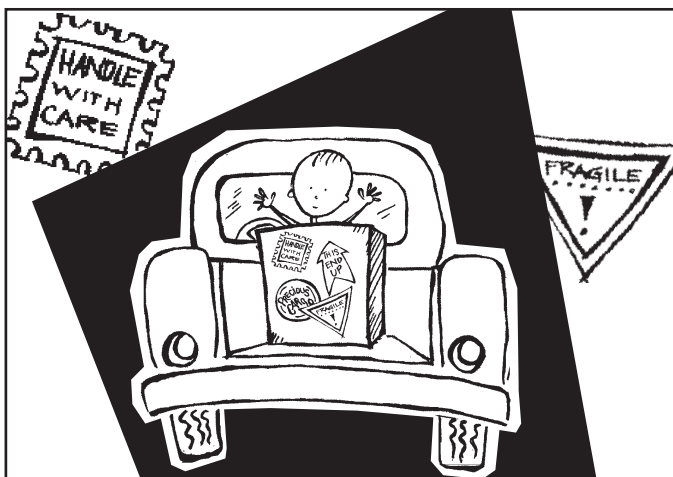


# KIDS AREN'T CARGO

## Children Placed At High Risk In Pickup Trucks



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) warns that kids don't belong in the cargo areas of pickup trucks. A number of states already have laws or restrictions on carrying passengers in the cargo area of a pickup truck.

Trucks are becoming a popular form of transportation for family travel. Unfortunately, occupant protection inside the cab is limited by space, number of safety belts, and the fact that pickup trucks are not required to meet all passenger car safety standards. Space limitations often lead parents to allow children to ride in the cargo area.

Each year more than 200 people die as a result of riding in the cargo area of pickup trucks. More than half of these deaths are children and teenagers.

### The Facts

- The cargo area of a pickup truck, with or without a canopy, has proven to be a source of injuries and death to children and adults. In addition to the possibility of being ejected, passengers riding in covered cargo beds are exposed to carbon monoxide from exhaust fumes.
- Ejection from the cargo area during a collision was the major cause of injury and death for pickup truck passengers.
- Most noncollision deaths were caused by falls due to swerving, braking, or rough roads. In one third of these cases, the victim was standing up, sitting on the tailgate, or "horsing around."

These safety tips from NHTSA are aimed at making your next ride in a pickup safer:

- Child safety seats must not be used on side-facing jump seats.
- Child safety seats must have at least 80 percent of the safety seat base on the bench seat. Installing a tether strap to the vehicle frame may prevent the safety seat from moving too far forward and the child from hitting his or her head on the front seat in a crash.
- A rear-facing child seat must never be secured in either the center or right front seat, if a pickup is equipped with a passenger air bag and does not have an air bag on-off switch.
- If there is no other seating available, children over one year of age must be properly secured in a forward-facing child restraint or vehicle lap and shoulder belt positioned as far back from the dashboard as possible.
- All children should ride in properly installed child safety seats or lap and shoulder belts appropriate for their size.