

Child Passenger Safety Week

2018 Planner

Dear Safety Advocate:

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK, September 23-29, 2018 raises awareness of the importance of children being correctly secured in the appropriate car seat or seat belt for a child's age, weight, height, and developmental needs. The campaign is dedicated to helping parents and caregivers make sure their children ride as safely as possible—every trip, every time. Each day, too many children are secured in the wrong car seats, ride in car seats that have been installed incorrectly, or ride completely unbuckled. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children. In 2016, on average, nearly two (2) children were killed every day while riding in cars, SUVs, pickup trucks and vans. Car seats, booster seats and seat belts make a significant difference during a crash.

Child Passenger Safety Week initiatives provide education for selecting the appropriate car seat and ensuring it is used correctly. Children secured in the right car seat, booster seat, or seat belt installed and used the right way is critical. Car seats are credited with saving 328 children under the age of 5 during 2016. Parents who wear their seat belt are important role models for a child learning good habits in and around vehicles. That is why it is important, not only for a parent's safety, but for their children that adults always wear their seat belt before putting the car into drive. Based on known restraint use in 2016:

- ◆ **When drivers involved in fatal crashes were UNRESTRAINED, 34 percent of children were restrained.**
- ◆ **When drivers involved in fatal crashes were RESTRAINED, 72 percent of children were restrained.**

During Child Passenger Safety Week many communities plan educational programs and community car seat check events staffed with certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians who provide education on correctly using car seats, booster seats, and seat belts. The week concludes with National Seat Check Saturday on September 29th.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported the following percentage of child fatalities who were unrestrained in passenger vehicles:

- ◆ **16% of children less than 1 year of age;**
- ◆ **24% of children who were 1 to 3 years of age;**
- ◆ **33% of children who were 4 to 7 years of age;**
- ◆ **48% of children who were 8 to 12 years of age; and**
- ◆ **64% of children who were 13 to 14 years of age. (NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts Children 2016 Data, revised April 2018)**

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 throughout the State. Every parent wants to protect their children and keep them safe. The Child Passenger Safety Week theme, **"Safe Families Buckle Up"** highlights that the best way to protect children in a car is to make sure every passenger in the vehicle is properly buckled up in a car seat, booster seat or seat belt every trip.

Materials included in this planner provide evidenced-based best practice recommendations for the use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts for children of all ages, birth through teenage drivers. Child Passenger Safety Week provides the opportunity to teach parents to make the tough choices to keep the entire family safe. The educational resources can be used to promote child passenger safety in your community.

Please contact us if we can support your efforts in promoting Child Passenger Safety Week. PA TIPP will compile a list of all events and activities for PennDOT and NHTSA. To have your event included on the statewide list, complete the registration form provided on the back page or use the link provided to register your event on-line. Events will be submitted to NHTSA and posted on the NHTSA and PA TIPP websites.

Thank you for your dedication to protect children in your community. We look forward to working with you.

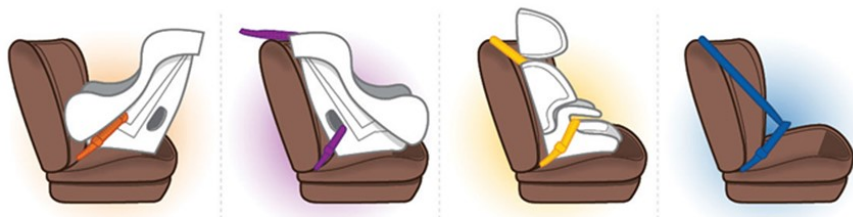
Sincerely,

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Child Safety Seat Statistics and Research

Lives Lost and Injuries (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

- ◆ Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children.
- ◆ Every 33 seconds in 2016, one child under the age of 13 was involved in a crash.
- ◆ From 2012 to 2016, 3,268 children under the age of 13 were killed in car crashes. These numbers have been increasing steadily since 2014.
- ◆ In 2016, on average, nearly 2 children under the age of 13 were killed every day while riding in cars, SUVs, pickups, and vans.
- ◆ In 2016, 35 percent of children under the age of 13 killed in passenger cars were not restrained in car seats, booster seats, or seat belts.
- ◆ From 2012 to 2016, there were 1,132 children age 8 to 12 years old killed in passenger vehicles. Of those killed, 50 percent were not buckled.

Car Seats, Booster Seats, and Seat Belts Save Lives

- ◆ In 2016, among children younger than age 5, occupant restraints saved an estimated 328 lives.
- ◆ An additional 42 children could have survived if car seat use was at 100 percent.
- ◆ In Pennsylvania from 2013—2017, 82 percent of the children under age 4, who were involved in crashes and restrained in a car seat sustained no injury. (2017 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics)
- ◆ Pennsylvania seat belt usage rate was 85.6 percent in 2017. National statistics show that for every one percent increase in seat belt usage, eight to twelve lives can be saved on the highways.

Resources on Child Passenger Safety:

- ◆ There are approximately 1,600 nationally certified child passenger safety technicians in Pennsylvania who teach parents and caregivers how to properly use their child's car seat.
- ◆ There are 193 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 child safety seat events and safety information for car seats.
- ◆ Visit www.nhtsa.gov/parents-and-caregivers, NHTSA's parent resource website, for information on making sure you are using the correct seat for your child's age and size.
- ◆ Visit www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/TrafficSafetyAndDriverTopics/Pages/Child-Passenger-Safety.aspx or www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/Pages/default.aspx, PennDOT's highway safety website, for Pennsylvania information on seat belt use, safe driving tips and other highway safety information.

Sample Press Release

Sponsoring Organization Logo—PennDOT releases must follow department template

News for Immediate Release

Media Contact: [Name, Agency, Phone number, Email]

Sept. 17, 2018

(Sponsoring Organization) to Participate in National Child Passenger Safety Week

Town, City, Borough - Every day, parents and caregivers travel with children in their vehicles. While some children are correctly buckled in the correct car seats for their age and size – many are not, if they are buckled up at all. Every parent wants to protect their children and keep them safe, data shows that two out of three car seats are misused. To help combat this misuse, **[List in a series of participating organizations] is/are** participating in Child Passenger Safety Week from September 23-29, 2018, a campaign dedicated to helping parents and caregivers make sure their children ride as safely as possible. This year's theme, **"Safe Families Buckle Up"**, highlights the need for all members of the family to buckle up using the right car seat, booster seat or seat belt every time they travel.

