

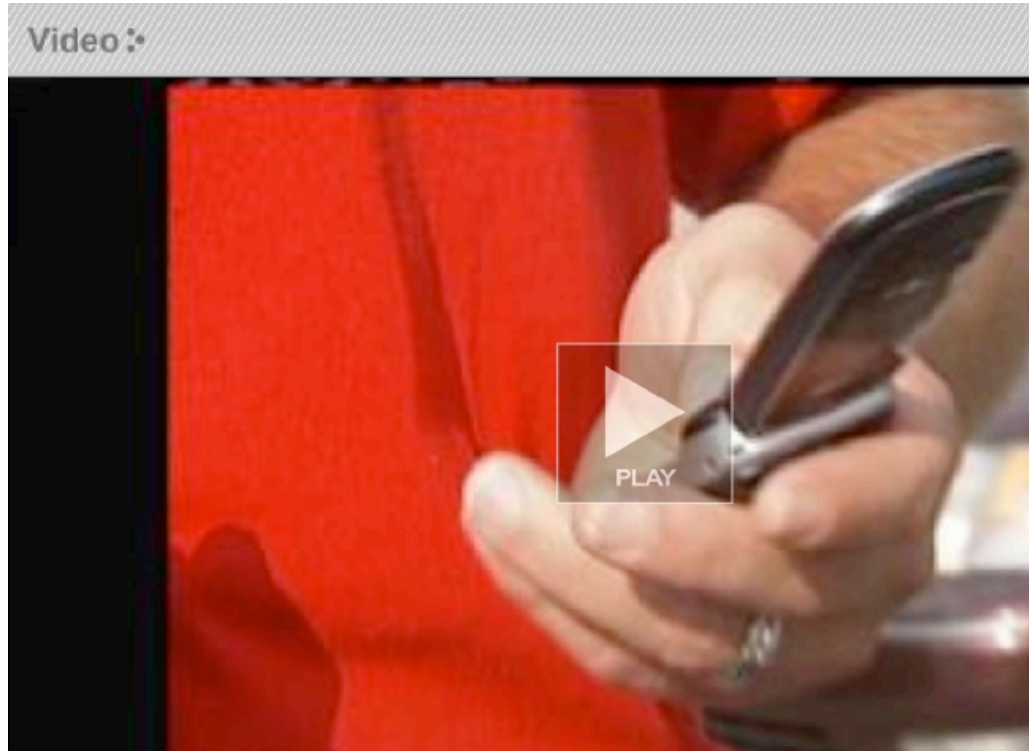
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Illinois Citizen's Utility Board To Help Everyone Save On Cell Phone Bills

By Teresa Woodard
August 18, 2009



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analyzed almost seven thousand cell phone bills over the last 11 months, and discovered 73 percent of Illinois cell users are overpaying.

"It ended up being about \$27 a month that the average person could save, so that is significant," says Patrick Deignan, a Communications Assistant with the Citizens Utility Board. "It's about \$331 dollars a year."

Most people are paying for services they are not using.

"The average bill has about 439 unused minutes on it each month. That's 7 hours and 19 minutes, almost a whole workday of unused minutes. That's longer than a flight from Chicago to Iceland," he says laughing. "You can do a lot in 7 hours and 19 minutes."

"Besides that we also see that people were paying for a lot of unnecessary services. An example would be making 411 calls. And a lot of people were paying for roadside assistance, so you can cut that out and save yourself 4 or 5 dollars a month"

The CUB offers a free cell phone bill analysis on its website. They hope Illinois residents will take full advantage, because that is who the group serves, but the offer stands for residents in all states.

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"It will automatically analyze it for you, tell you how to save, tell you if there's a better plan for you, it's free, it's easy. It can't hurt," says Diegnan. "We hope this report will spur cell phone companies to have more transparency in billing so people know what they're paying for. If you buy a 40 dollar plan, you want your bill to say 40 dollars on it."

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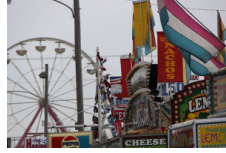
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