In 2011, Iowa had 679 traffic crashes as a direct result of a distracted driver.

In 2010, 3,092 people were killed in U.S. traffic crashes involving a distracted driver and about 416,000 more were injured in these types of crashes.

Iowa data shows that in the decade between 2002 and 2011, a total of 6,697 crashes occurred that involved a distracted driver.

Tragically, 16 persons have been killed in Iowa crashes where cellular telephone use was involved.

Drivers who use hand-held devices are 4 times more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. Text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted.

Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent, at 55 mph, of driving the length of an entire football field, blind.

Thirty-nine states have a ban on texting for all drivers and ten states prohibit all drivers from using handheld cell phones while driving.

Iowa law restricting electronic devices became effective July 1, 2010 with the following provisions:

- For any person holding a learner’s permit, provisional license or school permit, the use of electronic communication or electronic entertainment devices while driving is prohibited and this is a primary enforcement law.

- For all other licensed drivers, the use of hand-held electronic devices to write, send or read a text message is prohibited. This is a secondary enforcement law (officers may not stop vehicles for this violation only).

- Regular license holders can key in a phone number and make cell phone calls or use a GPS unit.

- All drivers can use electronic communications devices if they are at a complete stop and off the traveled portion of the roadway.