Parents and caregivers need to make certain they and their children are properly buckled up for every trip, every time – including short trips close to home. "Every 33 seconds in 2016, a child under 13 was involved in a passenger vehicle crash," said **[Spokesperson]**. "Using car seats that are age- and size-appropriate is the best way to keep children safe." Car seats, booster seats, and seat belts — when used properly — save lives and offer the best protection for families and children in crashes.

On average, each day in Pennsylvania there are about 351 reportable crashes on state highways. Using the correct car seat reduces the chance of fatal injury for infants by 71 percent and toddlers by 54 percent. In Pennsylvania from 2013 to 2017, 82 percent of the children under age 4 who were involved in crashes and restrained in a car seat sustained no injury. (2017 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics)

Parents who wear their seat belt are important role models for a child learning good habits in and around vehicles. That is why it is important, not only for a parent's safety but for their children, that adults always wear their seat belt before putting the car into drive. Children who are correctly buckled in a car seat, booster seat or seat belt benefit from the single most effective way to protect motor vehicle occupants and reduce fatalities in a crash. Research shows that children are buckled 72 percent of the time when the driver is buckled. Make certain that everyone in the car is protected, that the car seat is installed correctly, that every child is in the right car seat, and that the car seat is used correctly.

In Pennsylvania, the driver is responsible for securing children in the appropriate child restraint system. Children from birth up to age 4 must be secured in an approved child safety seat anywhere in the vehicle. A child younger than two years of age shall be secured in a rear-facing car seat, to be used until the child outgrows the maximum weight and height limits designated by the car seat manufacturer. Children age 4 up to age 8 must be in a booster seat and secured with a lap and shoulder belt anywhere in the vehicle.

Children age 8 up to age 18 must be secured in a seat belt system anywhere in the vehicle. Under Pennsylvania's seat belt law, all drivers are responsible for the front seat passengers to wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt. All drivers under 18 years of age may not operate a motor vehicle in which the number of passengers exceeds the number of available seat belts in the vehicle.

For more information on how to keep passengers safe visit www.pakidstravelsafe.org or call 1-800-CAR-BELT.

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If you are unable to afford a car seat, call 1-800-CAR-BELT or visit www.pakidstravelsafe.org to find the nearest car seat loan program.

Child Safety Seat Inspection Stations and Community Car Seat Checkup Events are provided on the website.

Who Sits in Which Seat?

Rear Facing Under 2 years old?



Secure children in a rear-facing car seat until 2 years of age or until the maximum weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat. Children younger than 1 year should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat with an active passenger-side front air bag.

Traveling rear-facing is safer than forward-facing.

Forward Facing Over 2 years old?



When children outgrow the rear-facing car seat, secure them in a forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.

Forward-Facing car seats reduce the risk of injury for children by 71% compared to children using the seat belt only.

Booster Seat



Once children outgrow the forward-facing car seat, secure them in a belt-positioning booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt until the seat belt fits properly, typically when a child is approximately 4 feet 9 inches and between 8 and 12 years of age.

Booster seats lower the risk of injury for children age 4 to 8 years by 45% compared to children using the seat belt alone.

Seat Belt



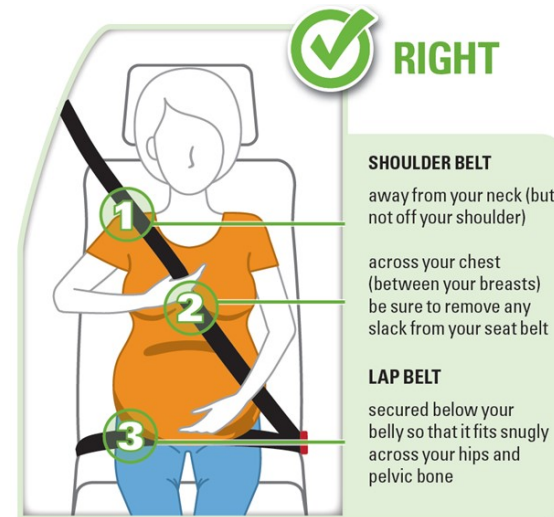
When children outgrow the belt-positioning booster seat, secure them in a properly fitted lap and shoulder belt. A lap and shoulder belt fits properly when the lap belt lays low and snug across the hips/upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the center of the chest and shoulder.

The lap and shoulder seat belts reduce the risk of injury by 45%.

Buckling Up for Two

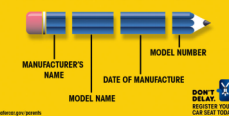
Seat belt safety tips during pregnancy

- Wear your seat belt.** Buckling up is the single most effective action to take to protect you and your unborn child in a crash. Never drive or ride in a car without buckling up.
- Place the shoulder belt across your chest** and away from your neck.
 - Do not place the shoulder belt under your arm or behind your back.
- Secure the lap belt BELOW your belly**, snugly across your hips and pelvic bone.
 - NEVER** place the lap belt over or on top of the belly.
- Adjust the vehicle seat.** Keep as much distance as possible between the belly and the steering wheel.
 - When driving, if you need additional room, consider adjusting the steering wheel or having someone else drive, if possible.
 - As a passenger, move your seat back as far as possible.
- Keep Airbags Activated.** Seat belts and air bags work together to provide the best protection for you and your unborn child.



If you are involved in a crash, seek medical attention, even if you think you are not injured, regardless if you were the driver or passenger.

4 THINGS YOU NEED TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD'S CAR SEAT.



Consumer: Just fill in your name and address and e-mail address (optional)

Your name _____

Your Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Country _____

E-mail Address (optional) _____

CHILD RESTRAINT REGISTRATION CARD

Serial #: EBL38J0005942
Model #: EBL38J3
Batch #: J000018963
Manufactured In: 03/20/09
Manufactured in Charlotte, NC, USA

Register Your Car Seat for Recall and Safety Notices

Register car seats to ensure you will be notified about recalls and guided through the repair process. Car seats can be registered by:

- Register online at the car seat manufacturer's website, using the model number and manufacture date found on a sticker on the car seat. OR
- Fill out the registration card that came with the car seat. The registration card has the car seat's information. Mail the card; no postage required. OR
- Register the car seat online at www.safercar.gov/parents. Select "Car Seat and Booster seats and then Registration". Complete the online form and submit. It takes just a few minutes to register your car seat.

