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EME UPDATE

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EDITORIAL - NEW RESEARCH ADDS TO SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS OF NO PROVEN HEALTH EFFECTS FROM MOBILES



AMTA CEO, Chris Althaus

Results from two of the largest studies to look for a link between mobile phones and brain tumours and two comprehensive reviews of the latest research by independent expert panels have each found mobile phones do not adversely affect health.

These recent findings continue to reinforce advice from the World Health Organization that there is no established link between mobile phones and health problems and should reassure mobile phone users of their safety.

A Danish study, which has been described as the largest ever to investigate mobile phones and brain

tumours, is the [feature article](#) in this edition. The analysis of 358,403 Danes who have subscribed to a mobile phone since 1995 found they were at no greater risk of developing tumours of the brain or central nervous system than non-users. The researchers said the latest update of the study allowed them to focus specifically on long-term mobile phone users, who were again found to be at no greater risk.

The final results of the [INTERPHONE Project](#) designed to study head and neck tumours across 13 countries have also been released. The results

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confirmed earlier research that there is no increase in risk of Acoustic Neuroma – a rare benign tumour of the ear nerve – from mobile phone use for 10 years or more.

Major research conducted since 2000 has been scrutinised by 15 international experts on electromagnetic fields in a [systematic review](#) that found mobile phones do not cause brain tumours. Dr Michael Repacholi - lead researcher and former head of the World Health Organization's International EMF project - said the result should reassure mobile phone users.

Another extensive review of the latest research by the [Health Council of the Netherlands](#) did not find any evidence that the electromagnetic radiation emitted by mobile phones

and Wi-Fi access points can damage the development of children's brains or health – even with frequent use.

Recent decisions by the US courts have also backed the safety of mobile phones with a federal judge in [San Francisco](#) claiming a law that compelled the city's retailers to warn customers about the possible health effects of cell phone radiation would be like warning about the possibility of UFOs.

The [U.S. Supreme Court](#) has also refused to revive a class action lawsuit, which was dismissed last year, that alleged mobile companies endangered consumers by covering up health effects and selling handsets without headsets.

Other articles covered in this edition include: a new [global website](#) has been launched to increase

consumer awareness about the amount of radiation emitted by mobile phones; hands-free systems are the key to safer mobile phone use on the roads according to a leading [US road safety expert](#); [New Zealand researchers](#) are calling for a school phone ban and [UK Government](#) research finds student Wi-Fi exposures are well below safety limits.

We appreciate any feedback our stakeholders within industry, government and the community have about any of the stories in this edition.

Chris Althaus

Chief Executive Officer
[Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association](#)

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LARGEST EVER STUDY OF MOBILE PHONE USE AND TUMOURS FINDS NO LINK



The study of 358,403 mobile phone subscribers in Denmark, found no increased risk of brain tumours with use of mobile phones.

Mobile phone users are at no greater risk of developing tumours of the brain or central nervous system according to updated research on more than 350,000 Danes who have been using mobile phones since 1995.

“In this second update of a large nationwide cohort of 358 403

mobile phone subscribers in Denmark, we observed no overall increased risk of tumours of the central nervous system or for all cancers combined associated with use of mobile phones,” the [study](#) recently published in the British Medical Journal said.

Labelled the largest ever study on

mobile phone safety, researchers have been comparing the cancer risk of a portion of the Danish population who subscribed to a mobile phone account between 1982 and 1995 to non-subscribers in a series of follow-up studies to 1996, 2002 and now to 2007.

The researchers said the latest update of the study allowed them to focus on long-term mobile phone users, who some say could be at more risk.

“The extended follow-up allowed us to investigate effects in people who had used mobile phones for 10 years or more, and this long term use was not associated with higher risks of cancer,” the researchers said.

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“Importantly, there was no increase of glioma in the temporal lobes in long term subscribers, as the temporal lobe has been described as the region of the brain with highest absorption of energy emitted from mobile phones.”

The researchers used data from the Danish Cancer Register and phone network operators to identify a total of 10,729 central nervous system tumours in the study period to 2007.

Professors Anders Ahlbom and Maria Feychting who wrote an accompanying [editorial](#) said the advantages of using registry data compared to studies that quiz mobile phone users on their past use are that it avoids recall errors or potential bias in selecting participants.

“We have learned that studies based on historical accounts of cellphone use are prone to bias. So a reasonable way forward seems to be to follow national statistics and prospective cohorts,” professor [Ahlbom said](#).

But they said a weakness of the study was that having a mobile phone subscription was no guarantee a person used a mobile phone.

“One weakness, however, was that having a mobile phone subscription is not equivalent to using a mobile phone and conversely some users will be non-subscribers,” the editorial said.

“However, for long term users, this misclassification would have only a small effect.”

Ahlbom and Feychting also said a graph (pictured on the next page) showing national brain tumour incidence had not increased since 1970 in Sweden even though 90 per cent of the population had been using mobile phones for over seven years by 2009, should reassure phone users.

RESEARCHERS RESPOND TO CRITICISM

The study has been [criticised](#) by Dr [Devra Davis](#), an American epidemiologist who has written a number of books on environmental health concerns.

“The current, updated Danish study being published today in fact did find increased risk, even though the study is currently being promoted

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to the media as if it did not,” Dr Davis wrote.

“The article reports a significant increased risk of a very rare form of glioma of the cerebral ventricle based on eight cases (2.58, 1.08-6.1) but the authors chose to make no mention of this significant finding.”

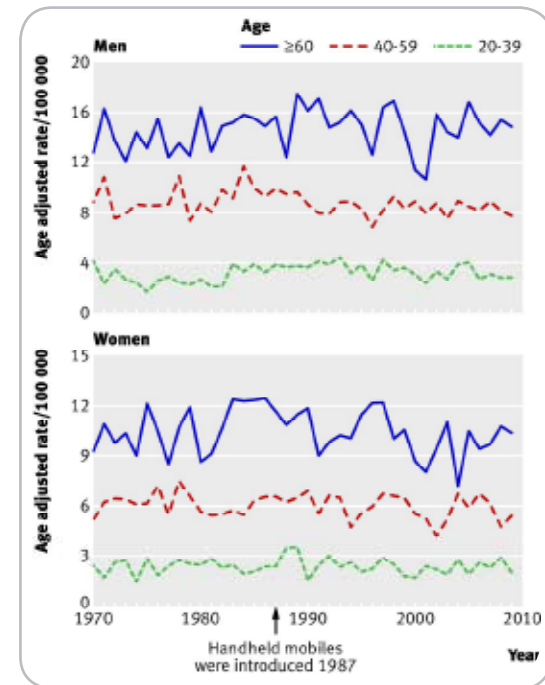
In [response](#) to Dr Davis’s claims, the lead researchers said, “If there was a risk for glioma from the cellphone radiation it would be expected to be seen in the temporal lobe which is mostly exposed from a cellphone held to the ear.”

“The cerebral ventricle is not an area of the brain highly exposed to cellphone radiation. In a study of this size a few significant results can

be expected merely by chance so given the very small numbers we consider it to be most likely such a chance finding.”

But the researchers did acknowledge there were limitations in their study and they recommended more long-term studies and analysis of cancer registries.

“However, as a small to moderate increase in risk for subgroups of heavy users or after even longer induction periods than 10-15 years cannot be ruled out, further studies with large study populations, where the potential for misclassification of exposure and selection bias is minimised, are warranted,” the researchers said.



