

## CELL PHONES

# Most Americans Would Ban Drivers from Using Hand Held Cell Phones

*Many respondents endorse the use of hands free devices, but would prohibit drivers from sending text messages.*

[NEW YORK – Jan. 30, 2012] - Most Americans agree with the idea of preventing drivers from using hand held cell phones while they are behind the wheel, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,003 American adults, four-in-five respondents (81%) support implementing a federal regulation that would ban the use of hand held cell phones while driving.

The proportion of Americans who would endorse a federal ban on text messaging while driving is higher (92%). However, only 38 per cent of respondents would support a federal regulation that would ban the use of cell phone hands free devices (such as Bluetooth or headsets) while driving.

### Analysis

Texting is definitely regarded as a dangerous activity for drivers, with only seven per cent of Americans believing that this practice should be allowed to continue. There are some subtle differences in the way specific age groups feel about drivers using cell phones. While most respondents agree that the use of hand held devices by drivers should not be allowed, Americans aged 18-to-34 are more likely to disagree with this notion (24%) than those aged 35-to-54 (17%) and those over the age of 55 (11%).

### KEY FINDINGS

- **81% support banning the use of hand held cell phones while driving**
- **91% would ban text messaging while driving**
- **57% oppose banning the use of cell phone hands free devices (such as Bluetooth or headsets) while driving**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From January 18 to January 19, 2012, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,003 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

### CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

When it comes to hands free devices, there is a clear age gap. A majority of Americans over the age of 55 (53%) would ban their use by drivers, but this notion is only supported by about three-in-ten respondents aged 35-to-54 (32%) and aged 18-to-34 (28%).

Learn about our [electoral record](#) / Consult our [surveys](#) / Follow us on [Twitter](#)

**About Angus Reid Public Opinion**

*[Angus Reid Public Opinion](#) is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.*

**About Vision Critical®**

*[Vision Critical](#) is a global research and technology firm that creates software and services solutions for over 600 clients, including one third of the world's top 100 brands. The company has offices across North America, Europe and Australia as well as a Global Partner Program that provides other research companies and consultants with access to top-of-the-line technology. Its Sparq™ product is the most widely adopted community panel platform on the planet.*

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

---

**CONTACT:**

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

### Cell Phones

Thinking about drivers in the United States, would you support or oppose implementing each one of the following regulations at the federal level?

– *"Banning the use of hand held cell phones while driving."*

	United States	Age		
		18-34	35-54	55+
Support	81%	72%	81%	88%
Oppose	17%	24%	17%	11%
Not sure	2%	4%	3%	1%

### Cell Phones

Thinking about drivers in the United States, would you support or oppose implementing each one of the following regulations at the federal level?

– *"Banning text messaging while driving."*

	United States	Age		
		18-34	35-54	55+
Support	92%	88%	92%	95%
Oppose	7%	9%	7%	4%
Not sure	1%	3%	1%	1%

#### CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

### Cell Phones

Thinking about drivers in the United States, would you support or oppose implementing each one of the following regulations at the federal level?

– ***"Banning the use of cell phone hands free devices (such as Bluetooth or headsets) while driving."***

	United States	Age		
		18-34	35-54	55+
Support	38%	28%	32%	53%
Oppose	57%	67%	61%	41%
Not sure	6%	4%	7%	6%

**CONTACT:**

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)