Focus on the Five Steps to Proper Car Seat Use

SELECTION

Select a car seat, belt-positioning booster seat, or seat belt that is in good condition (not been in a crash, not expired or recalled, no labels missing) and appropriate for the child's age, height, weight, and development level.

Why: Car seats and booster seats are the protection systems for passengers who are too small to get the full safety benefits from adult seat belts. Car seats and booster seats:

- ◆ Provide small children with the same protection that adults get from seat belts and other safety equipment built into the vehicle.
- ◆ Are designed to keep children within the vehicle and close to their original seating position.
- ◆ Prevent contact with interior surfaces or other occupants.
- ◆ Provide "ride-down" by gradually decelerating the child as the vehicle deforms and absorbs energy from crash forces.



Rear Facing:
Infant
Convertible

Forward-Facing:
Convertible
Combination
3-in-1, 4-in-1, 5-in-1



Booster Seat:
High Back or Backless

Vehicle Seat Belt



DIRECTION

Place the car seat in the correct direction for the age, height, weight, and developmental level of the child.

Why: Many children are moved to the next car seat stage before they are truly ready, which puts them at greater risk of injury in a crash. Children younger than 2 years are better protected by riding rear-facing to the limits of their convertible car seat.

- ◆ The American Academy of Pediatrics advises that children ride rear-facing until at least age 2, while their fragile spinal cords are still developing. NHTSA suggests that children ride rear-facing to the upper limits of their car seat. Convertible car seats with higher rear-facing weight and height limits allow children to ride rear-facing beyond the age of 2.
- ◆ Children are also being moved prematurely from harnessed car seats into booster seats, as well as from booster seats into adult seat belts, which puts them at greater risk of injury if the seat belt does not fit them correctly.



**REAR-FACING
CAR SEAT**



**FORWARD-FACING
CAR SEAT**

LOCATION

Place the car seat or booster seat in an appropriate location in the vehicle.

Why: The safest place for children under the age of 13 to ride is the back seat. They are better protected from head-on collisions, which constitute about 60 percent of all crashes.

- ◆ The back seat eliminates the risk of being injured by the passenger-side front air bag, which is designed to provide additional protection for adults who are properly secured with the seat belt. Read the vehicle owner's manual to locate the air bags in your vehicle. **NEVER** place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active front air bag.
- ◆ Consider the occupant protection needs of all passengers when installing a car seat. Select a seating position that will provide an optimal installation for the car seat. The middle seat in the back is often referred to as the "best seat" for car seats because of the protection from side impact crashes, but any back vehicle seat is preferable to a front seat.
- ◆ Consider family needs. If parking on a busy street, place the child's car seat on the curb side for optimal protection when entering and exiting the vehicle. **NEVER** leave children alone in the car, not even for a minute.



INSTALLATION

Install the car seat or booster seat in the vehicle correctly.

Why: It is estimated that 46 percent of car seats on America's roads are installed incorrectly (NCRUSS, 2015). A car seat that is incorrectly installed will not provide optimal protection in a crash situation, and may put your child's safety at risk.

- ◆ Car seats can be installed with either the seat belt or the lower anchors, and forward facing seats should always utilize the tether.
- ◆ Lower anchors are standard in vehicles manufactured after 2002, and are located in the bight (where the vehicle seat and back meet) of the vehicle seat.
- ◆ Current car seats come equipped with lower anchor connectors, which when threaded through the correct belt path and securely fastened onto the lower anchors create a secure installation for a car seat.
- ◆ While the systems are different, they are equally safe, and it's recommended to use the seat belt or lower anchors – but NOT both (unless specifically approved by the car seat and vehicle manufacturer).



Anchor. Tether.
LATCH
The next generation
of child safety.

HARNESSING

Secure the child properly in the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt.

Why: Correct harnessing or seat belt fit ensures the child is securely positioned in the car seat, booster seat, or vehicle seat, and able to take advantage of the crash protection that the harness or belt provides.

- ◆ The harness holds the child down low in the car seat. The child secured correctly will not slide up and out of the car seat in a crash. Incorrect harnessing—often a loose harness or a retainer clip that is too low—is an extremely common misuse.
- ◆ Correct seat belt fit, for children in boosters or in a seat belt transitioning out of boosters is very important and also a common error.

Where Do The Harness Straps Go?



Rear-facing seats

Straps should originate
AT or BELOW
the child's shoulders



Forward-facing seats

Straps should originate
AT or ABOVE
the child's shoulders

Five Steps for Correct Use

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.** Not only will the child ride as safely as possible, a child who is secured during every ride will establish a foundation for a lifelong habit of seat belt use every time the child travels.

- ◆ Select a car seat with an adjustable harness height to offer options for rapidly growing children.
- ◆ Some car seats have adjustable positions for crotch straps for a better fit as the child grows.
- ◆ Booster seats keep the lap belt from causing injury to a child's abdomen and keeps the shoulder belt in the proper position to provide upper body protection.
- ◆ Seat belts can be used to safely secure children when the lap belt stays low and snug across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt crosses the center of the chest and shoulder.

Selecting the correct child restraint type is the first step in making sure a child is safe in the vehicle. Be aware of height and weight limits as a child grows. When in doubt, contact a child passenger safety technician in your community.

Selection: Choose the Right Car Seat

- ◆ **Always read the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual.**
- ◆ Always check the minimum and maximum weight allowed for a car seat. Select a car seat that is correct for the child's weight and height.
- ◆ Select a car seat with an adjustable harness height to offer options for children as they grow.

