



## Talking Points

### **GOAL**

The goal is to make sure all parents and caregivers are properly securing all children 15 and under in the correct restraint (rear-facing car seat, forward-facing car seat, booster seat or seat belt) for their age and size.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Who is CPS Team Colorado?**

CPS Team Colorado encompasses a network of safety and transportation professionals in Colorado who represent Child Passenger Safety (CPS) through public education, technical training, fostering advocacy and providing necessary resources. This includes:

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Colorado State Patrol
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Car Seat Technicians
- EMS professionals
- Local Hospitals
- Children's Hospital Colorado (training contractor)

#### **Car seats, booster seats, and seat belts save lives and offer the best protection for children in a crash when used properly.**

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 5-15 and the second leading cause of death for children 1-4 years old.<sup>1</sup>
- During the 5-year period from 2006 to 2010, 4,028 children age 12 and younger in the United States were killed in car crashes as passenger vehicle occupants. In addition, an estimated 660,000 children were injured, more than the population of Boston, Massachusetts.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on 2010 figures from the National Center for Health Statistics

- From 2006–2010, 64 child passengers, ages 0–12 died in traffic crashes in Colorado. Over half (55%) were not using a child safety seat or seat belt, or they were using one improperly.
- Based on NHTSA crash data in 2010, on average, nearly 2 kids 12 and younger were killed and 325 were injured every day while riding in passenger vehicles.
- In 2010, about 4 out of 10 children (passenger vehicle occupants) killed in crashes were not secured/restrained by car seats or seat belts.

### **Car seats work best when used correctly.**

- According to NHTSA, approximately 9,611 children 4 and younger have been saved from 1975 to 2010 by the proper use of car seats.
- In 2010, among children 4 and younger in cars, an estimated 303 lives were saved by restraint use.
- Car seats reduce the likelihood of an infant (under 1 year old) being killed by 71 percent, and toddlers (1 to 4 years old) by 54 percent in passenger cars.
- All 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have laws requiring children to be restrained while riding in cars– some states now require kids to ride in an appropriate car seat or booster seat until age 9.
- Failure to read and carefully follow the installation instructions included with the car seat as well as those in the vehicle owner's manual can lead to incorrect installation, exposing child passengers to grave risk of serious injury or death in a crash.

### **Inspection Stations**

CPS Team Colorado supports approximately 150 “inspection stations” across the state. Most Inspection Stations offer free assistance for parents, providing invaluable car seat checks to ensure proper seat installation. Parents can visit [www.carseatscolorado.com](http://www.carseatscolorado.com) to find their nearest Inspection Station.

## **Colorado 'Boosts' Child Passenger Safety Law**

As of August 1, 2011, the one-year education period for booster seat violations has expired. The law now stipulates a minimum fine of \$82 per violation.

The new law, enacted on August 1, 2010, requires all children under age 8 to be properly protected in a child safety seat when traveling in a motor vehicle. As a result, thousands of 6- and 7-year-olds across the state are now riding in booster seats. Previously, the law required only 4 and 5-year-olds to be in booster seats.

Children ages 4–7 who use booster seats are 45% less likely to be injured in a crash compared with children who are restrained only by seat belts. In Colorado, from 2004–2008, 28 children ages 4–7 were killed in traffic crashes. Twenty of them were improperly restrained, totally unrestrained or using only the vehicle seat belt (which does not provide adequate protection).

### **ADDITIONAL DATA**

NHTSA provides local and national child passenger safety data through the National Center for Statistics and Analysis

- Publications by category: [www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Cats/ViewCatalogbyCategory.aspx](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Cats/ViewCatalogbyCategory.aspx)
- If the data you are looking for cannot be found in published reports, you do have the option for submitting a customized data run through the Web site: [www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Cats/index.aspx](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Cats/index.aspx)