



Child Passenger Safety Week 2018

Talking Points

- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), three out of four kids, *that's 75 percent of children*, are not properly secured in their car seat or booster.
- So far in 2018, 12 children under the age of 15 have lost their lives on Colorado roads. (Sept. 15, 2018)
- Car crashes are the leading cause of death in children ages 1-12, but many of these fatalities can be prevented by properly using a car seat that fits your child and making sure it's installed and used correctly.

Car Seats Colorado Program

- Car Seats Colorado is a joint effort between the Colorado State Patrol and the Colorado Department of Transportation.
- Car Seats Colorado provides educational resources to parents and caregivers to help them make sure their kids are riding safely, which includes car seat inspection stations throughout Colorado.
- We also provide education and training for people to become certified Child Passenger Safety technicians and for current technicians to continue their education or maintain their certification.
- We partner with local car seat technicians, law enforcement, emergency services and other professional who are dedicated to child passenger safety.

Are people not putting their kids in car seats?

- It's not necessarily that people are being negligent, many times they have made simple, common installation errors, or their child is riding in the wrong type of car seat.
- Car seats are not always the easiest things to install. We do see a lot of parents who have improperly installed their child's car seat. If you are an expectant parent, or have recently installed a new car seat, we recommend having it checked by a certified child passenger safety technician to make sure it's done properly.
- We have inspection stations all over the state – you can find a map on our website at CarSeatsColorado.com to view locations near you of where you can get your seat inspected for free.
- Not only can installation of the car seat be an issue but knowing where the straps and harnesses should be secured on your child is another common mistake, along with the straps not being tight enough.



Car Seats

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- Lots of kids are riding in car seats that are not appropriate for their height, weight, age and physical development or the car seat manufacturer's requirements.

What type of car seat should a child be in based on their size or age?

- Car seats, booster seats and seat belts are designed to protect children based on all measures, not just their size or their age. Maturity level is also critical when thinking about transitioning into a booster seat.
- For that reason, there is no standard recommendation for what age a child should transition to the next car seat. It's what best fits your child and the vehicle in which he or she will be transported.
- Generally speaking...
 - It is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics that children remain rear facing for as long as possible, until they outgrow the height and weight limit of their car seat, before moving them to the forward-facing position.
 - Once they've outgrown the height and weight limits on a forward-facing convertible car seat, they can transition to a booster seat.
 - Kids should be in a booster seat until a seat belt fits them properly – which is usually when they're about 57 inches tall. This is usually around age 8, but for some kids might not be until they're 12 or older based on their development and maturity level.
- Every kid is going to be different – they might outgrow their rear-facing seat before another child, and they may be ready for a booster before someone else. It all depends on the child.
- Even if your child looks big enough to move to the next size car seat, be sure to follow all manufacturer recommendations on the car seat label.

When is it ok for a child to start riding in the front seat?

- Try to keep kids in the back seat as long as possible. Air bags can be fatal or cause serious injuries to a young child. The safest practice is to keep children in the back seat until they turn 13.
- If you are forced to put a child in the front seat, push that seat as far back as possible and NEVER put a rear facing car seat in the front of any vehicle.

What should new parents or expectant parents know who may be buying or installing a car seat for the first time?

- Start planning ahead of time – recommend having your car seat installed well in advance of your due date.



- If you have a baby registry, put your car seat on the top of the list – it is the most important thing you will get for your new baby.
- Once you've installed the car seat, have it inspected by a certified safety technician.

Advice for people without a lot of money to spend on a car seat.

- Even low-priced car seats are safe and meet the same safety requirements as more expensive seats.
- You can get a new car seat for as low as \$40.
- Make a plan. Save just \$5 a month throughout your pregnancy.
- Many retailers offer coupons or have trade-in programs where you can get a discount on a new car seat for trading in an old one.

Car Seat Inspection Stations

- We work with partners across Colorado and have more than 140 car seat inspection stations statewide.
- You can find a list of all inspection stations at CarSeatsColorado.com.
- Contact your local police or fire station to see if they have certified technicians who can inspect your seat.

Who should have their car seats inspected?

- We recommend having your car seat checked regularly as a safety measure. It's better to be safe than sorry and having your car seat checked is a small investment to ensure your child's safety.
- Car Seats Colorado technicians host regular car seat safety check events across the state which are free and open to the public, so you can drive up and have one of our technicians check your car seat's installation and fit.
- This is a great option for grandparents, nannies or other caregivers who will be transporting kids to make sure their car seats are installed correctly that they know how to secure the child properly.
- Technicians will inspect the car seat installation, check for any recalls on the seat, check the expiration date and assess the child's size to make sure they're in the right seat for their size.
- Technicians also educate parents on things like how tight the harness straps should be, where on the body the safety straps should be positioned and more.

More Information

- [Car Seats Colorado Facebook](#)
- CarSeatsColorado.com