

Child Passenger Safety: What You NEED to Know!



THE FACTS:



- Motor vehicle traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for Hispanic children ages 1 year and older.*
- Among kids ages 3 and under, black or Hispanic children were 10 times more likely to be unrestrained than their white counterparts.**
- Seat belts reduce serious crash-related injuries and deaths by about half*
- Kids under 13 should always sit in the back seat.**
- Children are 12 times more distracting to the driver than talking on a cell phone while at the wheel.***

*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
**American Journal of Preventative Medicine, 2012
*** Monash University Accident Research Center

American Academy of Pediatrics Car Seat Guidelines

- Children should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat as long as possible, up to the limits of their car safety seat. This will include virtually all children under 2 years of age and most children up to age 4.
- Once they have been turned around, children should remain in a forward-facing car safety seat up to that seat's weight and length limits. Most seats can accommodate children up to 60 pounds or more.
- When they exceed these limits, child passengers should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until they can use a seat belt that fits correctly.
- Once they exceed the booster limits and are large enough to use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use a lap and shoulder belt.
- All children younger than 13 years should be restrained in the rear seats of vehicles for optimal protection.

Top Safety Tips



- **Buckle up** - always, always, always! All occupants need their own lap and shoulder seatbelt.
- Follow Child Restraint System guidelines (safercar.gov) for your child's age, height & weight.
- Talk to kids about not distracting the driver!
- Leave a purse or other visual cue in the backseat so kids are never left in hot cars.
- Use your vehicle's built-in safety features.
- Check your vehicle identification number (VIN) periodically for recalls (nhtsa.gov/recalls).