Car Seat Instructions

Vehicle Owner's Manual



- ◆ **Rear-Facing:** Select a car seat that allows the child's head to be at least one-inch (1") from the top of the back of the car seat.
- ◆ **Forward-Facing:** Select a car seat where the mid-point of the head or the top of the ears are not above the top of the shell of the car seat.
- ◆ **Belt-Positioning Booster Seat:** Select a booster seat that positions the vehicle's lap belt low and snug of the hips/upper thighs and the shoulder belt across the center of the child's shoulder and chest.
- ◆ **Seat Belt:** Select a lap and shoulder belt when the child is:
 - ✓ Tall enough to sit on the vehicle seat without slouching.
 - ✓ Able to keep their back against the vehicle seat back.
 - ✓ Able to sit with their knees naturally bent over the front edge of the vehicle seat.
 - ✓ Able to keep their feet flat on the floor.

Car Seat & Booster Seats that Have Been Involved in a Crash

- ◆ **Always follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for guidelines on when the car seat or booster seat must be replaced.**
- ◆ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends that child safety seats be replaced following a moderate or severe crash.
- ◆ Replacement after a minor crash is not always necessary. Minor crashes meet all of the following criteria:
 - ◆ The vehicle was able to be driven away from the crash site.
 - ◆ The vehicle door nearest the safety seat was undamaged.
 - ◆ There were no injuries to any of the vehicle occupants.
 - ◆ The air bags, if present, did not deploy.
 - ◆ There is no visible damage to the safety seat.



Direction

For the best possible protection, **secure children in a rear-facing car seat until 2 years of age or until the maximum weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.**

Rear-facing:

Always secure children younger than 1 year of age in a rear-facing car seat.

- ◆ The child should remain in a rear-facing car seat to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ If a child outgrows a rear-facing only car seat before age 2, use a rear-facing convertible car seat to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer.

Forward-Facing:

When children outgrow a rear-facing car seat, secure them in a forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.

Rear-facing:

- ◆ The shell of the car seat absorbs the forces of the crash across the entire head, neck and back.

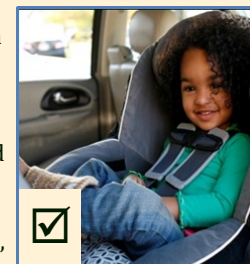
Forward-facing:

- ◆ The harness absorbs the forces of a crash and holds the child in the vehicle.

Turning your child forward-facing too soon:

Turning a child forward-facing before age two can result in head, neck or spinal cord injury in a crash due to their undeveloped bodies.

- ◆ Keep children in a rear-facing car seat until they reach age 2 or the maximum weight or height limit recommended by the car seat manufacturer.
- ◆ Rear-facing car seats distribute the forces of a crash across the entire head and body of the child. The shell of the car seat absorbs the crash forces.
- ◆ Rear-facing car seats support the head, neck and back. Traveling rear-facing is safer than forward-facing.
- ◆ Transfer a child who has outgrown a rear-facing only car seat to a rear-facing convertible car seat until the maximum weight or height is reached.



Five Steps for Correct Use

Location

All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.

- ◆ **Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front vehicle seat if the passenger-side front air bag is turned on.**
- ◆ Read and follow car seat manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle owner's manual to determine the effect of side-impact airbags.

Install the Car Seat in the Right Seating Position in the Car

- ◆ There may be many seating positions in a vehicle, not all are suitable to secure a car seat.
- ◆ The car seat manufacturer instructions and/or the vehicle owner's manual may not permit securing a car seat in certain seating positions.
- ◆ Some vehicle manufacturers do not allow a car seat to be secured in the center seating position in a back seat.
- ◆ Select a seating position that allows for correct use of the car seat following the car seat and vehicle manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ Weight limits on lower anchors and tether anchor locations may affect the seating position choice.

Securing a child in the front seat:

- ◆ **NEVER** place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active passenger-side front seat air bag.
- ◆ If it is necessary to secure a forward-facing car seat in the front seat, be sure to turn the air bag off or move the vehicle seat back as far as possible, away from the air bag.

Installation

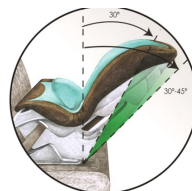
Always read and follow the car seat instructions and vehicle owner's manual.

Seat Belt/LATCH

- ◆ Car seat should be secured with the vehicle seat belt or lower anchor connector routed through the correct belt path.
- ◆ Seat belt/lower anchor connector is tight and locked in place allowing no more than 1-inch of side-to-side movement when pulled at the belt path.
- ◆ The installation should be checked for tightness each time the car seat is used.
- ◆ Always use the tether when installing a car seat forward-facing with the seat belt or lower anchors.

Install the Car Seat in the Right Way

- ◆ **Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for the correct rear-facing or forward-facing angle position; reclined, semi-reclined, or upright angle.**
- ◆ Secure the rear-facing car seat with the vehicle seat belt or lower anchors.
- ◆ Secure the forward-facing car seat with the seat belt or lower anchors and the tether, following manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ Secure a booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt.



Make sure the car seat does not move from side-to-side or front-to-back more than 1-inch when pulled at the belt path.

General Method to Obtain a Tight Installation

- ◆ Place the car seat on the vehicle seat in the correct direction.
- ◆ Thread and tighten the seat belt or lower anchor connectors through the correct belt path.
- ◆ Buckle and lock the seat belt or attach the connectors to the lower anchors in the vehicle. Tighten to ensure the car seat does not move more than one-inch when checked at the belt path.
- ◆ Attach and tighten the tether with the seat belt or lower anchor connectors on a forward-facing car seat.

Harnessing

Always read and follow the car seat instructions.

Harness

- ◆ Harness straps are snugly secured to hold the child in the car seat during a crash.
 - ✓ "A snug strap should not allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without sagging. It does not press on the child's flesh or push the child's body into an un-natural position."
- ◆ Harness retainer clip is positioned at armpit level.

Correct Harness Tips

Correct shoulder harness height is critical to being fully secured and reducing the child's movement in the event of a sudden stop or crash. The less movement that occurs, the less violent forces the child feels in the collision. The harness:

- ◆ Keeps the child in the car seat during a crash.
- ◆ Contacts the strongest parts of the child's body.
- ◆ Spreads the crash forces.
- ◆ Manages the crash forces when correctly positioned.
- ◆ Protects the head, brain and spinal cord.

