

# Child Passenger Safety

## FACTS:

- Motor vehicle injuries are the greatest public health problem facing children today. In fact, they are the leading cause of death among children at every age after their first birthday.
- Every 90 seconds, a child is killed or injured in a motor vehicle in the U.S.
- Nearly half of children under five who were killed in motor vehicle crashes were riding unrestrained. Child safety seats would have saved many of them. Child safety seats reduce the risk of death by about 70% for infants and by about 55% for toddlers ages one to four.
- Depending on age, 15% to 40% of children regularly ride unrestrained in motor vehicles.

Healthy Beginnings Month

## RESOURCES:

**American Academy of Pediatrics**  
[www.aap.org/family/carseatguide.htm](http://www.aap.org/family/carseatguide.htm)

**Centers for Disease Control & Prevention**  
[www.cdc.gov/ncipc/fact\\_book/13\\_Child\\_Passenger\\_Safety](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/fact_book/13_Child_Passenger_Safety)

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

**National Child Passenger Safety Week**  
(Celebrated annually in February during the week that includes Valentine's Day)

**SafeKids**  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

**SeatCheck car seat inspection location service**  
(866) SEATCHECK  
[www.seatcheck.org](http://www.seatcheck.org)



## **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

- No one seat is the "best" or "safest." The best seat is the one that fits your child's size, is correctly installed, and is used properly every time you drive.
- All infants should ride rear-facing until they have reached at least one year of age and weigh at least 20 pounds.
- There are two types of rear-facing seats: infant-only seats and convertible seats. Convertible seats can be used rear-facing for infants, and then converted to a forward-facing position once the child is old enough and big enough to do so safely.
- Children are required by law to be properly secured in child passenger seats when traveling in a motor vehicle.

## **SERVICES AVAILABLE:**

- Car seats for income-eligible families
- Referrals to Car seat safety checks and installation