause of death (5) Teenagers also text and drive. About half of teens who say they never text while driving admitted to texting at red lights or stop signs (4) This goes to show that even if you say you don't text and drive, you may still text and drive. Clearly, most people know the consequences. 95% of people say texting and driving is a serious risk for their safety(2) But only 35% admit to texting and driving. (2) Driving while distracted can be a serious problem for safety and it is not a good idea to do it.

The last reason texting while driving isn't good is because when parents do it, they influence their teenagers to do it. Forty percent of all American teens say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger (1)
This goes to show that many people are doing it and influencing teenagers to do it too. The leading cause of death for teenage drivers is now texting, not drinking, with nearly a dozen teens dying each day in a texting-related car crash. (2) Children learn from their parent’s behavior. No one should text and drive. Be an example for your children and if you need to text or talk on the phone, pull over to a safe place. “Often it was the parent who was engaging in dangerous behavior that the teens themselves thought was crazy,” said Amanda Lenhart on the topic. (3) If adults set a bad example, they are leading a dangerous life for their teenagers.

Though many agree that texting and driving is a bad thing, some people believe it is necessary. People argue that while you are on the road you may have an emergency and it is more important than holding on to the steering wheel. This can be an emergency situation, but it is more important to make sure that everyone you know is okay. It is also argued that at stop signs or lights, that texting is a good way to free you of boredom. Sitting at a stop light isn’t fun and texting can make it more fun. Some people also need to keep up with the latest gossip on Facebook and Twitter. You can be lost in the social storm if you miss a minute and therefore you always have to be keeping up with it. Even when you are driving. Also, many people think that texting and driving isn’t a danger and nothing is going to happen to them. It’s not like a quick text can make you crash and die. Obviously, many people know that texting and driving is not a great decision to make, but there are many that disagree.

Texting and driving is definitely not a good reason to keep your eyes off the road. (T) Yet, this has become a really big problem in our nation. (f) Clearly, the fines for this crime are way too small and provide little incentive. (B1) Texting and driving is very dangerous and is a cause of lots of deaths. (B2) By texting and driving it influences teens to pick up the habit. (B3) It is crazy that this can even get into someone’s mind that this is safe to be doing. (F) Without question, texting and driving is one of the worst habits you can have.