

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

In it to Win it - Safety Starts with the Right Seat



The Pennsylvania Traffic Injury Prevention Project (PA TIPP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) are providing this planner to assist you in coordinating community safety events. Child Passenger Safety Week provides the opportunity to educate parents and caregivers on correct car seat, booster seat, and seat belt choices to keep the entire family safe, because the consequences of a crash can be devastating. Please contact us if we can support your efforts during Child Passenger Safety Week.

PA TIPP compiles a list of Pennsylvania car seat check events and activities that are scheduled during Child Passenger Safety Week and Seat Check Saturday. Events will be shared with PennDOT and posted on the PA TIPP website. Send us your event information for the statewide list by completing the form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPSWeek2026-Events>. A link to the survey is available at www.pakidstravelsafe.org on the "2026 CPS Week" page.

Please also submit your post-event data to be summarized for PennDOT. Send us your post-event information by completing the form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPSWeek2026-Data>.

Thank you for your dedication to protecting the children and families in your community. We look forward to working with you.

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1-800-CAR BELT
www.pakidstravelsafe.org



**REGISTER
YOUR
EVENT**



**SHARE
POST-EVENT
DATA**



Child Passenger Safety Week & Seat Check Saturday September 20–26, 2026



Every parent and caregiver wants their child to have a winning future, and every champion starts with the right foundation.

During Child Passenger Safety Week, we're all in it to win it because safety starts with the right seat used correctly during every trip, every ride. Using the right car seat or booster seat is your child's best defense.

Building the habit of buckling up every ride, every time, is a championship move that protects children during every mile of their journey. Choosing the right seat, and using it correctly, is one of the most effective ways to keep children safe.

Don't sit this one out — make safety part of your starting lineup.

CPS Week Media Connection

TEAMING UP FOR A SAFE RIDE, EVERY TIME.



It can be challenging to get families on the same page when it comes to buckling up children the right way — that is why teamwork matters. Let's join forces with community partners, schools, healthcare providers, and safety organizations to share clear, consistent messages — so every family has the tools they need to stay in the game. Together, we can make the winning play — protecting children one ride at a time to keep Pennsylvania's children safe.

PENNSYLVANIA TRAFFIC INJURY PREVENTION PROJECT - PA TIPP

Looking for child passenger safety information and resources? TIPP provides educational materials and training programs, and serves as a resource throughout Pennsylvania.

Did You Know: There are many options to get your child's car seat checked by a Child Passenger Safety Technician.



Visit www.pakidstravelsafe.org to search for a car seat check event or to locate a car seat fitting station.



Follow us for more tips!
Pennsylvania Traffic Injury
Prevention Project



PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - PENNDOT

Check in with PennDOT to get the latest crash facts, new campaigns, and strategic plans. The website includes information on the importance of wearing a seat belt, keeping children safe, driver safety tips, vehicle maintenance, and law enforcement initiatives.



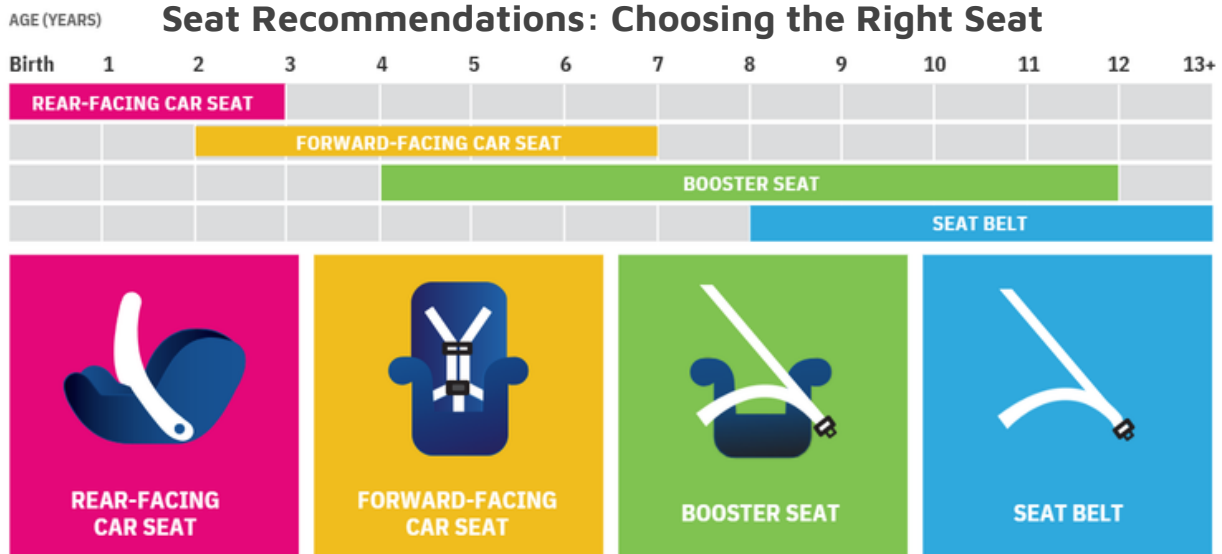
NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY BOARD RESOURCE PAGE

