

Successfully Passing Injury Prevention Legislation at the State Level

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Successfully Passing Injury Prevention Legislation at the State Level

- Getting Started –The Preliminary Work
- The Legislative Process
- We passed a law – now what?

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Getting Started –The Preliminary Work

- What is the problem/issue?
- Be aware of timing – and be realistic
- Who cares about this problem/issue?
- What is the desired outcome?
- Evaluating the idea as a potential bill
 - Budget Neutral?
 - Politically Viable?
 - Enforceable?
 - Are other issues too close?
- Anticipate what will be needed during session

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The Legislative Process – what you can do

- Stay in line with legislative lead
- Keep it simple
- Know your area of expertise
- Capitalize on individuals' previous experience and relationships
- Assist with grassroots engagement – if appropriate
- Assist
- Testify
- Advocate

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The Legislative Process – What Can Influence a Legislator's Vote/Decision

- Values
- Social Norms
- Personal Experiences
- Party Position
- Friendships
- Constituent Desires
- Personal Freedom Arguments
- Who is Leading the Push
- Data

Remember-
Data does not
drive policy!!!



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We passed a law – now what?

Promote
and
Educate

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Common Causes of Failure:

- Unrealistic given political environment.
- Lack of accurate understanding of legislative process and unrealistic assessment of time and energy it takes to get a bill passed.
- Failure to embrace the fact that data does NOT drive policy, but it can influence policy.
- Involving too many advocates or involving the wrong advocates.
- Unnecessary or “bad” media attention to the issue.
- Not approaching legislators with the same message, data and facts.
- Failure to quickly negotiate or not have one person who can negotiate on behalf of all groups concerned.



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Highlights to Remember

A good
“legislative
lead”

The “right”
sponsors

Capitalize on
previous
experience &
relationships

Keep it
simple!

Be ready
with data
&
arguments



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QUESTIONS?



Georgia Department of Public Health

Georgia Office of Injury Prevention Child Occupant Safety Policy

Presentation to: South by Southwest Injury Prevention Network

Presenters: Lisa Dawson, Director

Carol O. Ball, Program Consultant

July 25, 2012



We Protect Lives.

Georgia Law 40-8-76

- Children under age 8 (7 and younger) must be properly restrained in an approved child restraint system while riding in cars, vans, SUVs, and pickup trucks. Exemptions: taxi cabs & public transit vehicles
- Children under age 8 and 4'9" must ride in the rear seat.
(some exceptions apply)
- CRS must meet all U.S. Federal Safety Standards and must be installed and used according to manufacturer's instructions
- Each unbuckled child is a separate case / Residency or vehicle registration is not a consideration