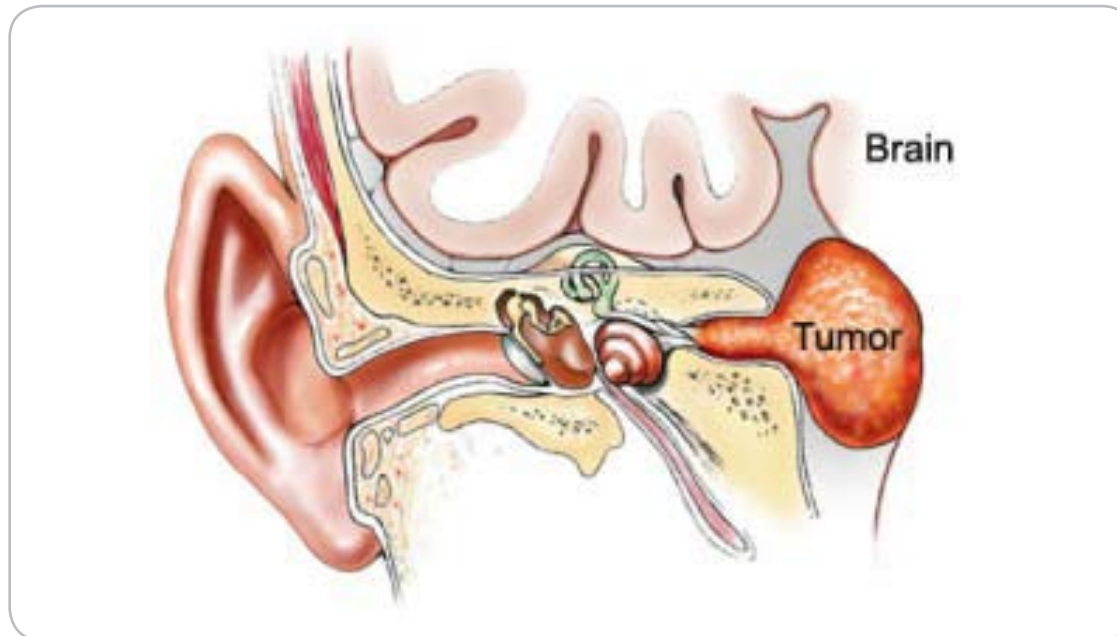
Ahlbom and Feychting said it’s reassuring that the incidence of brain tumours had not increased since 1970 in Sweden even though 90 per cent of the population had been using mobile phones for more than seven years by 2009.

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RARE EAR NERVE TUMOUR NOT LINKED WITH MOBILE PHONE USE



Acoustic Neuroma (AN) is a rare benign tumour of the ear nerve.

The final stage of the largest human study of its type into potential health impacts of mobile phones has confirmed earlier research that there is no increase in risk of

Acoustic Neuroma (AN) – a rare benign tumour of the ear nerve – from mobile phone use for 10 years or more.

“We did not observe an increase in risk of AN with ever regular use of a mobile phone or in mobile phone users who began use 10 years or more before the reference date [of diagnosis],” the researchers concluded.

They also did not see any trend in the risk of acoustic neuroma with increasing mobile phone use.

The study on acoustic neuroma – which is the final results of the INTERPHONE Project designed to study head and neck tumours across 13 countries – was published online in [Cancer Epidemiology](#).

The research project was co-ordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer

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(IARC), which is part of the World Health Organization (WHO).

More than 1,000 patients who were newly diagnosed with acoustic neuroma were interviewed along with 2,145 in a control group to determine differences in their exposure.

An increased risk was found in a small group of long-term users who used their phone for more than 1640 hours on the same side as their tumour, but this result could be due to chance or bias in the study.

“There were 16 cases (1.4%) and 22 controls (1.0%) who reported 5 hours or more of mobile phone

use per day, an implausible amount, most of them contributing to the category of ≥ 1640 hours of cumulative call time,” the researchers said.

“Light users tended to underestimate mobile phone use and heavy users overestimated it, which could lead to over-estimation of the strength of an association, if there was one.”

This ‘recall bias’ may be more likely if subjects perceive that mobile phone use is associated with brain tumours, as has been widely speculated in the media.

Other research into long term mobile phone use and acoustic

neuroma has also not found a solid link with the disease.

A recent study of 2.9 million people in Denmark found long-term mobile phone use had no effect on the chance of developing acoustic neuroma.

The [study](#), published in the American Journal of Epidemiology in June, compared data on those who’d used a cell phone for 11 to 15 years and found they were no more likely to develop AN (or vestibular schwannoma) than newer users or non-users.

“Overall, no evidence was found that mobile phone use is related to the risk of vestibular schwannoma,” the researchers concluded.

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HEALTH COUNCIL: FREQUENT EXPOSURE TO ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION DOESN'T DAMAGE BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OR KIDS' HEALTH



Image: [Tina Phillips](#)

After an extensive review of the latest research, the Health Council of the Netherlands has not found any evidence that the electromagnetic radiation emitted by mobile phones and Wi-Fi

access points can damage the development of kids' brains or health – even with frequent use.

“Available data do not indicate that exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields affect brain development or health in children,” the Health Council concluded in its latest report published last month.

The Health Council of the Netherlands is an independent scientific advisory body, which provides the Dutch government and parliament with health advice when asked for or if new evidence emerges.

However, [the 92-page report](#) – written by the Council's Electromagnetic Fields Committee – said effects could not be completely ruled out because most research

had focused on children above 10-years-old. A separate report will also consider the evidence on brain tumours, which was limited to studies of adults – although studies had started which involved children.

The report titled the *Influence of radiofrequency telecommunication signals on children's brains* said radio waves appear not to have any demonstrable negative effects on behaviour and cognition or any harmful physiological effects on children.

The council specifically investigated concerns that kids' are at more risk because they

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HEALTH COUNCIL: FREQUENT EXPOSURE TO ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION DOESN'T DAMAGE BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OR KID'S HEALTH

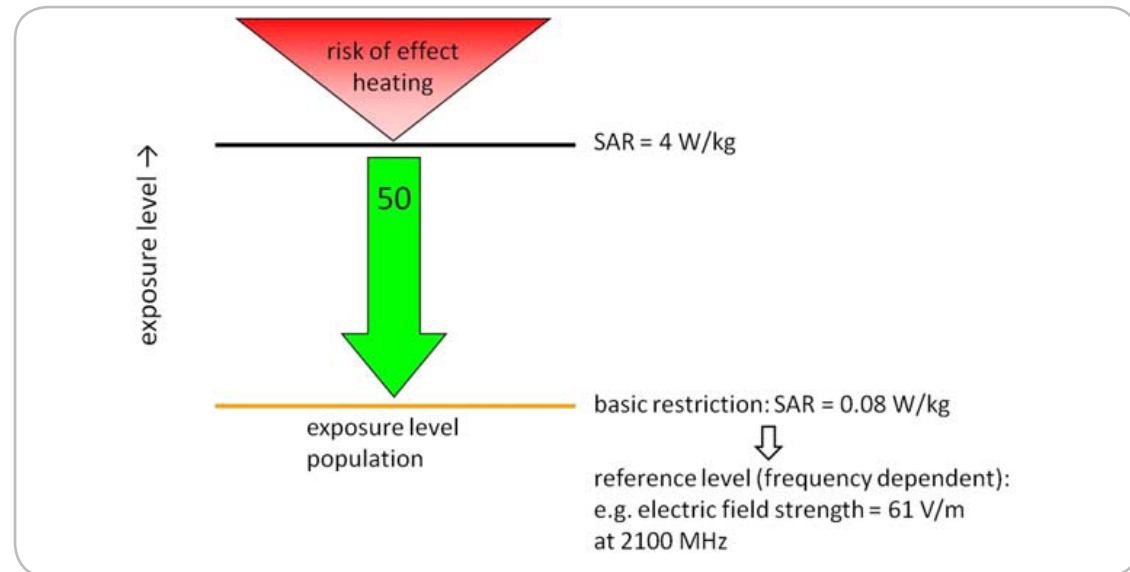
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have thinner skulls and developing brains and while some research had found higher peak exposure levels in children, the exposure level “averaged over the entire head does not differ for children and adults.”

“There is no reason to assume that exposure of children to electromagnetic fields due to use of a mobile telephone leads to greater risks than for adults,” the report said.

The report also looked specifically at the question of whether or not there needed to be different exposure limits for children than for adults.

“The answer to this question is: no, because the potential additional sensitivity of children and other vulnerable groups was explicitly accounted for in setting



The report said the exposure limits for the general population include an ample uncertainty margin of a factor of 50 so there was no need for different exposure limits for children.

the exposure limits,” the report concluded.

“It is one of the reasons why the exposure limits for the general population include an ample

uncertainty margin of a factor of 50. Based on the data presented in this report, the Committee sees no reason to recommend different exposure limits for children than for adults.”

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SAN FRANCISCO CELL PHONE LAWS LIKE WARNINGS FOR UFOS

A federal judge has dismissed most of the controversial San Francisco 'right-to-know' ordinance that compelled the city's retailers to warn customers about cellphone radiation and its possible health effects.

Judge William Alsup was unconvinced by arguments from city lawyers that no scientific proof existed to guarantee cellphones were completely safe.