- Resources are available to support community CPS outreach efforts. Resources include social media posts, CPS position statements, 3D educational images, and best practice recommendations for children traveling in airplanes, school buses, recreational vehicles, and ground ambulances.

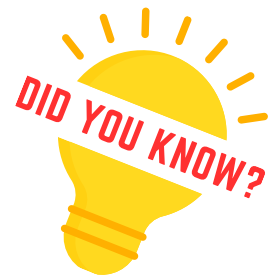


NHTSA TRAFFIC SAFETY MARKETING

A great resource for statistics, a CPS photo library, sample press releases, public service announcements and social media graphics and ideas.

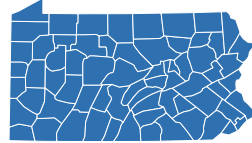


CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY KEY STATISTICS



Car Seats, Booster Seats, and Seat Belt Save Lives

- Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death and injuries among children.
- Car seats decrease the risk of fatal injury by 71% for infants and by 54% for toddlers 1 to 4 years old.
 - For infants and toddlers in light trucks, the corresponding reductions are 58% and 59%, respectively.
- Booster Seats decrease the risk of nonfatal injuries by 45% among children 4 to 8 years old when compared to using a seat belt alone.
- Lap and shoulder seat belts, when used correctly, reduce the risk of fatal injury by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%.



PENNSYLVANIA CRASH FACTS AND STATISTICS

From 2021-2025, 81% of the children under age 4 who were involved in crashes and restrained in a child seat sustained no injury.

Pennsylvania seat belt usage rate was nearly 89% in 2025. National Statistics show that for every one percent increase in seat belt usage, eight to twelve lives can be saved.

2025 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

NHTSA data for 2024 found:

- Every day in traffic crashes, on average,
 - 2 children under 14 years of age were killed, and
 - 349 children were injured.
- 39%* of children (14 and younger) who died while riding in passenger vehicles were unrestrained.
- Of the children that were killed in each age group, the following percent were unrestrained:
 - 28% of infants younger than 1 year of age.
 - 42% of children 1 to 3 years of age.
 - 34% of children 4 to 7 years of age.
 - 35% of children 8 to 12 years of age.
 - 57% of children 13 to 14 years of age.
- A NHTSA study found that while most parents and caregivers believe they know how to correctly install their car seats, about half (46%) have installed their child's car seat incorrectly.
- Parents and caregivers can model safety for their children. Research shows there is a strong correlation between caregivers who buckle up and their child passengers' seat belt use. In 2024, based on known restraint use:
 - 71% of children were restrained when the driver was buckled.
 - 35% of children were restrained when the driver was not buckled.



Child Passenger Safety Resources

- There are approximately 2,160 certified child passenger safety technicians in Pennsylvania who teach parents and caregivers how to properly use car seats.
- There are 218 car seat fitting stations across the state that provide an opportunity for families to have their car seats evaluated to make sure they accommodate the child's size and fit securely in the vehicle.
 - Visit www.pakidstravelsafe.org or call 1-800-CAR-BELT for a listing of car seat check events, child passenger safety resources, and safety information.



*Percent based on known child restraint use.

NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts: Children 2024 Data, June 2026

CAR SEAT SAFETY BASICS



Key Steps to Use Your Car Seat Correctly Every Ride

SELECTION:



- Select the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt that is right for the child's age, weight, height, and developmental needs.
- The right car seat, booster seat, or seat belt fits the child and the car, and will be used correctly every trip - every time.



