Poster Presentation
The Role of Cell Phone Involvement in Traffic Crashes
Wenhao Xu
Faculty Mentor: Mei Wen
Health Services Management

Driving and using cell-phones both require a great deal of concentration. “Cell phone involved” includes all behaviors drivers were engaging in with their cell phones when crashes occurred: talking; typing or reading text or email; dialing phone numbers; using music, navigation or other apps; looking at phone; and reaching for the phone if it was ringing. Cell-phone involved crashes are a big issue, but it is hard to know the true scope of the issue, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). This study aims to explore the role of cell-phone involvement in traffic crashes in the United States in the past ten years by examining different sources of information and publication to better understand the injuries, disabilities and deaths associated with the crashes as well as the economic burden of the injuries. With no reliable method to accurately reflect or capture the full problem, under-reporting is a big issue in understanding the magnitude of the problem.