"Anything is possible," Alsup said during the trial. "Let's put out a brochure about UFOs. If you have concerns about UFOs, here are the steps you can take."

Judge William Alsup ruled that the required warning is misleading because it implies cellphones are dangerous and unregulated, and he ordered city officials to change

substantially the wording on a fact sheet the ordinance requires retailers to distribute.

The fact sheets must now include a statement that all cellphones must comply with the [Federal Communications Commission's](#) (FCC) safety limits regarding radiation emissions, the judge said.

"The overall impression left is that cell phones are dangerous and that they have somehow escaped the regulatory process," Judge Alsup wrote. "That impression is untrue and misleading, for all of the cell phones sold in the United States must comply with safety limits set by the FCC."

"The FCC set a conservative standard, one weighted heavily in favor of minimizing any public health hazard.



"San Francisco has long been bathed in RF radiation from the Sutro Tower transmitting facilities, from radar, from hand-held television remotes, from portable phones, from Wi-Fi (vigorously promoted by San Francisco itself),

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from Wi-Fi-equipped notebook computers, from cell towers, from satellites, not to mention EMF radiation from our AC power infrastructure dating back a hundred years or more. If this exposure has been so dangerous, one might ask reasonably why hasn't it manifested itself by now?"

Recently the San Francisco Board of Supervisors [passed](#) an amended ordinance that required retailers to display and distribute a [state-produced fact sheet](#) that explains radio frequency emissions from cellphones and how consumers can reduce their exposure.

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The official seal of the City and County of San Francisco, featuring a grizzly bear and a miner, surrounded by the text "THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO" and "1847".

You can limit exposure to Radio-frequency (RF) Energy from your cell phone.

Two black silhouettes of human figures. The figure on the left has a mobile phone icon with red and yellow concentric circles (representing RF energy) beaming into its head. The figure on the right has a mobile phone icon with similar concentric circles beaming into its hip area.

Although studies continue to assess potential health effects of mobile phone use, the World Health Organization has classified RF Energy as a possible carcinogen.

This material was prepared solely by the City and County of San Francisco and must be provided to consumers under local law.

“...the large silhouettes with RF beaming into the head and hips...must be deleted,” ruled U.S District Judge William Alsup.

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This ordinance watered down the city’s controversial [Cell Phone Right to Know Act](#), (that was passed but never enacted) which required stores to display the radiation level of each model of cell phone at the same size as the phone’s price.

However, the judge blocked the parts of the ordinance that require retailers to put up [posters](#) and affix warning [stickers](#) on cellphones. He said those items unconstitutionally compel retailers to broadcast the city’s opinion of cellphones and breached retailers’ First Amendment – freedom of speech – rights.

“There is no reasonable cause for requiring retailers to convert their walls to billboards for the municipal message,” Judge Alsup wrote.

He also ruled the message on the stickers “...goes too far. The stickers will unduly intrude upon the retailers’ own message.”

The judge put the entire ordinance on hold until the end of November to give time for an appeal and for the city to produce an amended fact sheet. He also said that if the city refuses to edit the fact sheet as ordered, then the entire ordinance would be thrown out.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera told US newspapers he would appeal the judge’s decision.

The U.S. industry association – the CTIA – said in a [statement](#) it was still concerned about the distribution of a fact sheet by retailers and would consider its options.



U.S District Judge William Alsup.

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EXPERT REVIEW OF RECENT RESEARCH FINDS MOBILES DO NOT CAUSE BRAIN TUMOURS



Lead author Dr Michael Repacholi said the research published since 2000 should give reassurance to mobile phone users.

A systematic review of major research conducted since 2000 has found mobile phones do not cause brain tumours and should reassure phone users according to the authors.

The 15 international experts on electromagnetic fields scrutinised 141 studies published up to November 2010 to identify only original relevant research. They based their assessment on 11 epidemiology (population) studies and 22 in vivo (laboratory) studies.

“We conducted a systematic review based on a pre-agreed methodology to assess whether a causal relationship has been established between the use of wireless phones and the brain cancer glioma and three other tumors originating in the areas of the head that most absorb the RF energy emitted by wireless phones,” the [review](#) published in *Bioelectromagnetics* said.

“Neither our meta-analysis of the epidemiology study results nor our pooled analysis of the in vivo studies showed any statistically significant increased risk for the brain cancer glioma or the other three head tumors from wireless phone use.”

Lead author Dr Michael Repacholi – former head of the World Health Organisation’s [EMF project](#) and Chairman Emeritus of the International Commission for Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) – is one of the world’s leading authorities on health and safety issues related to mobile telecommunications.

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EXPERT REVIEW OF RECENT RESEARCH FINDS MOBILES DO NOT CAUSE BRAIN TUMOURS

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Dr Repacholi said the research published since 2000 should give reassurance to mobile phone users.

“Our systematic review is one of the most complete on the scientific evidence published since 2000 on cell phones and brain cancer and the results should provide a reassuring message for public health officials and mobile phone users,” Dr Repacholi said.

The researchers did identify some inconsistencies between the 13 country [INTERPHONE](#) study and studies from Swedish researcher Lennart Hardell but said this was

most likely a result of bias in Hadell’s research, they said.

“Possible selection and recall bias also limited the amount of additional weight accorded to the results of Hardell,” the researchers said.

“They used exposure data reported by relatives of deceased individuals up to 11 years after death and did not conduct any validation studies.”

“Based on our study quality criteria, the results of Hardell et al. were accorded substantially less additional weight than the Interphone Study results.”

The researchers also noted their findings reinforced current recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO) and international safety standards set by the ICNIRP.

“Accordingly, the conclusions and recommendations of WHO [2011] provide adequate protective measures, and the ICNIRP guidelines limiting exposure to RF fields [ICNIRP, 1998, 2009b] continue to provide a sound, science-based standard for public health policy regarding the use of wireless phones by adults,” the researchers said.

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CELL PHONE CLASS ACTION REVIVAL REJECTED BY U.S. SUPREME COURT

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to revive a class action lawsuit – dismissed last year – that alleged mobile companies endangered consumers by covering up health effects and selling handsets without headsets.

The classification of mobile phones as a “possible carcinogen” by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) earlier this year threatened to reignite the long running case.

The lawsuit – *Farina v. Nokia* – named 19 defendants, including all of the major mobile phone manufacturers and carriers, as well as two trade associations, and demanded damages and wanted to force manufacturers to provide headsets to all customers.



Last year a U.S. Federal judge threw out the class-action lawsuit; however, on the same day of IARC’s announcement, the Supreme Court asked the Solicitor General if it should review the dismissal of the case.

The Supreme Court refusal to revive the lawsuit leaves in place the earlier Federal judge’s decision that the case was pre-empted by federal law because the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
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has the exclusive power to set the safety standards for radio frequency radiation not the mobile phone industry.

The court followed the advice of Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr., who recommended in [a written brief](#) that the court deny the request.

The Solicitor General disputed the main argument by Farina that the FCC regulation lacks pre-emptive effect because it was put in place only to meet a procedural obligation under an environmental law.

“Petitioner is also wrong in asserting (Pet.22) that the FCC’s RF rules do ‘not impose a substantive standard on wireless phones,’ ” Mr Verrilli wrote in the brief.

“When it adopted the current RF limits for cell phones, however, the Commission anticipated that its RF rules would create ‘a de facto compliance requirement’.”

“Consistent with that expectation, the FCC has informed us that, when wireless phone manufacturers have sought FCC authorization to sell wireless phones since the RF limits took effect, they have always certified that their phones do not exceed those limits.

“The Commission’s RF guidelines thus were not simply procedural in nature, but reflected the agency’s *substantive* determination that its standards for wireless phones would ‘provide a proper balance between the need to protect the public and workers

from exposure to potentially harmful RF electromagnetic fields and the requirement that industry be allowed to provide telecommunications services to the public in the most efficient and practical manner possible.”

State laws that could disrupt the balance managed by the FCC are pre-empted, Mr Verrilli concluded.

Pre-emption: the judicial principle asserting the supremacy of federal over state legislation on the same subject

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MOBILE MANUFACTURERS LAUNCH GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON RADIATION LEVELS

A new global website – sartick.com – has been launched to increase consumer awareness about the amount of radiation emitted by mobile phones.