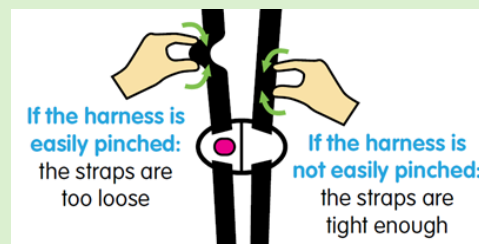
Always follow the car seat instructions on correct harness position.

Four steps to correctly place a child in a car seat.

1. **Child is seated all the way back** in a car seat. The child's back and bottom should be in contact with the back and bottom of the car seat.
2. Place the harness straps in the **correct harness slots for the child.**
 - ◆ **Rear-Facing:** The harness is placed **AT or BELOW** the child's shoulders.
 - ◆ **Forward-Facing:** The harness is placed **AT or ABOVE** the child's shoulders.
3. Buckle and tighten the **harness straps snugly.**
4. Place the **harness retainer clip at armpit level.**

How Tight Should the Harness Be?

The harness should pass the 'pinch test'; when pinching the harness webbing vertically at the shoulder with the thumb and forefinger, your fingers should slide off easily and you should not be able to pinch any webbing between them.



The harness should lie flat, and fit snugly (not uncomfortable) at the child's shoulders and hips.

WARNING

EVEN WITH ADVANCED AIR BAGS



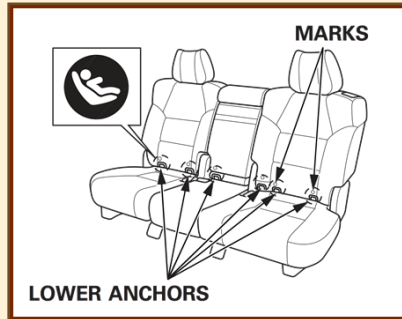
- ◆ Children can be killed or seriously injured by the air bag
- ◆ The back seat is the safest place for children
- ◆ Never put a rear-facing child seat in the front
- ◆ Always use seat belts and child restraints
- ◆ See owner's manual for more information about air bags

Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children

- ◆ Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH) is designed to install car seats in the vehicle using two lower anchors and one tether, in place of the seat belt.
- ◆ Always look in the vehicle owner's manual to locate the lower anchors and tether anchors in the vehicle, and to determine which seating positions have the LATCH system or only a tether anchor.
- ◆ Only seating positions that have a standard LATCH system, as defined by the vehicle owner's manual, should be used for lower anchor installation.
- ◆ Read and follow the LATCH use instructions provided by the car seat manufacturer instructions and vehicle owner's manual.

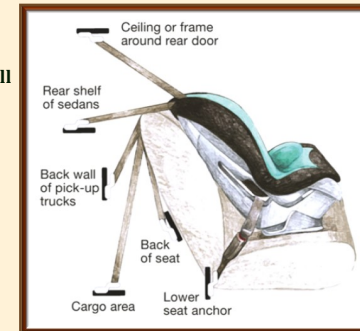
The lower anchor connectors are located on the lower part of the car seat.

- ◆ The **lower anchor connectors** on the car seat attach onto the lower anchors in the vehicle.



Lower anchors are the metal bars located in the vehicle seat bight.

Tether anchor location will vary based on what type of vehicle you drive.



The **tether** is located on the upper part of the back of the car seat.

- ◆ The tether hook attaches to the tether anchor in the vehicle.

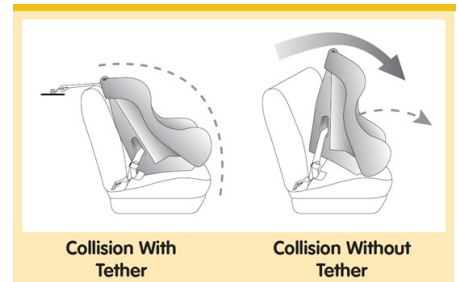
What you need to know about Lower Anchors

- ◆ Do not exceed the maximum weight limit of the lower anchors.
 - ✓ **If the vehicle manufacturer does not state a weight limit, do not use the lower anchors if the child + the car seat combined weight is greater than 65 pounds.**
- ◆ Thread the lower anchor connector through the correct belt path, attach to the lower anchors and tighten.
- ◆ Use a designated LATCH seating position. In the center seating position, DO NOT use the lower anchors in the outboard seating positions. This is often not permitted by the car seat or vehicle manufacturer.
 - ✓ A car seat can be installed with LATCH in a non-standard LATCH seating position if both the vehicle and car seat manufacturers allow. Always check the manual to make sure the seat is using an approved position.
- ◆ Never install a car seat using lower anchors and the seat belt at the same time unless specifically allowed by both the car seat and vehicle manufacturer.
- ◆ **Using Lower Anchor Connectors with Booster Seats:** Some booster seats have lower anchor connectors to secure and properly position the booster seat in the vehicle. The vehicle seat belt secures the child in the booster seat. In this situation, both the lower anchor connectors and vehicle seat belt may be used at the same time and the vehicle lower anchor weight limits do not apply.
- ◆ Unused seat belts may be within reach of a child when a car seat is installed with lower connectors. Reduce the risk of entanglement from unused seat belts by securing unused seat belts as directed by the vehicle manufacturer.



What you need to know about Tethers

- ◆ A tether holds the back of the car seat and some booster seats against the vehicle seat to reduce the amount of forward and side movement in a crash.
 - ✓ **A tether can reduce the distance that the child's head moves forward in a crash by 4 to 6 inches, lessening the risk of head injuries in a crash.**
- ◆ Use the tether when installing forward-facing car seats, whenever possible. Car seats can be secured using:
 - ✓ Lower anchors and the tether; OR
 - ✓ Seat belt and the tether.
- ◆ Tether anchor locations are identified in the vehicle manual. Tether anchors have weight limits that vary by vehicle manufacturer. Anchor weight limits are not always stated in the vehicle owner's manual.
 - ✓ **If the vehicle manufacturer does not state a weight limit, do not use the tether if the child + the car seat combined weight is greater than 65 pounds.**
- ◆ To provide optimum protection, a tether must be tightened and attached properly.