Fines and Points

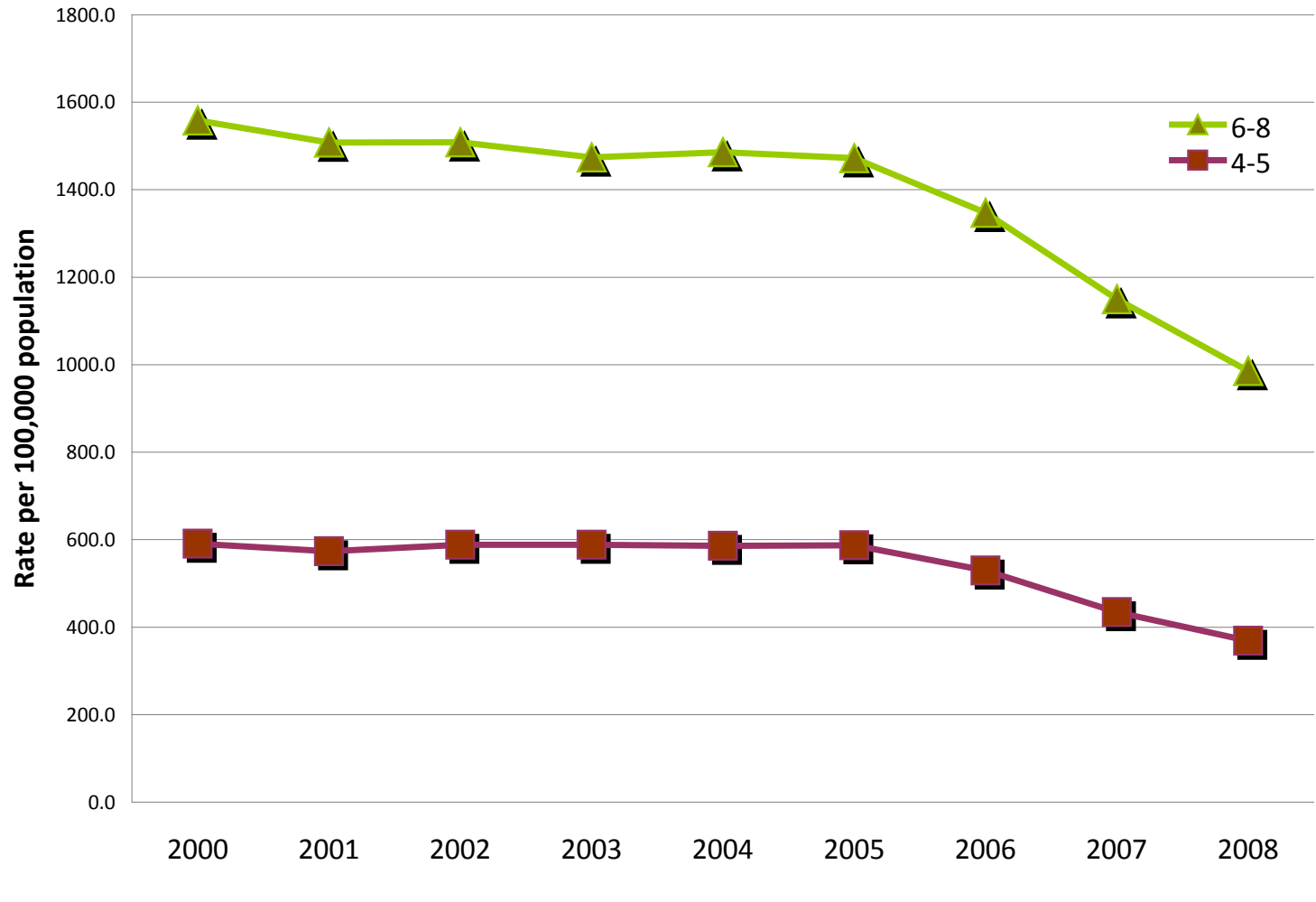
- Primary offense, one ticket per child
 - Driver receives the citation
 - CR Fines
 - 1st offense, not more than \$50,
 - 2nd or subsequent offenses, not more than \$100
 - Points assessed against violator's driver's license
 - 1 point - first offense
 - 2 points - 2nd or subsequent offenses
- *Note: For children who are 6 or 7, if citation is issued between Jul 1 – Dec 31, 2011 the fine may be waived or suspended on proof of obtaining a seat*

Data from Motor Vehicle Crashes

	2001-2004	2005-2008
4-5 yr. olds		
Fatalities	29	30
Injuries	5811	5208
No Injuries	44868	41838
6-8 yr. olds		
Fatalities	38	33
Injuries	9051	8248
No Injuries	57062	55447

Source: Georgia Accident Reporting Crash Data, 2001-2008

Crash Injury Rates for Children 4 to 8



Source: Georgia Accident Reporting Crash Data, 2001-2008

Pocket Cards - outside

Georgia Child Passenger Safety Law (40-8-76)

	Under 1 yr	1-3 yrs	4-7 yrs	8-18 yrs
Less than 20 lbs	Rear-facing car seat	Rear-facing car seat		
21-40 lbs	Rear-facing car seat	Rear or Forward-facing car seat		
Over 40 lbs Under 4'9"		Forward-facing or Booster seat plus lap and shoulder belt		Booster seat plus lap and shoulder belt or seat belt
Over 4'9"				Seat belt

See description of restraint type on other side.