“In response to requests for more information about the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) of mobile phone handsets, mobile manufacturers have developed a program to increase awareness of SAR information for consumers,” Michael Milligan, Mobile Manufacturers Forum (MMF) Secretary General said.

In 2001, manufacturers started to include SAR information in user guides and on company websites, but this program goes further and includes a new ‘SAR Tick’ label and more information in mobile phone manuals.

The screenshot shows the website [www.sartick.com](http://sartick.com). The header features the SAR logo with a green checkmark, the MMF logo, and navigation icons for a mobile phone, a person holding a phone, a hand holding a phone, and a person talking on a phone. A language dropdown menu is set to English. The main content area has a sidebar with links: Understanding SAR, What is the SAR Tick, Finding SAR Values, What the Experts Say, SAR Standards, and Reducing Your Exposure. The main text area contains a photo of a man and text explaining the program: "In response to requests for more information about the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) of mobile phone handsets, the Mobile Manufacturers Forum has developed a program to increase awareness of SAR information for the benefit of consumers. The original program commenced in 2001 with member manufacturers including SAR information in user guides and on company websites. While this information is still provided, we are extending the range of information provided as a result of a new international testing standard for devices used close to the body. In addition, we are introducing a 'SAR-Tick' in order to help consumers readily identify SAR information and know that their phone model has been tested for compliance with national and international standards." To the right, there is a news article titled "spotafake €40k of counterfeit phones and electronics seized in Ireland" with a link to <http://t.co/nfzvMSyW> and another link to <http://t.co/ppSHEEcu>.

www.sartick.com

“We are extending the range of information provided as a result of a new international test procedure for phones SAR when used close to the body,” Mr Milligan said.

“The website is one part of that effort, but in addition, manufacturers within the MMF will begin to include a SAR-Tick

label in user manuals in order to help consumers quickly and easily identify SAR information and to know that their phone model has been tested for compliance with national and international standards.”

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Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) is a measure of the amount of RF power deposited in the human head or body whenever a mobile phone or other wireless radio device transmits – which is shown in units of Watts/kilogram.

“We want consumers to be well informed about how to use and interpret SAR values,” Mr Milligan said.

Recently some groups have tried to promote SAR levels as a relative indicator of the safety of mobile phone models, but this is misleading, Mr Milligan said.

“What most people do not understand is mobile phones tend not to operate at maximum power levels during everyday use,” he said.

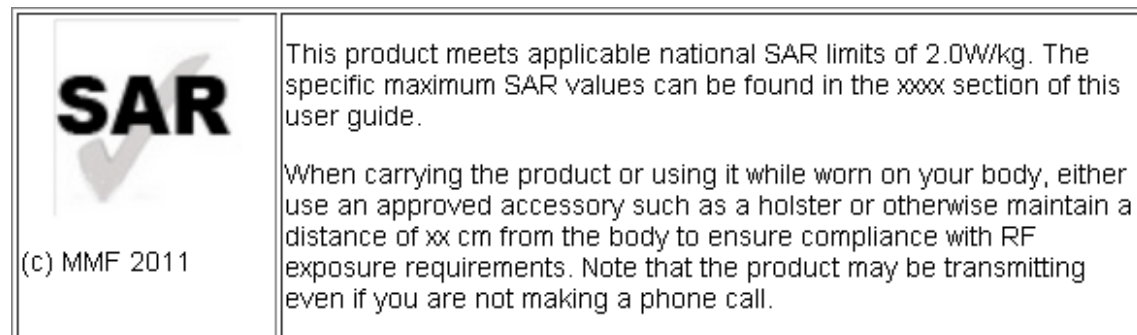
“The SAR values reported for each model of mobile phone tend to significantly overstate real-life exposure levels, as models of phones are tested at maximum power levels under laboratory conditions to ensure that they comply with the exposure limits in safety standards.”

“In order to avoid network interference, improve battery life and available call time, mobile

phones constantly adapt to the minimum power required to maintain a quality call.”

Manufacturers within the MMF will begin to use the new SAR Tick labels for models released late in 2011 onwards.

Manufacturers that are not members of the MMF can contact the MMF for licensing terms for the SAR Tick at enquiries@mmfai.info



Example 'SAR Tick' label.

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BLUETOOTH HANDS-FREE SYSTEMS THE KEY TO REDUCED DRIVING RISKS, SAYS US EXPERT

Voice activated or single button push Bluetooth hands-free systems – which do not require drivers to take their eyes off the road – are the key to safer mobile phone use, a leading US road safety expert and researcher told the Australian road safety community.

Professor Thomas Dingus, Director of the [Virginia Tech Transportation Institute](#), told the Australasian College of Road Safety [conference](#) in Melbourne that talking or listening on a mobile phone did not pose a significant risk for drivers.

The view that drivers were distracted by their conversations was not evident in VTTI naturalistic research and the key factor which led to distraction-related accidents was drivers taking their eyes off the road.

Prof Dingus' research has challenged traditional thinking

about the causes of crashes, in particular a ground-breaking [100-Car Naturalistic Study](#) that closely analysed the everyday driving of 241 people for more than a year.

Unobtrusive video cameras, eye trackers, and sensors were installed in the cars of participants ranging from 18 to 73-years-old to gauge the impacts of fatigue and distractions, such as mobile phones.

His research conducted for the US Department of Transport investigated real world driver behaviour and crashes and near crashes for more than a year resulting in 43,000 hours of driving data.

The study recorded 3,200,000 kilometres of driving, in which time the participants were involved in 82 crashes, 761 near-crashes and 8,295 incidents (a situation

where the driver made an evasive manoeuvre but not in as extreme a manner as a near-crash).



Video cameras, eye trackers, and sensors were installed in the cars of participants to gauge the impacts of fatigue and distractions, such as mobile phones.

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BLUETOOTH HANDS-FREE SYSTEMS THE KEY TO REDUCED DRIVING RISKS, SAYS US EXPERT

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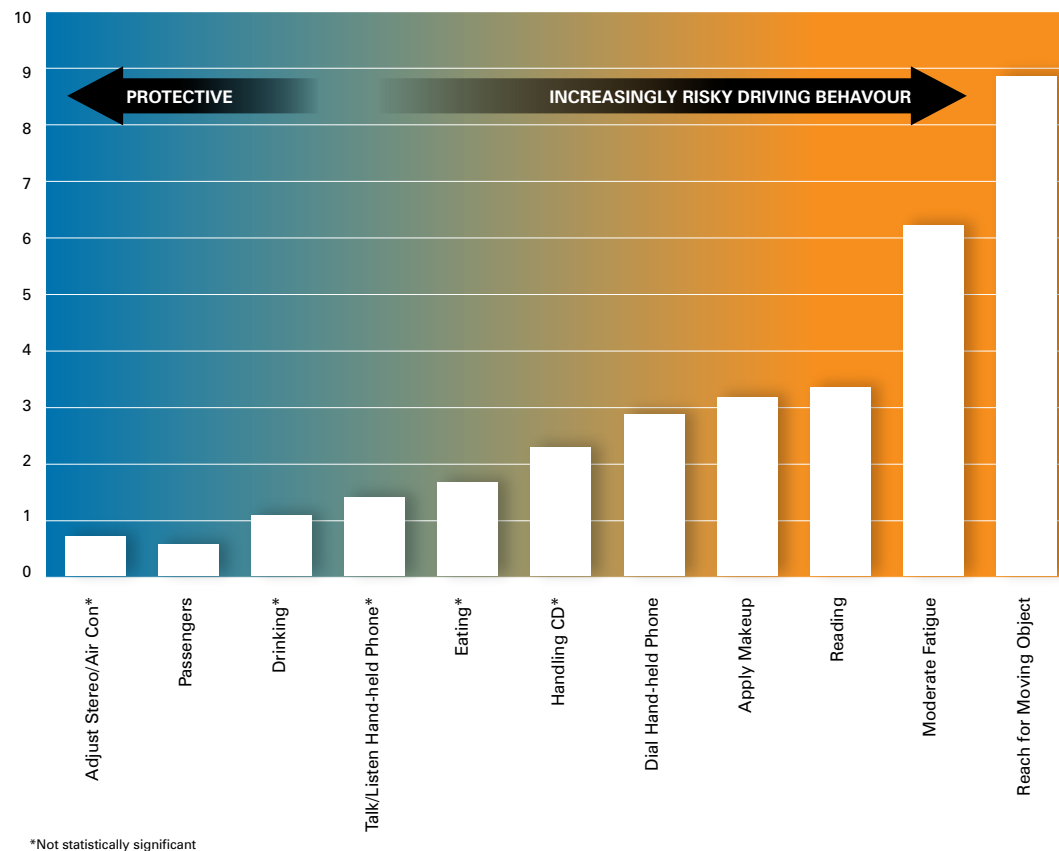
The Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) sponsored Dr Dingus' visit to Australia.

