**TALKING POINTS**



**GOAL/POSITIONING**

The goal is to make sure all parents and caregivers are properly securing all children 12 and under in the right car restraint (rear-facing car seat, forward-facing car seat, booster seat or seat belt) for their age and size.

During Child Passenger Safety Week (Sept. 16-22) many communities will have certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians available to provide free, hands-on car seat education and inspections. The week concludes with National Seat Check Saturday on Sept. 22, when certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will be available at car seat events across the country to offer advice and instruction.

**BACKGROUND**

**Car seats, booster seats, and seat belts save lives and offer the best protection for children in a crash when used properly.**

•     Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 1 to 13 years old.[[1]](#footnote-1)

• During the 5-year period from 2006 to 2010, 4,028 children age 12 and younger were killed in car crashes as passenger vehicle occupants. In addition, an estimated 660,000 children were injured, more than the population of Boston, Massachusetts.

• Based on NHTSA crash data in 2010, on average, nearly 2 kids 12 and younger were killed and 325 were injured every day while riding in passenger vehicles.

* In 2010, about 4 out of 10 children (passenger vehicle occupants) killed in crashes were not secured/restrained by car seats or seat belts.

 **Car seats work best when used correctly.**

•     According to NHTSA, approximately 9,611 children 4 and younger have been saved from 1975 to 2010 by the proper use of car seats.

•     In 2010, among children 4 and younger in cars, an estimated 303 lives were saved by restraint use.

•     Car seats reduce the likelihood of an infant (under 1 year old) being killed by 71 percent, and toddlers (1 to 4 years old) by 54 percent in passenger cars.

•     All 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have laws requiring children to be restrained while riding in cars– some States now require kids to ride in an appropriate car seat or booster seat until age 9.

* Failure to read and carefully follow the installation instructions included with the car seat as well as those in the vehicle owner's manual can lead to incorrect installation, exposing child passengers to grave risk of serious injury or death in a crash.

**ADDITIONAL DATA**

NHTSA provides local and national child passenger safety data through the National Center for Statistics and Analysis

* Publications by category:

 [www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Cats/ViewCatalogbyCategory.aspx](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CElizabeth.Graziosi%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C8XYX0G8X%5Cwww-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov%5CCats%5CViewCatalogbyCategory.aspx)

* If the data you are looking for cannot be found in published reports, you do have the option for submitting a customized data run through the Web site: [www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Cats/index.aspx](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CElizabeth.Graziosi%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CX5PU5IWB%5Cwww-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov%5CCats%5Cindex.aspx)
1. Based on 2007 figures from the National Center for Health Statistics [↑](#footnote-ref-1)