Installation Checklist: Rear-Facing and Forward-Facing Seats

Car Seat Selection

- ☐ Confirm the car seat is in good condition and has not been recalled.
- ☐ Verify the car seat has not met the manufacturer's designated expiration date.
- ☐ Register the car seat so you can be notified by the manufacturer in the event of a safety recall.
- ☐ Read the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual to install the car seat correctly.
- ☐ Check the car seat's weight and height in the instructions or on the label to ensure it is appropriate for the child's age, weight and height. Be aware of height and weight limits as the child grows.
- ☐ Select a car seat with adjustable harness heights to accommodate children as they grow.
- ☐ Seat the child in the car seat with their back and bottom in contact with the back of the car seat.

Rear-Facing:

- ☐ Select a rear-facing car seat that allows the child's head to be at least one-inch (1") from the top of the back of the car seat shell.

Forward-Facing:

- ☐ Select a forward-facing car seat where the child's ears are not above the top of the back of the car seat shell.

Correct Direction

Rear-Facing:

- ☐ Keep a child in a rear-facing car seat until age 2 or until they reach the maximum weight or height of the car seat. When the child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, secure the child in a forward-facing car seat.
- ☐ Transfer a child who has outgrown a rear-facing only car seat to a rear-facing convertible car seat until the maximum weight or height is reached.

Forward-Facing:

- ☐ Keep the child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until the maximum forward-facing weight or height is reached or the child's shoulders are above the top harness slot.
- ☐ When the child outgrows the forward-facing car seat, secure the child in a belt positioning booster seat in the back seat of the vehicle

Seating Location

- ☐ Determine whether the seat belt or lower connectors will be used to secure the car seat.
- ☐ Weight limits on lower anchors can affect the seating position choice.
- ☐ Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle owner's manual to determine the effect of side-impact airbags.
- ☐ Choose a seating location with seat belts that can be locked or approved for LATCH, (Lower Anchors and Tethers for CHildren).
- ☐ Select a seating location where a tight car seat installation can be achieved.
- ☐ Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.

Rear-Facing:

- ☐ NEVER place a rear-facing car seat in the front vehicle seat if the passenger-side front air bag is turned on. If a rear-facing car seat is placed in the front seat, be sure the air bag is turned off.

Forward-Facing:

- ☐ Secure a forward-facing car seat in a back seat in the vehicle if the passenger-side front air bag is turned on. If a forward-facing car seat is placed in the front seat, turn off the front passenger-side air bag and move the vehicle seat as far back as to increase the distance between the child and the front of the vehicle.
- ☐ Check the vehicle owner's manual to identify seating positions with tether anchor locations.

Tight Installation

- ☐ Install car seat with a seat belt or lower anchors. Never install a car seat with the seat belt and lower anchors unless specifically allowed by the car seat and vehicle manufacturer.
- ☐ Read the vehicle owner's manual for information about how to "lock" the seat belt. Seat belts in the vehicle may be different, which could affect the car seat installation.
- ☐ Read the vehicle owner's manual to locate the lower anchors and tether anchors in the vehicle. Determine the seating positions that have the LATCH system or only have a tether anchor.
- ☐ Place the car seat on the vehicle seat and thread the seat belt or lower anchor connectors through the correct belt path as directed by the car seat manufacturer. Be careful not to have any twists in the webbing.
- ☐ Buckle and lock the seat belt or connect the lower anchor connectors to the vehicle anchors. Press firmly on the base or car seat when tightening.
- ☐ Confirm the car seat does NOT move side-to-side or front-to-back more than 1-inch when tested at the belt path.
- ☐ Check the installation each time the car seat is used.

Rear-Facing:

- ☐ Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions to determine the appropriate rear-facing semi-reclined angle when installing the car seat in the rear-facing position. When checking the recline angle, the vehicle must be on a level surface.
- ☐ Use the adjustable base/foot or rolled towel/pool noodle to correct the angle as needed.

Forward-Facing:

- ☐ Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions to determine the appropriate forward-facing upright or semi-upright angle when installing the car seat in the forward-facing position.
- ☐ NEVER place rolled towels or pool noodles behind or under a forward-facing car seat unless allowed by the car seat manufacturer.
- ☐ Identify the tether anchor. When installing the forward-facing car seat, attach the tether strap and tighten.
- ☐ Use the tether when installing forward-facing car seats with the seat belt or lower anchors, whenever possible.

Snug Harness

- ☐ Place the child all the way back in the car seat so there is no gap between the car seat and the child's back.
- ☐ Place the harness straps as directed by the car seat manufacturer's instructions and buckle.
- ☐ Secure the child with a snug harness. A snug harness does not permit excess webbing to be pinched at the shoulder or hips once the harness is buckled.
- ☐ Place the harness retainer clip at armpit level. Make sure the harness pieces are fully inserted and secure.
- ☐ Never use additional padding under the child or between the child and the harness.

Rear-Facing:

- ☐ Place the harness through the correct harness slots at or below the child's shoulders following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.

Forward-Facing:

- ☐ Place the harness through the correct reinforced harness slots at or above the shoulder following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.

Installation Checklist: Belt-Positioning Booster Seats and Seat Belts

Belt-Positioning Booster

Car Seat Selection

- ☐ Select a booster seat only when the child has outgrown a forward-facing car seat with a harness. Keep in mind that there are different types of booster seats:
 - ✓ Forward-facing car seats with a harness that convert to a booster seat.
 - ✓ High-back booster seat.
 - ✓ Backless booster seat.
- ☐ Register the car seat so you can be notified by the manufacturer in the event of a safety recall.
- ☐ Read the booster seat instructions and/or label for the weight ranges, height recommendations, and belt positioning guidance for correct use.
- ☐ Read the vehicle owner's manual for information on adjusting the seat belts and head restraint.

Correct Direction

- ☐ Place the belt-positioning booster seat forward-facing and flat on the vehicle seat.

Seating Location

- ☐ Select a seating position with a lap and shoulder belt to be used with the booster seat.
- ☐ Confirm the child has appropriate head support from either the vehicle seat/head restraint or the belt-positioning booster seat back.
- ☐ Move the front seat back as far as possible if a booster seat is used in the front seat.
- ☐ Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.