AMTA Chief Executive Officer, Chris Althaus, said it was important for lawmakers and traffic authorities to have the latest cutting-edge scientific research for evidence-based approaches when framing policies with the potential to save lives on the road.

"AMTA is committed to promoting safe and responsible use of mobile phones and Dr Dingus has pioneered new methods in studying driver distractions, which have the potential to give new insights into safer driving on our roads," he said.

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Relative Risk Estimate for Crash or Near Crash – Adult Drivers



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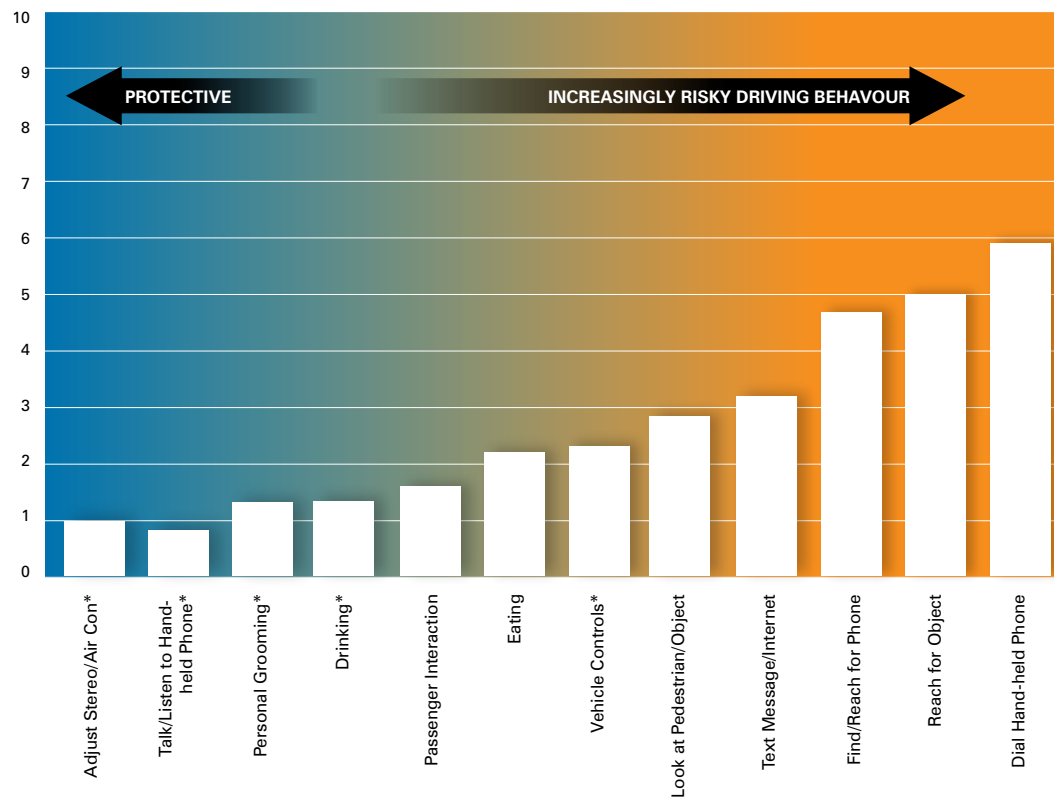
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BLUETOOTH HANDS-FREE SYSTEMS THE KEY TO REDUCED DRIVING RISKS, SAYS US EXPERT

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Relative Risk Estimate for Crash or Near Crash – Teen Drivers



*Not statistically significant

Dr Dingus' key findings he presented to the conference were:

- Ten per cent of drivers create around fifty per cent of the crash risk.
- Distraction and inattention are greatly underestimated as a cause of crashes.
- Teens are involved in crashes or near crashes while distracted four times more often than adults and this could lead to an epidemic if not addressed.
- Fatigue is a much larger crash risk problem than previously thought.
- However, if you are awake and looking at something you almost never hit it.

He also said the often-expressed view that talking on a mobile phone is worse than drunk driving was not supported by his extensive research.

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EME UPDATE



NZ RESEARCHERS CALL FOR SCHOOL PHONE BAN BECAUSE STUDENTS TEXT IN THEIR POCKETS

Researchers from Victoria University in New Zealand have called for mobile phones to be taken from students during school time because the way they use their phones could potentially affect their reproductive health.

The researchers surveyed students and principals from 137 schools in the Wellington region of New Zealand and conducted a review of studies into the effect of mobile phone use and fertility and concluded that based on the student's phone habits and current scientific evidence a ban was warranted.

"The fertility literature is inconclusive, but increasingly points towards significant time- and dose-dependent deleterious effects from cellphone exposure on sperm," the researchers said.



"There is sufficient evidence and expert opinion to warrant an enforced school policy removing cellphones from students during the day."

Despite a ban on phone use in class in all the schools surveyed the study found almost half of students sent text messages from inside their pants pockets. It also indicated more than half of students kept an active phone in their pocket for six or more hours a day.

"Forty two percent [of the students] reported texting from inside a pocket up to 120 times daily. The median estimate was 5 per day for both boys and girls (48.5% sent < 5/day, 11.2% sent 5/day, 40.3% sent > 5/day)," the [study](#) said.

"Almost 30% of cellphone owners reported carrying a switched-on (active) phone in a side pocket for more than ten hours every day of the week, with a further 24% doing so for 6-10 hours."

The researchers said mobile phone safety standards did not consider exposures from an active cell phone in the pocket but this was incorrect said AMTA.

AMTA CEO Chris Althaus said mobile phone safety tests simulated the phone operating at maximum power both against the head and next to the body to ensure they

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NZ RESEARCHERS CALL FOR SCHOOL PHONE BAN BECAUSE STUDENTS TEXT IN THEIR POCKETS

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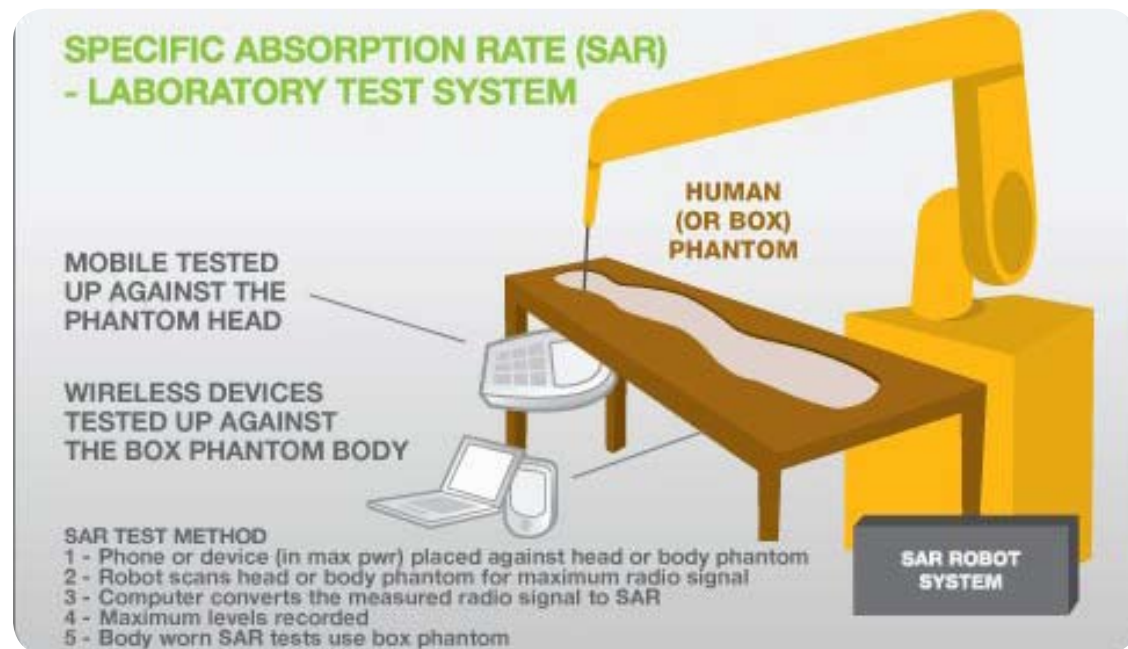
meet exposure limits set in national and international safety standards.

