Brief summary

Redmayne, M., Smith, A., & Abramson, M. (2011). Adolescent in-school cellphone habits: a census of rules, survey of their effectiveness, and fertility implications. *Reproductive Toxicology, 32*, 354-359.

A New Zealand study examining possible fertility implications of students’ cellphone habits in schools has been published in Reproductive Toxicology. The study, carried out in 2009, found that a majority of 10 to 13 year-olds carried a switched-on cellphone in a side-pocket more than 6 hours daily, and more than two in five regularly sent texts from *within* a pocket. A high-exposure group of risk-takers was identified who, against school rules, carried the phone in a pocket more than 10 hours daily, and had high SMS-texting rates, often sending texts from inside the pocket. Because of this frequent use close to the reproductive organs and the accompanying risk of radio-frequency exposure exceeding the permitted limits, the authors briefly reviewed the literature on the impact of cellphone radiation on fertility. As a result, they report that research increasingly points toward significant time-and dose-dependent negative effects on sperm, making it advisable for schools to have *and enforce* policies that remove cellphones from students’ pockets during school. The authors conclude that some students’ current behaviour may impair their future fertility and/or reproductive integrity, and recommend educating school communities on methods and reasons for reducing their exposure to cellphone radiation.