

PRECIOUS CARGO: CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Motor vehicle-related injuries are a leading cause of death for children* (Children's Safety Network (CSN), 2013)

IN 2011:

1,130 children died and 171,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes. Every day, 3 children die and 469 children are injured (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2013)

56% of those who died were male (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2013)

Child passenger fatalities have decreased 46% since 2002 (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2013)

Rural/Urban: Children killed in rural areas outnumber urban areas by more than 2 to 1. This could be due (in part) to longer distances from 911 services and local hospitals (Child Car Safety and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2013)

Weekends are particularly dangerous. 44% of fatalities occurred during the weekend; a third of all injuries occurred during the weekend (Child Car Safety and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2013)

THE BAD NEWS

274 toddlers*/infants* died. 1 out of 3 were unrestrained (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2013)

73% of child restraints are used incorrectly (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2004)

| Type of seat | % misused |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Infant seats | 84% |
| Rear-facing convertible | 84% |
| Forward-facing convertible | 82% |
| Forward-facing only | 79% |

1 out of 5 booster-age children are unrestrained (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2010)

When drivers didn't wear their seat belts, 63% of children up to age 4 were also unrestrained. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2008)

THE GOOD NEWS

263 toddlers and infants were saved by restraints. 51 more lives could have been saved if every child was in a child safety seat (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2013)

Child safety seats can reduce fatalities by

- 71 percent for infants (younger than 1 year old)
- 54 percent for toddlers (1 to 4 years old) (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2013)

Belt-positioning booster seats lower the risk of injury to children aged 4-8 years by 45% compared with the use of seat belts alone (Arbogast, Jermakian, Kallan, & Durbin, 2009)

When drivers did wear their seat belts, 75% of children up to age 4 were properly restrained. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2008)

ABOUT

*Children are defined as ≤14, toddlers are defined as between the ages of 1 and 4, and infants are defined as <1 year, unless otherwise specified

To view the infographic on our website: <u>http://www.childrenssafetynetwork.org/publications/child-passenger-safety-infographic</u>

For prevention strategies & resources: <u>http://childrenssafetynetwork.org/publications/child-passenger-safety-resource-guide</u>

To find a car seat inspection station near you: <u>http://www.nhtsa.gov/cps/cpsfitting/index.cfm</u>

SOURCES

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