“All mobile phones sold in Australia have passed tests to ensure they do not exceed the standard even when operating at full power against the head and body in simulated positions near sensitive organs.”

“The tests represent a worst case scenario and the Australian standard also includes a 50 fold safety factor to ensure all users are adequately protected.”

“The international consensus of expert bodies and health authorities such as the World Health Organization is that no adverse health effects have been shown to be caused by mobile phones.”

A comprehensive [review](#) prepared for the European Commission on electromagnetic fields and fertility in 2007 found no evidence mobile



AMTA CEO Chris Althaus said mobile phone safety tests simulated the phone operating at maximum power both against the head and next to the body to ensure they meet exposure limits.

phones have an adverse effect on fertility.

“Overall, the literature indicates that exposure to low intensity fields, at

levels experienced by members of the public, should not have a significant impact on fertility or on development either before or after birth,” the review said.

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EME UPDATE



REVIEW SUGGESTS MOBILE PHONE USE EFFECTS MALE FERTILITY



One of the posters being displayed in men's toilets around the UK by the Radiation Research Trust.

There seems to be evidence male fertility is affected by the length of mobile phone use researchers from the University of Catania in Italy have said despite several limitations in the 22 studies they reviewed.

"The results show that human spermatozoa exposed to RF-EMR have decreased motility, morphometric abnormalities, and increased oxidative stress, whereas men using mobile phones have decreased sperm concentration, motility, normal morphology, and viability. These abnormalities seem to be directly related with the length of mobile phone use," the [report](#) published in the *Journal of Andrology* said.

"Nevertheless, more studies are necessary to provide stronger evidences that cellular phone use disturbs sperm and testicular

function since the existing literature has several limitations."

The authors say they looked at the "main" studies exploring the effects on the male reproductive system from mobile phones, which included six biological studies, four clinical studies and twelve animal studies.

Discussing the research in a recent [BBC interview](#) in the UK, Director of Medical Physics at Royal Berkshire Hospital Prof Malcolm Sperrin said he didn't believe a risk existed as there were no known health detriments from mobile phone use.

"It's impossible to say exclusively that a risk doesn't exist, I think we've just got to be a little bit sensible here and draw natural sensible conclusions," Prof Sperrin said.

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REVIEW SUGGESTS MOBILE PHONE USE EFFECTS MALE FERTILITY

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“People do quote temperature elevations, but the very fact that we wear clothes in cold weather is to increase the temperature of the skin. And likewise that people claim athermal effects, so things that have origins in things other than elevated temperature, but we’ve all been exposed to electromagnetic fields for millennia.”

“I don’t believe that that risk does exist, the emissions from these phones are very low indeed.”

He said there had also been no drop in birth rates or measured fertility in the population.

Prof Sperrin discussed the review in a recent [BBC4 interview](#) where he was asked his opinion on a [campaign](#) from activist group the Radiation Research Trust who are displaying [posters](#) in men’s public toilets around the UK that say medical experts are warning of

the effect on fertility from keeping a mobile phone in your trouser pocket.

“If the poster encourages people to do self-examination – then that’s actually a good thing,” Prof Sperrin said.

“But I think my worry about this is it says ‘medical experts warning’, well I don’t know if that is actually true. And what we don’t want to do is to encourage people to assume that there is a well proven medical link here because I don’t believe that there is.”

“I don’t know who these medical experts are but certainly nobody I’ve spoken to identifies a medical problem here.”

A recent [review](#) which considered all the possible environmental factors related to sperm quality, found studies involving mobile phones only ‘provided limited



Director of Medical Physics at Royal Berkshire Hospital Prof Malcolm Sperrin.

support’ for the hypothesis they adversely affect semen quality.

The review said the primary weaknesses of such studies were the large natural variation in semen quality not only between men but across time within the same man, exposure assessment, selection bias, and a lack of knowledge about mechanisms.

Lifestyle factors such as stress, obesity, occupation and alcohol and tobacco use are all known to affect sperm quality.

EME UPDATE



UK GOVERNMENT RESEARCH FINDS STUDENT WI-FI EXPOSURES WELL BELOW SAFETY LIMITS

Classroom measurements show that children in UK schools are exposed to Wi-Fi signals at much lower levels than lab tests predicted, an investigation by the UK Health Protection Agency (HPA) has found.

“A systematic programme of research has been undertaken to assess exposures of children from wireless computer networking equipment used in schools,” a [HPA report](#) of the project said.

“The data gathered during the project continue to reinforce the position adopted by the HPA at the beginning of the project that exposures are small in relation to the ICNIRP [International

Commission for Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection] guidelines and less than those from mobile phones.”

The researchers measured laptops and Wi-Fi access points in a laboratory and then took measurements in 12 classrooms from 6 primary and secondary schools to assess the proportion of time the devices transmit during typical school lessons and found it was much lower than their previous estimations.

“The duty factor investigation shows that laptops and access points transmit for only small

proportions of the time during typical lessons less than 1% of the time for laptops and less than 12% for access points,” the report said.

“This means that the time-averaged exposure arising from the use of laptops in schools is even lower than those when laptops were measured under controlled conditions in the laboratory.”



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UK GOVERNMENT RESEARCH FINDS STUDENT WI-FI EXPOSURES WELL BELOW SAFETY LIMITS

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The HPA launched the investigation in 2007 after fears over the potential risks of Wi-Fi led some schools in the UK to order their removal from classrooms. The Professional Association of Teachers in the UK also issued a statement calling for wireless networks to be suspended in schools until an inquiry was launched.

The investigation reaffirmed the HPA's position that Wi-Fi signals are safe.

"On the basis of current scientific information, exposures from Wi-

Fi equipment satisfy international guidelines," the HPA's said.

"There is no consistent evidence of health effects from RF exposures below guideline levels and no reason why schools and others should not use Wi-Fi equipment."

The research results will be considered by the UK [Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation](#) in its current health risk review of exposures to radiofrequency fields, which is expected to be completed in 2012.



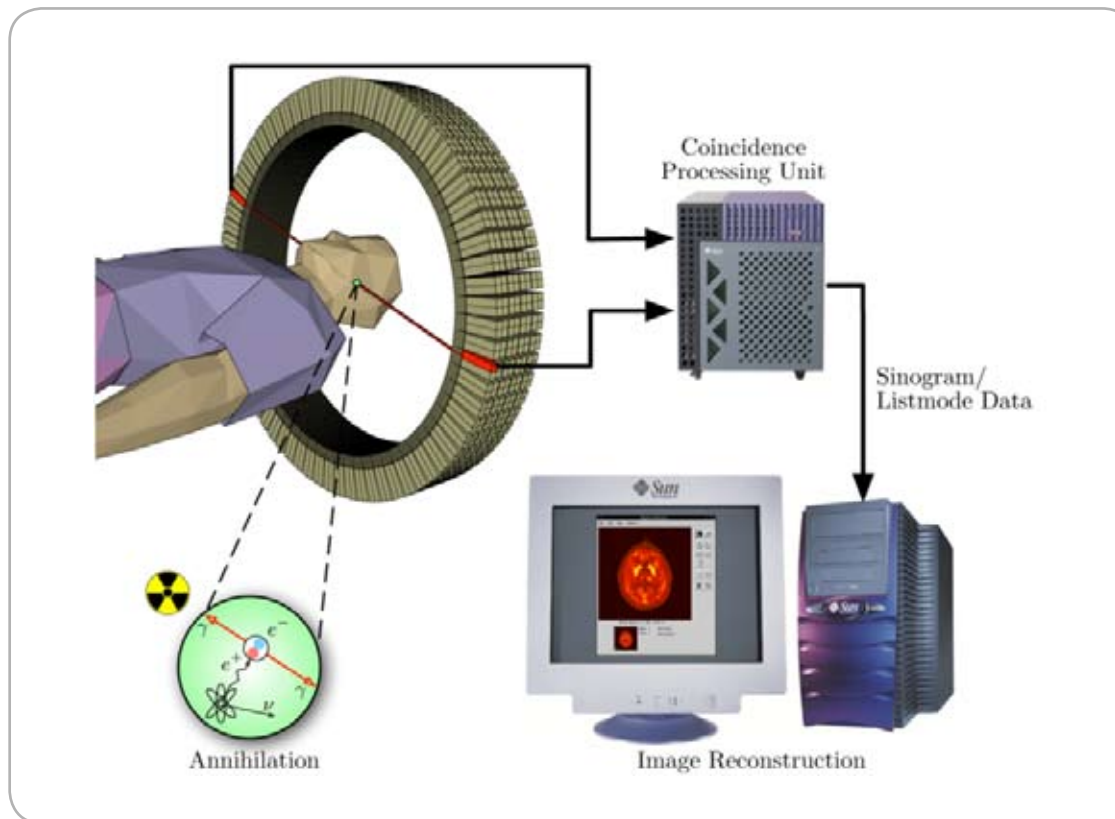
HPA researchers measured laptops and Wi-Fi access points in a laboratory and in UK classrooms and found children's exposures well below the safe exposure limits.