DIRECTION:



- Use your car seat in the correct direction. This is especially important for children under age 2, who are safest when rear-facing until they reach the maximum height or weight of the car seat.
- Always follow the instructions on the car seat.

LOCATION:



- Pick the safest location in the car, which for children under 13 is always the back seat.
- Never place a rear-facing car seat near an active frontal airbag.



HARNESS ADJUSTMENT:



- Use the harness according to the manufacturer's instructions. Ensure it is properly routed through the correct slots (**at or below for rear-facing, at or above for forward-facing**).
- Position the chest clip at armpit level.
- Perform the pinch test at the child's shoulder—if no excess webbing can be pinched, the harness fit is appropriate.

INSTALLATION:



- Install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system as directed by the car seat and vehicle instructions.
- The seat should not move more than one-inch side-to-side or front-to-back when checked at the belt path.
- Always use the top tether with a forward-facing seat.



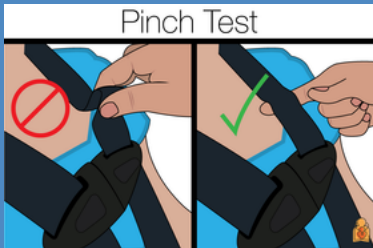
STEPS TO CORRECT HARNESS USE

Proper Harness Adjustment for Car Seats

Harness Fit



- **Rear-Facing:** The harness is threaded through the slots in the car seat back that are **AT or BELOW** the child's shoulders.
 - The child's head should be at least one-inch below the top of the car seat shell.
- **Forward-Facing:** The harness is threaded through the slots in the car seat back that are **AT or ABOVE** the child's shoulders.
 - The mid-point of the back of the child's head or top of the ears should not be above the shell of the car seat.



Harness Tightness

- The harness is snug and extra webbing cannot be pinched between the thumb and forefinger.



Chest Clip Placement

- The chest clip holds the harness shoulder straps together over the child's chest.
- Position the chest clip at armpit level.



Buckle Position

- Buckle webbing is threaded through the buckle slot that is closest to the child's body.
- The child should not be sitting on the buckle webbing.

ASPECTOS BÁSICOS DE SEGURIDAD DE ASIENTOS INFANTILES



PASOS CLAVE PARA USAR CORRECTAMENTE SU ASIENTO INFANTIL EN CADA VIAJE

SELECCIÓN:



- Seleccione el asiento infantil, asiento elevado «booster» o cinturón de seguridad adecuado para la edad, peso, estatura y necesidades de desarrollo del niño.
- El asiento infantil, asiento elevado «booster» o cinturón de seguridad adecuado se adapta al niño y al vehículo, y se usará correctamente en cada viaje, en todo momento.



DIRECCIÓN:



- Use el asiento infantil en la orientación correcta. Esto es especialmente importante para niños menores de 2 años, que viajan más seguros en un asiento infantil orientado hacia atrás hasta que alcancen el límite máximo de altura o peso del asiento infantil.
- Siga siempre las instrucciones del asiento infantil.

UBICACIÓN:



- Elija el lugar más seguro del vehículo, que para niños menores de 13 años es siempre el asiento trasero.
- Nunca coloque un asiento infantil orientado hacia atrás cerca de una bolsa de aire frontal activa.



AJUSTE DEL ARNÉS:



- Use el arnés siguiendo las instrucciones del fabricante. Asegúrese de que pase por las ranuras correctas: a la altura o por debajo de los hombros (orientado hacia atrás); a la altura o por encima de los hombros (orientado hacia adelante).
- Coloque el broche de pecho al nivel de las axilas.
- Realice la «prueba del pellizco» a la altura del hombro del niño: si no puede pellizcar ningún exceso de material del arnés, este está bien ajustado.

INSTALACIÓN:



- Instale el asiento infantil usando el cinturón de seguridad o el sistema LATCH, siguiendo las instrucciones del asiento y del vehículo.
- El asiento no debe moverse más de una pulgada de lado a lado. Compruébe el movimiento en la trayectoria del cinturón.
- Use siempre la correa de sujeción superior con un asiento infantil orientado hacia adelante.