Tight Installation

- ☐ Use only with a lap and shoulder belt.
- ☐ Thread the vehicle's lap and shoulder belts through the correct belt path and buckle.

Snug Harness

- ☐ Confirm the lap and shoulder belts are laying flat against the child's body, positioned across the center of the chest and low and snug across the hips.

High-Back Booster Seats

- ☐ Child is seated all the way back in the booster seat so there is no gap between the booster seat and the child's back.
- ☐ Position the lap belt portion of the seat belt in the belt path under the booster seat arms following car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- ☐ Position the shoulder belt across the center of the chest and shoulder. Use the shoulder belt positioner on the booster seat to keep the shoulder belt in place.

Backless Booster Seats

- ☐ Child is seated all the way back in the booster seat so there is no gap between the vehicle seat's back and the child's back.
- ☐ Position the lap belt portion of the seat belt in the belt path under the booster seat arms following car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- ☐ Position the shoulder belt across the center of the chest and shoulder. Use the shoulder belt positioner on the booster seat to keep the shoulder belt in place.
- ☐ Adjust the head restraint following the guidance provided in the vehicle owner's manual.

Vehicle Seat Belt

Selection

- ☐ Secure children in a seat belt when they are big enough for the seat belt to fit correctly.
- ☐ Use a lap and shoulder belt.
- ☐ Select a lap belt only seating position if necessary. A lap belt provides no upper body protection, but is better than no restraint.

Correct Direction

- ☐ Secure the child seated forward-facing on the vehicle seat.

Seating Location

- ☐ Select a seating position with a lap and shoulder belt.
- ☐ Confirm the child has appropriate head support from the vehicle seat/head restraint.
- ☐ Position the top of a head restraint to reach at least as high as the top of the ears, and preferably the top of the head.
- ☐ Position the head restraint as close to the back of the head as is comfortable. The distance between the back of the head and the head restraint should be no more than 3 inches.
- ☐ Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicle.
- ☐ Move the front seat back as far as possible if a front seat is used.

Tight Installation

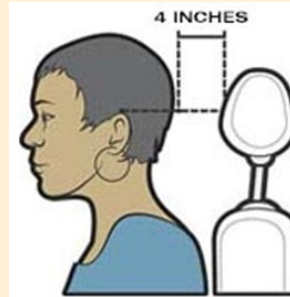
- ☐ Use a lap and shoulder belt that is buckled.
- ☐ Confirm that a child is seated in the proper position for the length of travel.

Snug Harness

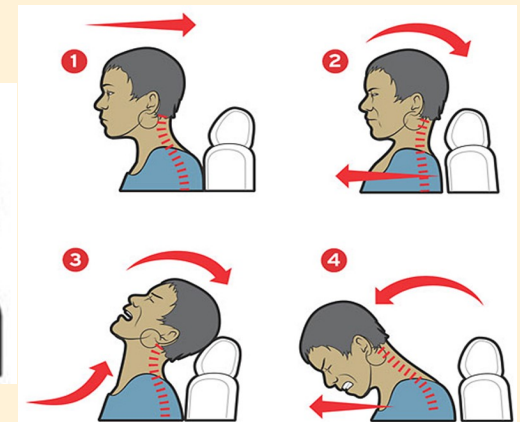
- ☐ Confirm the lap and shoulder belt are laying flat against the child's body, positioned across the center of the chest and low and snug across the hips.
- ☐ Confirm the shoulder belt is not placed under the arm or behind the back.

A head restraint that is too low or far back will not protect your head and neck in a crash.

The four images illustrate a typical impact.



www.consumerreports.org



Keeping Tweens and Teens Safe—Every Ride

Child Passenger Safety Week is a great time to reinforce the importance of vehicle safety to your children. As a parent or caregiver, one of your top priorities will always include keeping children safe. As children grow, the way you talk to children about seat belt safety may change, but the message will always stay the same: the right seat saves lives. Understand the potentially fatal consequences of not wearing a seat belt and learn what you can do to make sure you and your family are properly buckled up every time.



Life as a parent is full of compromises, but seat belt safety for children of any age is not up for negotiation. Be a role model for seat belt safety. Research shows children whose parents buckle up are much more likely to do the same. Set the example and make sure children under 13 are properly buckled up in a back seat. One child passenger between the ages of 8 and 14 is injured every 8 minutes in a car crash. Make it a rule in your family that everyone follows the same practice as you: **Always buckle up before moving the car, no matter how short or far the drive.** The habits that children form as tweens and teenagers will follow them through their lives, and car seat and seat belt safety is crucial for their well-being.

Tween Crash Facts (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

- ♦ From 2012 to 2016, there were 1,692 children 8 to 14 years old killed in passenger vehicles.
- ♦ In 2016, over half of 8- to 14-year-olds killed in crashes were not wearing a seat belt.
- ♦ Of the 8- to 14-year-olds killed in car crashes in 2016, 26 percent were sitting in the front seat, and 45 percent of those children were unbuckled.

The time to transition your child out of a booster seat and into a seat belt usually comes when the child is between 8 and 12 years old. Keep your children in booster seats until they outgrow the size limits of the booster seats or are big enough to fit properly in seat belts.

Fitting a Child Correctly in a Seat Belt

For your child to properly fit in a seat belt, he or she must be tall enough to sit without slouching and be able to:

- ♦ Keep his or her back against the vehicle seat;
- ♦ Keep his or her knees naturally bent over the edge of the vehicle seat; and
- ♦ Keep his or her feet flat on the floor.

Additionally:

- ♦ The lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach.
- ♦ The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest, and not cross the neck or face.
- ♦ Never let a child put the shoulder belt under an arm or behind the back because it could cause severe injuries in a crash.
- ♦ Keep your child in the back seat because it is safer there.

Remember, always check your child's belt fit in every vehicle. A booster seat may be needed in some vehicles and not in others. If the seat belt does not fit properly yet, your child should continue to use a booster seat.

