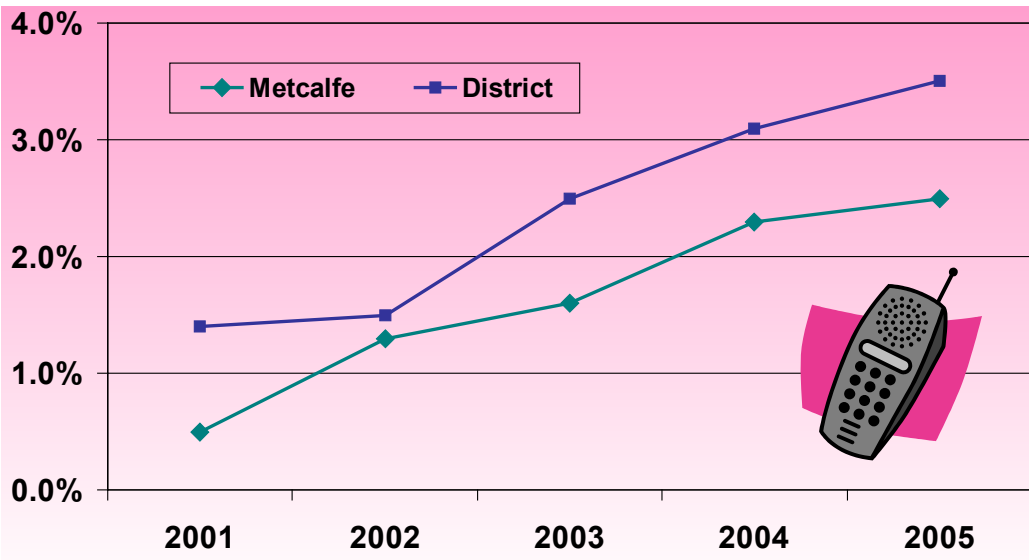




2005 Metcalfe County Cell Phone Use by Drivers

There were 1,487 Metcalfe County vehicles observed in our seat belt surveillance this year. Of these drivers, 37 were using cell phones. Cell phone usage in Metcalfe County has steadily increased since 2001.



Research shows that driving while using a cell phone can be a serious distraction and affect driver performance, according to NHTSA (National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration). Although there is no direct link to cell phones causing crashes, NHTSA estimates that driver distractions contribute to 25% of all police-reported traffic crashes. University of Utah researchers found last spring that teens and young adults using cell phones while in a driving simulator reacted as slowly as elderly drivers not using a phone.



Highway crashes are the leading cause of death among 15- to 20-year-olds. Since 1995, over 64,000 young people have been killed in traffic accidents. The National Transportation Safety Board would like to make teenagers using cell phones while learning to drive a national auto safety priority.

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Source: Reuters Foundation