

SAFETY FACTS



- Car crashes are the leading cause of death for junior high teens
- More than one passenger ages 8 through 12 is killed in a motor vehicle crash every day in the U.S.
- Of the almost 400 junior high kids killed in 2009, 29 percent were not wearing safety belts and 22 percent were riding in a front seat
- Research shows children are 28 percent more likely to be injured in a front seat than if they had been seated in the back
- Teen drivers significantly impact young passengers:
 - Teen drivers are twice as likely to have children in the front seat than adult drivers
 - Novice teen drivers are 3 times more likely to have unrestrained child passengers than adult drivers
- Kids riding with drivers ages 16 to 19 are twice as likely to die in a crash than if riding with a driver age 25 and older
- Safety belt use begins to slip at age 11
- Studies show that junior high kids are almost twice as likely to be wearing safety belts when adults in the car are buckled up
- Safety experts recommend that children under the age of 13 always ride in the back seat
- The front seat presents two dangers to junior high kids: They can be badly hurt or killed if they are too close when the airbag deploys; and they are more likely to be hurt in a crash, because most wrecks involve the front end of the vehicle
- Half of all crashes happen five to ten minutes from home