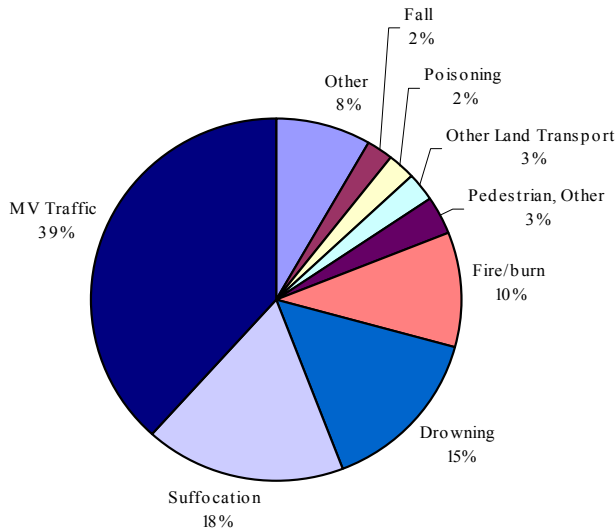


FACTS ABOUT INJURIES TO CHILD OCCUPANTS IN MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES



Leading Causes of Accidental Injury-Related Death 2003 (CDC WISQARS)

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 14 and under in the United States. Child safety seats and safety belts, when installed and used correctly, can prevent injuries and save lives. Young children restrained in child safety seats have an 80 percent lower risk of fatal injury than those who are unrestrained

MOTOR VEHICLE OCCUPANT DEATHS AND INJURIES

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury death for children ages 1-14, and the second leading cause of injury death for children ages 0-1.
- In 2004, 1,638 child occupants ages 14 and under died in motor vehicle crashes.
- In 2004, an estimated 214,000 children ages 14 and under were injured as occupants in motor vehicle-related crashes.
- Since 1990, there have been 164 fatal injuries to children related to airbags.
- In 2000, 10,306 children under 18 were permanently disabled due to motor vehicle related injuries.
- Head and face injuries are the most common injury to children involved in a crash.

WHEN AND WHERE MOTOR VEHICLE OCCUPANT DEATHS AND INJURIES OCCUR

- More than half of fatal crashes occurred on roads with posted speed limits of 55 MPH or more.
- There are approximately 42 percent more fatal crashes in rural settings than urban. Crashes in rural areas tend to be more severe.
- In 2004, a total of 442 (21 percent) of the fatalities among children age 14 and younger occurred in crashes involving alcohol.
- 25 percent of all crashes occur less than 5 minutes from the home.

WHO IS AT RISK

- In 2004, 50 percent of child occupants who were fatally injured in crashes were unrestrained.

- Driver safety belt use is positively associated with child restraint use. In a recent study, nearly 40 percent of children riding with unbelted drivers were completely unrestrained, compared with only 5 percent of children riding with belted drivers.
- An estimated 1,700 children's lives were saved between 1996 and 2002 solely because they were seated in the rear.
- The motor vehicle death rate for all children ages 1-14 is 3.9 per 100,000. For the African American male, the rate is 29.6, more than 6 times than for white males in the same age group. The motor vehicle death rate for both American Indian and Alaska Native and/or Hispanic males is also higher than for white male children.
- There were 154 reported fatal injuries associated with airbag deployment between 1993 and 2002 for children ages 0-12. Of the total fatalities, 69.2 percent of children were unrestrained, 29.6 percent were improperly restrained, and 0.6 percent were properly restrained.
- Children ages 2-5 who are prematurely graduated to safety belts are four times more likely to suffer a serious head injury in a crash than those restrained in child safety seats or booster seats.

RESTRAINT SYSTEMS

- Child safety seats 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.
- Estimates show that booster seats reduce the risk of injury by 59 percent compared with the use of an adult safety belt alone.
- Data from 2004 reports that restraint use by children ages:
 - <1 year = 98 percent
 - 1-3 years = 93 percent
 - 4-7 years = 73 percent
- An estimated 81 percent of children ages 8-15 use a safety belt. .
- Only 68 percent of all occupants use a safety belt in the back seat.
- In 2004, 451 lives were saved due to child restraints, 15,434 due to seatbelts, and 2,647 due to airbags.

CHILD OCCUPANT PROTECTION AND SAFETY BELT USE LAWS

- Belt use laws in 23 states and the District of Columbia are standard or primary, meaning police may stop vehicles solely for belt law violations.
- All 50 states and the District of Columbia have child restraint laws. In 36 states and the District of Columbia all children younger than 16 are covered by either safety belt laws or child restraint laws.
- As of November 1, 2005, 36 states and the district of Columbia had upgraded their child restraint laws to require the use of booster seats or other appropriate child restraint device by children up to as old as 9.

PREVENTION TIPS

- All children ages 12 and under should be properly restrained in a back seat on every ride. There are a variety of safety restraint options for all children, including those with special healthcare needs.
- Use vehicle owner's manual to identify where airbags are located, and read the instructions about transporting children safely when airbags are present.
- Any child safety seat must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions and vehicle owner's manual.
- Infants should ride in rear-facing child safety seats as long as possible according to manufacturer's instructions; a minimum of 12 months old and 20 pounds.
- Children that weigh between 20 and 40 pounds should be correctly secured in a forward facing child safety seat. Always use the safety seat tether for optimal protection.
- Children over 40 pounds should be correctly secured in a belt-positioning booster seat or other appropriate child restraint until the adult lap and shoulder safety belts fit correctly, approximately 4'9" and 80-100 pounds, usually between 8 and 12 years of age.
- Return the product registration card provided for all new child safety seats to the manufacturer to ensure that you will be notified of any recalls. Check www.recalls.gov to inquire about any recalls or safety notices on child safety seats. Avoid purchasing safety seats from yard sales, flea markets and second hand stores or when there is no known history of the seat.
- Always make sure that every occupant is properly restrained for every ride.