**NEVER GIVE UP
UNTIL THEY BUCKLE UP.**

 
LEARN MORE

Parenting children transitioning to their teenage years brings unique challenges, and you may face challenges requiring seat belt safety. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data indicates that as children get older they are less likely to want to buckle up. You may not always be at their side, but the influence you've had stays with them. Follow these pointers and set the example of buckling up every time you get into the car. Remember: **Never give up until they buckle up!**

- ♦ **Consistently Model Seat Belt Safety.** Wear your seat belt and insist that all family members do the same.

Buckling up is not a one-time conversation—it is ongoing. Set the example by always wearing your seat belt, and remind teens that buckling up is the law. Learning the importance of wearing a seat belt starts with a good role model—and that's you. As a parent or caregiver, you are the number one influence on your child's seat belt safety. Research shows that children whose parents buckle up are much more likely to buckle up themselves.



- ♦ **Never Give Up Until They Buckle Up.** Make sure children are buckled up with the lap and shoulder belt—no shoulder belts behind their backs or under their arms, or seat belts so loose that they can wrestle in the back seat. Motivate children to buckle up properly and consistently using age-appropriate messages and rewards to reinforce the importance of seat belt safety. As a parent, consistency is key: Never give up until you're kids are buckled up!
- ♦ **Never Assume A Child Is Buckled Up.** Remind children to wear a lap and shoulder seat belt every time they get into a car—no matter whose car it is—and to stay buckled up, including at night and on longer rides.
- ♦ **Keep Children in a Back Seat.** All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat for maximum safety. The back seat is the safest place for a child because most crashes occur in the front of the car and the back seat is farthest from the impact.

SUMMARY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILD PASSENGER OCCUPANT PROTECTION LAWS

(Act 53, 1983 / Act 22, 1993 / Act 229, 2002 / Act 81, 2011 / Act 43, 2016)

All drivers operating a passenger car, Class I and Class II truck, classic motor vehicle, antique motor vehicle or motor home shall securely fasten infants and children under 8 years of age in an approved child restraint/booster when the child is riding anywhere in the motor vehicle, including the cargo area. The car seat/booster seat may be in any seating position in the vehicle that is equipped with a seat belt. (However, for maximum protection, a back seat is preferable.)

All drivers transporting children under 4 years of age are responsible to securely restrain those children in an approved child passenger restraint system.

- ◆ **A child younger than two years of age shall be secured in a rear-facing child passenger restraint system, to be used until the child outgrows the maximum weight and height limits designated by the car seat manufacturer. (Primary Law)**
 - ◆ Violators may be stopped as a primary offense for non-compliance with the Child Passenger Protection Law for children birth to age 4. Violators will be fined \$75.00, plus Court Costs (adjusted annually); \$45.00 Surcharge; \$10.00 EMS Fund and \$10.00 Administrative Costs.
 - ◆ The fine shall be dismissed if the person prior to or at his 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.

All drivers transporting children 4 years of age or older but under 8 years of age are responsible to securely restrain those children in a seat belt system and an appropriately fitting child booster seat. (Primary Law)

- ◆ Violators may be stopped as a primary offense for non-compliance of the Child Passenger Protection Law for children age 4 to age 8. Violators will be fined \$75.00, plus Court Costs (adjusted annually); \$45.00 Surcharge; \$10.00 EMS Fund and \$10.00 Administrative Costs.
- ◆ The fine shall be dismissed if the person prior to or at his 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.

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. (Primary Law)

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

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

Fines collected are placed in a fund and used to purchase car seats for loaner programs.

Civil immunity for child passenger safety technicians and lenders of car seats has been granted. No certified child passenger safety technician or organization acting in good faith, within the scope of the national standardized child passenger safety training, and without a fee or charge to the owner or operator of the vehicle, shall be liable for an act of omission that occurs in giving advice or assistance regarding the inspection, installation or adjustment of a car seat. No person or organization who lends child restraints shall be liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omission, except any act or omission intentionally designed to harm or any grossly negligent act or omission resulting in harm to another.

Hospitals are required to notify parents of the location of car seat loan programs in the community. It is recommended that hospitals also provide information on the Pennsylvania's Child Passenger Safety Occupant Protection law. Providing educational materials about the law and correct selection and use of car seats will assist families in keeping their children safe during travel.

CPS Week Event Registration

September 23-29, 2018

Pennsylvania will be joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and other states in the nation in celebrating **Child Passenger Safety Week** and **NHTSA's Annual "Seat Check Saturday"** on Saturday, September 29th. The goal of the program is to educate parents on the correct selection and use of their child restraints. Join Pennsylvania in observing Child Passenger Safety Week and help us to get the word out about car seat checks and educational efforts being conducted.

Please register your event. Event registration can be completed at www.pakidstravelsafe.org on the "2018 CPS Week" page, or submitted by FAX at 484-446-3036, or by email to aosterhuber@paaap.org. All registered events will be sent to PennDOT and NHTSA and posted on the PA TIPP and NHTSA websites. The events will also be shared through local media releases to help advertise them in communities. The compiled statewide list will be available upon request to community partners and child passenger safety advocates.

NHTSA requests the list of events held during CPS Week and also requests data from the events. Share the success of your event by completing the data collection form. The information requested by NHTSA is provided below. The data collection form can be completed at www.pakidstravelsafe.org on the "2018 CPS Week" page or submitted by FAX or email. Please submit the Follow-Up Data Collection form by October 5th. The data from each event will be compiled and submitted to PennDOT and NHTSA.

Thank you in advance for your effort to protect the children in your community and cooperation in providing information about your event for Child Passenger Safety Week.

CPS Week & Seat Check Saturday - Car Seat Check Event Registration

DATE of EVENT: _____ START TIME: _____ END TIME: _____ COUNTY: _____

EVENT LOCATION: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CPS WEEK EVENT(S)— Follow-Up Data Collection Form:

- ☐ Appointment Required
- ☐ Appointment & Walk-Ins ☐ Same as Event Contact
- ☐ Walk-Ins

To make an appointment:

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Date	Check Event Location	Safe Kids Event (Y or N)	Techs Assisting	Seats Checked	Seats Distributed	# of Car Seats Registered on Site

**Data collected will be included in the Pennsylvania report submitted by PennDOT to NHTSA
FAX to 484-446-3036 or email to aosterhuber@paaap.org**