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EME UPDATE



MOBILE PHONES REDUCE RATHER THAN INCREASE BRAIN ACTIVITY



Positron emission tomography (PET) is a nuclear medicine imaging technique that produces a three-dimensional image or picture of functional processes in the body.

Mobile phone radiation suppresses glucose metabolism – a measure of brain activity – in the area of the brain close to the antenna, according to Finnish researchers. The result is the opposite outcome to that of heavily publicised US research that suggested brain activity increased because of mobile phone use earlier this year. “Our results show that short-term mobile phone exposure can locally suppress brain energy metabolism in humans,” the Finnish researchers concluded.

Researchers from the University of Turku in Finland exposed 13 healthy young men to mobile phone signals for 33 minutes, which resulted in a local suppressive effect on brain glucose consumption.

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EME UPDATE



MOBILE PHONES REDUCE RATHER THAN INCREASE BRAIN ACTIVITY

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The [results](#) published in *Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism* are contrary to the US National Institutes of Health study published earlier this year. This result was [widely reported](#) as evidence mobile phone signals can affect the brain and raised concerns about the subtle effects of mobile phone radiation.

One [article](#) from UK paper, *The Sun*, went as far as claiming that the earlier research showed mobile phones kill brain cells and may boost the chances of developing cancer.

Like the earlier study, the Finish study used a high-resolution [Positron Emission Tomography](#) (PET) scanner to analysis the level of glucose metabolism, but they also measured skin and ear canal temperature and mental alertness.



The researchers said their study had advantages over the earlier research including “especially accurate SAR assessment, well-controlled exposure setup, measurement of temperature in the head region, and objective monitoring of the subject’s alertness state.”

Based on this research, it is not yet possible to draw conclusions regarding health hazards of mobile phone radiation the researchers said.

The Finnish Agency for Technology and Innovation funded the research.

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EME UPDATE



CHILDREN ENCOURAGED TO REDUCE MOBILE PHONE EXPOSURE BY HEALTH CANADA

Canada's federal health department has updated their advice to remind mobile phone users and encourage parents to reduce their children's exposure to radiofrequency (RF) energy by limiting the length of calls, using hands-free or sending text messages until more long-term research had been completed.

"Health Canada reminds cell phone users that they can take practical measures to reduce RF exposure. The department also encourages parents to reduce their children's RF exposure from cell phones since children are typically more sensitive to a variety of environmental agents," a Health Canada [press release](#) said.

The advice reflects the limited long term research on the effects of mobile phones, specifically for children, [according to James McNamee](#), division chief for health effects and assessments in Health Canada's bureau of consumer and clinical radiation protection.

"The advice to Canadians is largely the same. The science hasn't really changed. Health Canada's just being a little more proactive on this," McNamee said.

"Really it's more proactive in encouraging cellphone users to find ways to limit their exposure, and ... to empower parents to make healthy choices to reduce their children's exposure."



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CHILDREN ENCOURAGED TO REDUCE MOBILE PHONE EXPOSURE BY HEALTH CANADA

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“We want to make people aware that there is some uncertainty in the science, particularly for children. Because there have been no long-term studies, or very, very few long-term studies with children,” McNamee said.

Health Canada said the International Agency for Research on Cancer’s (IARC) recent [classification](#) of radiofrequency fields showed there was still some uncertainty in the science on mobile phone safety.

“IARC’s recent classification of RF energy as “possibly carcinogenic to humans” is an acknowledgement that limited data exists that suggests RF energy might cause cancer,” Health Canada said.

“At present, the scientific evidence is far from conclusive and more research is required.”

McNamee said as a precaution children should limit their exposure because their developing bodies are often more at risk to environmental agents.

“They are often more sensitive to a variety of agents than adults. They’re not little people, in essence. Their brains are still developing, their immune systems are still developing. So you can’t say the risk would be equal for a small adult as for a child, per se,” McNamee said.

AMTA CEO Chris Althaus said Health Canada’s advice was in line with [recommendations](#) from the

World Health Organization (WHO).

“AMTA agrees with the WHO that if people are concerned they can easily reduce their exposure to mobile phone radio signals by limiting the length of calls, or using hands-free devices,” Mr Althaus said.

WHAT CONSUMERS CAN DO:

Limit the length of cell phone calls

Replace cell phone calls with text messages or use “hands-free” devices

Encourage children under the age of 18 to limit their cell phone usage

[\(Health Canada’s advice\)](#)

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NO EVIDENCE KIDS ARE AT RISK FROM PHONE TOWERS BUT PUBLIC REASSURANCE A CHALLENGE

German scientists have found that despite the lack of evidence of a link between radio transmission towers and brain tumours or childhood leukaemia, this view is at odds with the public's view and therefore it will be a challenge to reassure the public about their safety.

Peter Wiedemann from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and Holger Schütz of the Jülich Research Center in Germany [reviewed](#) all published papers on childhood brain tumours and leukaemia in children as well as experimental studies on cognition and general health and found "no or only scant evidence that exposure to base stations poses a hazard to children."

"At present, a critical evaluation of the existing scientific evidence on children's health and RF [radio frequency] EMF [electromagnetic

fields] exposure does not support the notion that cell phones are a risk factor to children," Wiedemann and Schütz said.

The researchers explained one of the challenges is that it's impossible for science to prove a negative, that is, it's not possible to show that something is not happening. It can only look for solid evidence of health effects.

"Communication is especially exacerbated by the fact that current risk assessments cannot exclude that RF EMF might have adverse health effects [to] due remaining knowledge gaps, but especially due to the impossibility to prove a non-effect," Wiedemann and Schütz said.

This poses problems for those trying to reassure the public, because warning people appears better than reassuring people and

because people are biased toward negative information, they said.

Wiedemann and Schütz suggest the following three steps to help to reassure the public:

1. Try to make clear the difference between a hazard (the potential to cause harm) and a risk (likelihood of harm occurring).
2. Emphasise the overall trend in scientific evidence is towards no health risks.
3. Be transparent about both the pros and the cons for being cautious and disclose all the scientific evidence – including the remaining uncertainties – on which the opinion is based.



SENSITIVE PEOPLE NOT PHYSIOLOGICALLY DAMAGED BY MOBILE PHONE EMISSIONS



Lead Researcher Dr James Rubin said at present there is no reliable evidence to suggest that people with IEI-EMF experience unusual physiological reactions as a result of exposure to EMF.

A comprehensive analysis of scientific studies conducted on individuals who claim to be especially sensitive has found no evidence they suffer physiological damage from exposure to radio signals from mobile phones or base stations.

Electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS) is a controversial illness in which people report symptoms, such as headaches, skin irritations and fatigue after exposure to electrical fields or radio waves. The condition is also known as Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance attributed to electromagnetic fields (IEI-EMF).

A [2001 survey](#) found that people related their symptoms most frequently to mobile phone base stations (74%), followed by mobile phones (36%), cordless phones (29%) and power lines (27%).

However, the World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a [fact sheet](#) stating there is no connection between mobile phones and their base stations to electrical hypersensitivity.

“The majority of studies indicate that EHS individuals cannot detect EMF exposure any more accurately than non-EHS individuals. Well controlled and conducted double-blind studies have shown that symptoms were not correlated with EMF exposure,” the WHO said.

Researchers led by [Dr James Rubin](#) from King’s College London’s [mobile phone research unit](#), conducted a comprehensive [review](#) of the existing scientific evidence to try and find signs of such damage.