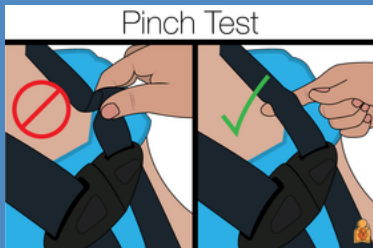
PASOS PARA EL USO CORRECTO DEL ARNÉS

AJUSTE CORRECTO DEL ARNÉS DE ASIENTOS INFANTILES

Ajuste Del Arnés



- Orientado hacia atrás: El arnés se pasa por las ranuras del respaldo del asiento infantil que están **A LA ALTURA o POR DEBAJO** de los hombros del niño.
 - La cabeza del niño debe quedar, como mínimo, una pulgada por debajo de la parte superior del armazón del asiento.
- Orientado hacia adelante: El arnés se pasa por las ranuras del respaldo del asiento infantil que están **A LA ALTURA o POR ENCIMA** de los hombros del niño.
 - El punto medio de la parte de atrás de la cabeza del niño o la parte más alta de las orejas no debe quedar por encima del armazón del asiento.



Tensión Del Arnés

- El arnés está suficientemente ajustado cuando no se puede pellizcar ningún exceso de material de la correa entre el pulgar y el índice.



Ubicación Del Broche De Pecho

- El broche de pecho mantiene juntas las correas de los hombros del arnés sobre el pecho del niño.
- Coloque el broche de pecho al nivel de las axilas.



Posición De La Hebilla

- La correa de la hebilla debe pasar por la ranura de hebilla más cercana al cuerpo del niño.
- El niño no debe quedar sentado sobre la correa de la hebilla.

REAR-FACING CAR SEATS

Children should ride rear-facing until at least 2 years of age or until they outgrow their rear-facing car seat by height or weight.



Infant Car Seat

- This car seat offers convenience for placing the car seat in and out of the car.
- May have a base that stays in the vehicle.
 - Weight range is from 3-5 lbs. up to 30-35 lbs.



Convertible Car Seat

- This car seat remains in the vehicle and allows rear-facing to a higher weight limit.
- Often a transitional seat to maintain rear-facing until 2 years of age before the child transitions to forward-facing.

Why Rear-Facing?



Because it is safest!

- A rear-facing car seat spreads the crash forces across a child's body and the back of the car seat, cradling the head, neck, and back.
- The child's neck, head, and spine are protected rear-facing.

Harness Adjustment

- Tighten the harness, so it is snug with no slack.
- Chest clip placed at armpit level.
- Harness slots **AT or BELOW** child's shoulders.



Installation Tips



- Car seat does not move more than one-inch side-to-side or front-to-back.
- Car seat is at the recline angle specified by the car seat manufacturer.
- If using LATCH, the seat is in a vehicle seat position allowed by the vehicle manual and car seat instructions.
- The car seat is **NOT** in front of an air bag.



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FORWARD-FACING CAR SEATS



TYPES OF FORWARD-FACING CAR SEATS

Forward-Facing Convertible

- This car seat goes from rear-facing to forward-facing.
- Secure a child forward-facing once they have outgrown the rear-facing mode.

Combination Car Seat

- This car seat is used forward-facing with a five-point-harness.
- Once the child outgrows the harness, this car seat is used as a booster seat.

All-In-One-Seat

- This seat can be used:
 - Rear-facing,
 - Forward-facing,
 - and then as a booster seat.

Always read the car seat instructions guidelines including:

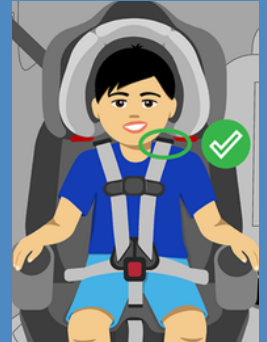
- Age,
- Weight and height limits, and
- Basic use.

Children should ride forward-facing when they are over 2 years of age **AND** have outgrown the weight or height limits of the rear-facing car seat.

Remain in the forward-facing harness until the highest height or weight allowed by the car seat.

Harness Adjustment

- Tighten the harness, so it is snug with no slack.
- Chest clip at armpit level.
- Harness slots **AT or ABOVE** child's shoulders.

