

# Cell Phone Usage Among College Students

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Category: Refereed Track Research Findings Abstract

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Cellular telephone usage in the U.S. is increasing rapidly. In a 2002 survey, of College of Business students at Arizona State University were asked about cell phone ownership, payment of cell phone bills, and reasons for the purchase usage of cell phones. Another 2002 survey of Americans determined locations where they felt it was acceptable to converse on a cell phone; a similar survey was conducted in the United Kingdom. In addition, recent public media has questioned where and when cell phone use is appropriate and the safety of using a cell phone while driving.

During the Spring 2003 semester 561 students at three university campuses in three geographic areas of the U.S. were surveyed on their cell phone usage. Comparisons were run using the data collected, and significance was found in the following areas:

- Gender and the following: Cell phone ownership, what majority of minutes were used for, when cell phone use was appropriate, attitude toward cell phone use while driving, and use of cell phone while driving.
- Age and the following: Cell phone ownership, plan to purchase if one was not owned, necessity for ownership, who paid for cell phone, attitude toward cell phone use while driving, and use of cell phone while driving.
- School (location) and the following: Cell phone ownership, what majority of minutes were used for, if cell phone is turned off during class, attitude toward cell phone use while driving, and use of cell phone while driving.
- Attitude toward using cell phone while driving and the use of cell phone while driving
- Perceived necessity to own a cell phone and who paid the bill.

From the presentation of the results of this study, OSRA attendees will gain awareness of the impact of cell phone usage on university students and their attitudes toward the use of cell phones. Conclusions and recommendations will stress the importance of teaching about this communication technology.