The researchers also included Rosa Nieto-Hernandez from King’s College, Lena Hillert of the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, Eric van Rongen of the Health Council of the Netherlands, and Gunnhild Oftedal of Sør-Trøndelag University College in Norway.

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SENSITIVE PEOPLE NOT PHYSIOLOGICALLY DAMAGED BY MOBILE PHONE EMISSIONS

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“At present, there is no reliable evidence to suggest that people with IEI-EMF experience unusual physiological reactions as a result of exposure to EMF. This supports suggestions that EMF is not the main cause of their ill health,” Dr Rubin concluded.

“We included studies in this review if they: included a discrete set of participants who reported symptoms that were explicitly attributed to the presence of electromagnetic fields or proximity to electrical equipment; deliberately exposed the participants to two or more conditions involving different low levels of electromagnetic fields; conducted the exposures single or double-blind; and used one or more objective outcome measures

during or after each of the exposures,” he said.

They also included studies published in languages other than English as well as studies published in the non-peer-reviewed literature.

Another [recent review](#) has concluded the phenomenon known as the nocebo effect, where negative expectations lead to undesirable physiological outcomes, is a likely explanation for the symptoms experienced by sufferers.

The WHO fact sheet also says there is some evidence to show negative expectations could be responsible for the symptoms experienced.

“There are also some indications that these symptoms may be due to



pre-existing psychiatric conditions as well as stress reactions as a result of worrying about EMF health effects, rather than the EMF exposure itself.”

EME UPDATE



IN BRIEF

IARC THE FOCUS OF ANNUAL SCIENCE AND WIRELESS EVENT

The International Agency for Research on Cancer's classification of Radiofrequency (RF) Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) as "possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B)" was the focus of the "[Science and Wireless](#)" conference held this November in Melbourne.

Dr Robert Baan, the IARC officer in charge of the evaluation process from Lyon in France, was one of several distinguished guests who spoke at the forum hosted by Swinburne University's Brain and Psychological Sciences Research Centre (BPsyC).

Dr Baan gave some insight into how the IARC working group came to their decision and responded to questions from guests including scientists, regulators, industry specialists and members of the community during a lively panel discussion.

Other panel speakers included Director of the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, Professor

Malcolm Sim, CEO of the Australian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Agency, Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson and science writer from The Australian Leigh Dayton.

Footage of the event will be posted online [here](#).

AUSTRALIAN SURVEYS FIND INCREASED CONCERN ABOUT HEALTH RISKS FROM MOBILE PHONES

Two recent surveys of the Australian public have found mobile phone users have become more worried about the health risks associated with using their phones.

Australia's Biggest Health Check, an online survey of more than 30,000 women, found one in four Australian women had cut back their talk time amid fears they are harming their health.

Their [survey](#) found 25 per cent of women over 15 had cut down their usage of mobile phones.

A similar [study](#) by Roy Morgan research found 37 per cent of mobile phone users agreed with the statement "I am worried about health risks of mobile phones" in 2011, up from 29 per cent five years ago.

Roy Morgan Industry Director Andrew Braun said women (40%) were more concerned than men (33%) and those aged 35 to 49 (42%) were also more likely to agree with the statement.

"With this rising trend, and the World Health Organisation's recent announcement that the electromagnetic fields produced by mobile phones are possibly carcinogenic to humans, it will be interesting to see how mobile phone manufactures react to this issue," Mr Braun said.

AMTA CEO Chris Althaus said it was an agency of the WHO called IARC that made the assessment and their role is only to look for potential dangers not to assess the health risk.

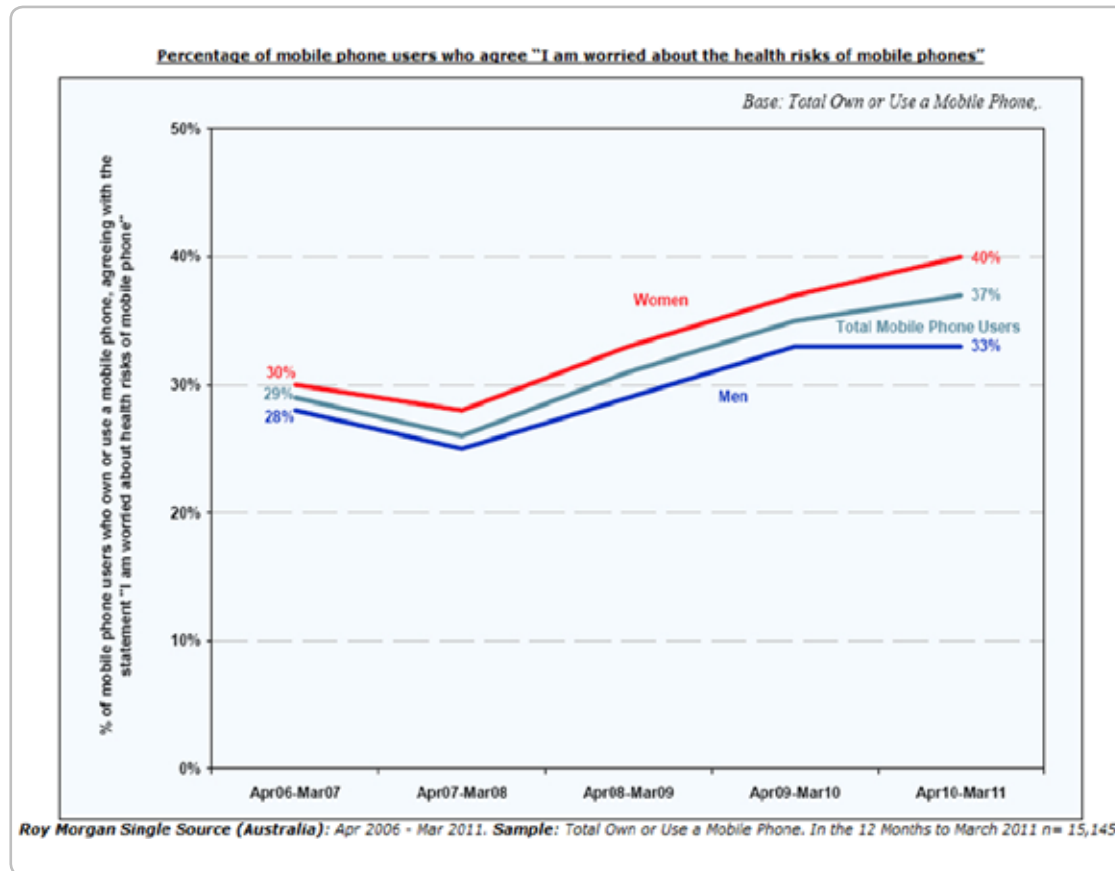
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IN BRIEF



"It's understandable some mobile phone users may be concerned after the International Agency for Research on Cancer's classification of mobile phone signals, but they should note the more recent advice of the WHO's International Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) Project," Mr Althaus said.

"Although IARC has said a link with brain cancer from long term mobile phone use is possible, more recently the WHO has clarified in its latest [factsheet](#) that no adverse health effects have been shown to be caused by mobile phones."

"AMTA agrees with the WHO's factsheet that if people are concerned they can easily reduce their exposure to mobile phone radio signals by limiting the length of calls, or using hands-free devices."

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IN BRIEF

EMERGENCY SMARTPHONE APP TO DELIVER EARLY WARNINGS ON NATURAL DISASTERS

The Australian government will fund a new emergency smartphone application to warn mobile phone users about impending natural disasters in an attempt to reduce unnecessary triple-zero calls during emergencies.

Federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland who announced the new app said it was an efficient way to deliver timely information in a disaster without people having to call emergency services.

“Nearly half of all calls to triple zero are non-urgent calls and when a disaster happens, calls are often requests for information about the disaster,” Mr McClelland told [The Australian](#).

“It’s important the community knows where to find information during a disaster to take the pressure off triple zero, so that those who need urgent fire, ambulance and police assistance are not held up.”

Mr McClelland said the new app would provide real-time information about disasters directly to user’s phones, and would take advantage of a smartphone’s additional features.

“The use of GPS technology through this app could allow location-specific information to be fed to users,” Mr McClelland said.

Last year, there were 8.9 million triple-zero calls across the country. During December and January, at the height of Queensland’s natural disasters, operators took up to 50,000 calls above the monthly average.



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