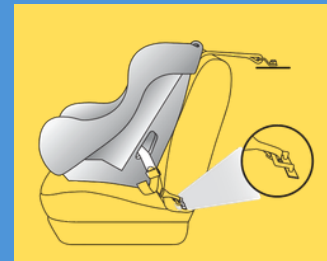


Tether Use

- The tether limits the forward movement of the child in a crash.



- Use the tether with seat belt or lower anchors.
- Follow vehicle manual instructions to locate tether anchors.



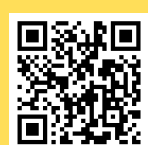
Installation Tips



- The car seat is in tight and does not move more than one-inch from side-to-side or front-to-back.
- If using lower anchors, the child is within the weight allowed by the car seat manufacturer.
- The child's head is within the car seat's shell.



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BOOSTER SEATS

BOOSTER SEATS

- A booster seat raises a child up so the seat belt fits.
- Always use the lap and shoulder belt to secure the child.



TYPES OF BOOSTER SEATS

HIGH BACK

- Supports the child's head, neck, and spine and provides side impact protection.
- May ease the transition from a car seat with a harness to a booster seat.



BACKLESS BOOSTER

- Position the vehicle head restraint behind the child's head.
- Often used for older children before they transition to a seat belt.

Children ride in booster seats once they outgrow the weight or height limits of the forward-facing car seat and are at least 4 years of age and older.

Why use a booster seat?

- Booster seats lower the risk of injury by 45% among children ages 4 to 8 years old when compared to a seat belt.



- Seat belts are designed for adults.
- Booster seats position a child so the vehicle seat belt fits correctly over the child's body.



Seat Belt Adjustment



- Shoulder belt lays across the center of the chest.
- Lap belt lays across the upper thighs.
 - Never across the stomach.
- Child sits without slouching.
- Requires a lap AND shoulder belt.



Installation Tips

- Children under 13 years of age ride in the back seat.
- Always follow the car seat's weight and height requirements.
- Never leave a child alone in the car.



**UNDER 13
YEARS OLD?**

ALWAYS SIT IN BACK SEAT.



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SEAT BELT READINESS GUIDE

MOVING FROM A BOOSTER SEAT TO A SEAT BELT

Must say YES to ALL FIVE.

1



Child's back is against the vehicle seat.

- No slouching



2



Knees bend at the front edge of the vehicle seat & feet are on the floor.

3



Shoulder belt lays across the center of the shoulder and the center of the chest.

- Not across the neck or arm



4



Lap belt lays across the upper thighs.

- Never across the stomach

5



Child can remain in the correctly seated position for the entire trip.

PA CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAWS

SCORING BIG FOR SAFETY



All children from birth up to age 4 must be secured in an approved child passenger restraint system anywhere in the vehicle.



Children younger than age two must be secured in a rear-facing car seat, until the child outgrows the maximum weight and height limits designated by the car seat manufacturer.



All children age 4 up to age 8 must be secured in a seat belt system and appropriate child booster seat anywhere in the vehicle.



All children age 8 up to age 18 must be secured in a seat belt system anywhere in the vehicle.



Primary Law



All drivers transporting children younger than 4 years of age are responsible to properly secure children in an approved child passenger restraint system.

All drivers transporting children 4 years of age or older but under 8 years of age are responsible to properly secure children in an approved booster seat and properly adjusted seat belt system.

- Violators may be stopped as a primary offense for non-compliance of the Child Passenger Protection Law for children from birth to age 8. Violators will be fined \$75.00, plus Court Costs (adjusted annually), and \$45.00 Surcharge, \$20.00 EMS Fund, and \$22.00 Administrative Costs.
- The fine shall be dismissed if the person prior to or at their hearing displays evidence of acquisition of a child passenger restraint system/booster. Evidence shall include a receipt mailed to the appropriate court officer, which evidences purchase, rental, transferal from another child seat owner (by notarized letter), or bailment from a bona fide child seat loaner program.

An approved child passenger safety restraint system is labeled indicating that the child restraint conforms to all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

All drivers transporting children 8 years of age but under 18 years of age are responsible to securely restrain those children in a properly adjusted seat belt system.

- Violators may be stopped as a primary offense for non-compliance and shall be fined \$10.00, plus \$45.00 Surcharge, \$20.00 EMS Fund, and \$22.00 Administrative Costs.



All children younger than 13 years of age
should be secured in the back seat of a vehicle.

