

Child Passenger Safety Week Talking Points September 2007

Missouri Child Restraint Usage Statistics

- The 2007 data from 21 survey sites revealed a child safety seat usage rate of 88.2% for children under age four.
- Ninety-two percent of surveyed children under age four were located in the back seat of the vehicle.
- When the driver was belted, 97% of the children were also restrained. In contrast, when the driver was not belted 34% of the children were also not restrained.
- In 2006, 15 children less than eight years of age were killed and 2,014 were injured as occupants in motor vehicle crashes in Missouri.
- There are nine Safe Kids Coalitions in Missouri that are active in promoting child passenger safety, including safety seat check events. To contact a coalition in your area, call Missouri's Safe Kids Coordinator, Imtiaz Mahmood, at 573-751-6210.

From National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- When used correctly, child safety seats are 71% effective in preventing fatalities for infants and 54% for toddlers.
- The use of belt-positioning booster seats lowers the risk of injury to children in crashes by 59% compared to the use of vehicle safety belts alone.
- People may check www.nhtsa.dot.gov (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) to find a fitting station or technician in their area.

Current Law for Transporting Children under 16:

- A new Missouri law (307.178 & 307.179 RSMo) effective August 2006 made drivers responsible to assure all children under the age of sixteen are properly secured in a motor vehicle.
- One of the main points of the law says that children ages 4 through 7, who weigh at least 40 pounds, must be in an appropriate child safety seat or booster seat (unless they weigh 80 pounds or more or are 4'9" tall or greater)
- Other points regarding Missouri's child passenger law:
 - Children less than 4 years old or less than 40 pounds must be in an appropriate child safety seat;
 - Children age 8 and over, or who weigh at least 80 pounds or are at least 4'9" tall, are required to be secured by a safety belt or booster seat appropriate for that child.
 - The law applies to cars, pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles, and vans. The law allows for primary enforcement, which means that a law enforcement officer can stop a driver for no other reason than non-compliance with this law – the fine is \$50.