



# National Latino Children's Institute

## Tips to Protect Children from Transportation-Related Risks

All children 13 and under should ride in the back seat at all times -- either in a child safety seat or buckled up properly.

- **Rear-facing child seats** in the back seat for children from birth to at least one year of age **and** up to 20 pounds.
- **Forward-facing child seats** in the back seat from age one and weighing between 20 to 40 pounds.

Seat belts can seriously injure or kill small children who are not properly placed in child safety seats, so use...

- **Booster seats** in the back seat for children age 4 to at least age 8, or who weigh more than 40 pounds but are under 4'9." **Safety belts** at age 8 or older or taller than 4'9."

## Facts about Traffic Fatalities

- Every day in the United States, an average of five children age 14 and younger were killed and 548 were injured in motor vehicle crashes during 2007. A total of 1,670 children died.
- During 2007, 6,532 passenger vehicle occupants age 14 and younger were involved in fatal crashes. For those children where restraint was known, 25 percent were unrestrained; among those who were fatally injured, 45 percent were unrestrained.
- Research on the effectiveness of child safety seats has found them to reduce fatal injury by 71 percent for infants (younger than 1 year old) and by 54 percent for toddlers (1-4 years old) in passenger cars. In 2007, there were 385 passenger vehicle occupant fatalities among children age 4 and younger. Of those 385 fatalities, where restraint use was known (363), 109 (30 percent) were totally unrestrained.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for Hispanic children of all ages (after the first year of life). Hispanic children under 13 years old have lower restraint use rates (use of child safety seats, booster seats and seat belts) than non-Hispanic children.
- From 2006 to 2007, there was a drop in restraint use among Hispanic 4-to-7 years olds from 92 in 2006 percent to 75 percent in 2007.
- Young Latinos are twice as likely to die in a traffic crash than their non-Hispanic white counterparts even though Latinos drive half as many miles as whites. The primary reasons for this are lack of car safety seats and safety belt use.
- Nationally 80% of all child safety seat belts or the equivalent of four out of five seats being used were misused in some way.
- Among passenger vehicle occupants over age 4, seat belts saved an estimated 15,147 lives in 2007. Among children under age 5, an estimated 382 lives were saved by restraint use.
- A child who is less than 4 feet 9 inches tall, using an adult safety belt, experiences major internal organ injuries when involved in a motor vehicle crash.
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- Every \$30 booster seat generates \$2000 in savings. \*
- Cost of treating a child for crash related injuries is about \$22,607 per incident. \*