Look for GROSS MISUSE or NON-USE

Non-use of car seats is the worst type of misuse. Gross misuse may include:

- No seat belt or LATCH attachments anchoring the car seat.
- No harness straps securing the child in the car seat.
- A rear-facing child in the front seat with an active air bag.
- An infant or toddler less than 1 year-old facing forward.

For questions or more information email injury@dhr.state.ga.us or call (404) 679-0500.

Developed by the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety, 2011.

Law Enforcement

Georgia Child Passenger Safety Law (40-8-76)

	Under 1 yr	1-3 yrs	4-7 yrs	8-18 yrs
Less than 20 lbs	Rear-facing car seat	Rear-facing car seat		
21-40 lbs	Rear-facing car seat	Rear or Forward-facing car seat		
Over 40 lbs Under 4'9"		Forward-facing or Booster seat plus lap and shoulder belt		Booster seat plus lap and shoulder belt or seat belt
Over 4'9"				Seat belt

See description of restraint type on other side.

Car Seat Recommendations


- Choose a car seat based on your child's size (height & weight).
- Read your car seat instructions for use and installation information.
- Read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt **or** LATCH system.
- Keep your child in the car seat as long as the child fits within the height **or** weight limits.
- Keep your child in the back seat until age 13.

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Healthcare and Related Providers

Pocket Card - inside




A REAR-FACING CAR SEAT is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.

A FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.

A BOOSTER SEAT positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.

A SEAT BELT should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

DESCRIPTION OF RESTRAINT TYPES



Birth - 12 months
Child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat.

***Age 1 - 3 years**
Rear-facing in back seat, as long as possible, within the height or weight limit allowed by car seat manufacturer. Then forward-facing car seat in back seat.

Age 4 - 7 years
Forward-facing car seat used within the height or weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer. Then a booster seat using lap and shoulder seat belt in the back seat.

Age 8 - 12 years
Booster seat until seat belt fits properly with lap belt snug across the upper thighs, not the stomach and shoulder belt snug across the chest, not across the neck or face. Keep children in the back seat until age 13.

*American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends a rear-facing car seat until 2 years of age or until they reach the highest height or weight allowed by the car seat manufacturer.

Poster

Available
in Spanish

Georgia CHILD Passenger SAFETY

Birth - 12 months



(Rear-facing)

Always keep your child in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat.

NEVER place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active airbag.



***Age 1 - 3 years**



(Rear-facing)



(Forward-facing)

Keep child rear-facing until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's instructions. Then your child is ready for a forward-facing car seat in the back seat.

*American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends a rear-facing car seat until 2 years of age or until they reach the highest rear-facing height or weight allowed by the car seat manufacturer.



Age 4 - 7 years



(Forward-facing)



(Booster)

Keep child in a forward-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's instructions. Then your child is ready for a belt-positioning booster seat in the back seat.



Age 8 - 12 years



(Booster)



(Lap/shoulder seat belt)

Keep child in a belt-positioning booster seat until he or she is at least 4'9" tall for a seat belt to fit properly. For a proper fit the lap belt must lie snug across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder & chest.



Georgia Law Requires

Children under 8 must be properly buckled in an approved car seat or booster seat in the back seat.

Car Seat Recommendations

- Choose a car seat based on your child's size (height & weight).
- Read your car seat's instructions for use and installation information.
- Read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system.
- Keep your child in the car seat as long as the child fits within the height or weight limits.
- Keep your child in the back seat until age 13.

Contact your local Health Department for more car seat information or the Office of Injury Prevention at 404-679-0500 or injury@dhr.state.ga.us



September 2011

Distributed to:

Dept. of Family & Children Services, County Offices

County Health Departments

WIC Clinics

We Protect Lives.