

# RIDING SAFELY:

## Child Passenger Safety Prevention Tips and Recent Statistics

### IN 2020<sup>1</sup>

#### 380 children injured every day

On average, 3 children aged 14 years and younger died and 380 children were injured every day in traffic crashes.

#### 1,093 child traffic fatalities

There were 1,093 child traffic fatalities. Of those, 77% were occupants and 23% were nonoccupants (i.e., pedestrians, pedal-cyclists, or other nonoccupants).

### SEX

Male children accounted for more passenger fatalities than female children.

#### MALE



54%

Child Passenger Fatality Deaths by Sex 2020

#### FEMALE



46%

### URBANICITY

More child passengers were killed in rural areas than urban areas.

#### RURAL



55%

#### URBAN



45%

Child Passenger Fatality Deaths by Urbanicity Type 2020

## RESTRAINT USE AMONG CHILD PASSENGERS

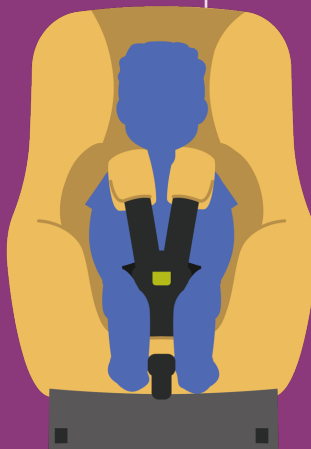
42%

of the children who died in a crash, for whom restraint use was known, were not restrained or buckled up.

### 13-14-Year-olds

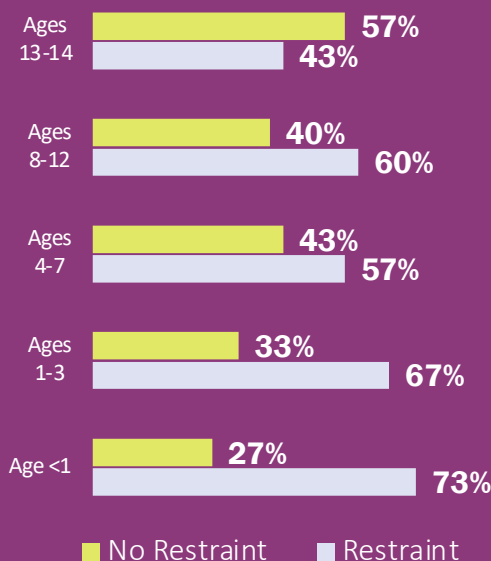
who died in a crash had the highest percentage of not buckling up.

When the drivers did not buckle up, 65% of children were also not buckled.



#### Child Passenger Deaths by Restraint Use 2020

(Note: Percent based on known restraint use)



### FAST FACTS



71-82%

Use of a **child safety seat** reduces the risk of injury for infants and toddlers by 71-82% compared with the use of seat belts alone.<sup>2,3</sup>



45%

**Booster seat use** reduces the risk for serious injury by 45% for children ages 4-8.<sup>4</sup>



~50% ↓

**Seat belt use** reduces the risk for death and serious **injury by about half** for car passengers ages 5 and older.<sup>5</sup>

## PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS<sup>6,7</sup>

### Behavioral Strategies

- ✓ Buckle up children in age- and size-appropriate car seats, booster seats, and seat belts.
- ✓ Carefully install the car seat and booster seat by:
  - Reading and following the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual
  - Using a car seat inspection station near you to install a car seat or check for proper installation



### Environmental Strategies

- ✓ Distribute child passenger safety information and spread the use of certified child passenger safety technicians.
- ✓ Strengthen and enforce child restraint laws to ensure the use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts.



## MORE INFORMATION

- Car Seats: Information for Families | HealthyChildren.org  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Information-for-Families.aspx>
- Find a Child Passenger Safety Technician | Safe Kids Worldwide  
<https://cert.safekids.org/>
- CDC Child Passenger Safety Resources | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/child\\_passenger\\_safety/resources.html](https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/child_passenger_safety/resources.html)

### SOURCES

1. Unless a different source is cited, all data came from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2020 Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS).
2. Arbogast KB, Durbin DR, Cornejo RA, Kallan MJ, Winston FK. An evaluation of the effectiveness of forward-facing child restraint systems. *Accid Anal Prev*. 2004;36(4):585-589.
3. Zaloshnja E, Miller TR, Hendrie D. Effectiveness of child safety seats vs safety belts for children aged 2 to 3 years. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*. 2007;161(1):65-68.
4. Arbogast KB, Jermakian JS, Kallan MJ, Durbin DR. Effectiveness of belt positioning booster seats: an updated assessment. *Pediatrics*. 2009;124(5):1281-1286.
5. National Center for Statistics and Analysis. Occupant protection in passenger vehicles: 2018 data (Traffic Safety Facts. Report No. DOT HS 812 967). National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. 2020.
6. Child passenger safety: Get the facts. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. September 20, 2021. Accessed June 6, 2022. [https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/child\\_passenger\\_safety/cps-factsheet.html](https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/child_passenger_safety/cps-factsheet.html)
7. What works: Strategies to increase car seat and booster seat use. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. September 20, 2021. Accessed June 6, 2022. [https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/child\\_passenger\\_safety/strategies.html](https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/child_passenger_safety/strategies.html)