



# Car Seat Safety



## Know the facts:

In 2003, approximately 1,591 child occupants ages 14 and under died in motor vehicle crashes. More than 200,000 were injured. About 40 percent of motor vehicle occupants ages 14 and under who were killed in fatal crashes in 2002 were unrestrained.

Child safety seats, when correctly installed and used, reduce the risk of death by up to 71 percent. While 96 percent of caregivers believe they install and use child safety seats correctly, studies show that more than 82 percent of all child safety seats are improperly installed. To make sure you've installed your children's safety seat correctly and to find a child safety seat inspection station near you, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Web site.

## Make sure everyone in your family rides in the car safely by following these guidelines:

- Infants should ride in a rear-facing infant seat until they are at least one-year-old and weigh at least 20 pounds.
- Use a convertible or forward facing safety seat until the child outgrows it - up to about four and when the child weighs 40 pounds.
- All children who have outgrown child safety seats should be properly restrained in booster seats until they are at least eight years old, unless they are 4-feet 9-inches tall.
- All children ages 12 and under should ride buckled up in the back seat.
- Do a safety belt check every time you get in the car. Take turns having your children call everyone's name in the car. Have each person answer with "check" if they are securely buckled up in a safety seat, booster seat, or a lap-shoulder belt.



Adult safety belts alone do not sufficiently protect children weighing less than 80 pounds from injury in a crash. Children can't ride comfortably and remain properly restrained until they are tall enough for the knees to bend over the edge of the seat when their backs are resting firmly against the back seat. If the shoulder portion of the lap-shoulder belt comes across the neck, rather than the chest, they should be in a booster seat.

Weigh your children to determine if they should be riding in a child safety seat, booster seat, or if they are old enough to use a lap-shoulder belt. Create a fun chart with each family member's name and weight. This way your family can visually keep track of car safety needs by weight requirements, whether they should be using a safety seat, booster seat or lap-shoulder belt. Check and update your children's weights regularly.

Our Family Seat Belt Chart  
Date: 6/01

Mom	123 lbs.	lap-shoulder belt
John	51 lbs.	booster seat
Dad	170 lbs.	lap-shoulder belt

Call the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Auto Safety Hotline @ 888-327-4236, to inquire about any recalls or safety notices on your child's safety seat.

## Booster Seat Safety:

A booster seat helps correctly fit children in an adult lap-shoulder safety belt. A belt-positioning booster seat elevates children so that the lap-shoulder belts are positioned correctly and provide the same protection as they do for adults. An added bonus for children... booster seats make them more comfortable and allow them to see better.



# Keep Our Children Safe!!!

Brought to you by the **West Paterson Volunteer Fire Department**

