



FACTS and TALKING POINTS

GOAL/POSITIONING

NHTSA's goal for child passenger safety is to make sure all parents and caregivers are correctly using the right car seats (rear-facing car seats, forward-facing car seats, booster seats, or seat belts) for their children's ages and sizes.

During Child Passenger Safety Week, September 18-24, 2016, many communities will have Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians on-hand to provide education on how to use car seats, booster seats, and seat belts for children. Technicians can also help educate consumers about choosing the right car seat for their child, the importance of registering that car seat with its manufacturer, and what to expect if the seat is subject to a safety recall. The week concludes with National Seat Check Saturday on September 24, when certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians across the country will be available at car seat events to offer advice and instruction to parents and caregivers.

KEY STATISTICS

Lives lost and injuries

- Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children.
- Every 33 seconds, one child under the age of 13 is involved in a crash.
- From 2010 to 2014, there were 3,181 children under 13 killed and about 601,000 children injured in car crashes.
- In 2014 alone, an estimated 112,000 children under 13 were injured as passengers in car crashes.
- On average, nearly 2 children under 13 were killed and 308 children were injured every day in 2014 while riding in cars, SUVs, pickups, and vans.
- From 2010 to 2014, there were 1,499 "tweens" (8 to 14) killed in cars, vans, and SUVs.
- In 2014, the age group 4 to 7 had the highest number of fatalities (213) among children.
- In 2014, over one-third (34%) of children under 13 killed in car crashes were not in car seats, booster seats, or seat belts.

Car seats, booster seats, and seat belts save lives

- In 2014, among children under 5, car seats saved an estimated 252 lives.
 - An additional 37 children could have survived if car seat use was at 100 percent.

Car seats work best when used correctly

- In passenger cars, child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers. For infants and toddlers in light trucks, the corresponding reductions were 58 percent and 59 percent, respectively.
- Most parents are confident they have correctly installed their child's car seat, but in most cases (59%) the seat has not been installed correctly.

Child passenger safety laws

- For the past 30 years, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. territories have had laws requiring children to be buckled while riding in cars.
- Some States now require kids to ride in appropriate car seats or booster seats until age 9.



Remember

- Failure to read and carefully follow the installation instructions included with a car seat as well as instructions in the vehicle owner's manual can lead to incorrect installation, exposing a child passenger to the risk of injury or death in a crash.
- All children under 13 should always ride in the back seats.

For the purpose of this document, the following terms and definitions are used:

- Children killed in car crashes are defined as passenger car, van, pickup, and SUV passengers under 13 killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes.
- Tweens killed in car crashes are defined as passenger car, van, pickup, and SUV passengers 8 to 14 years old killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes.