Dear Safety Advocate:

**CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK, September 18-24, 2016**, highlights the importance of all children being correctly secured in the right occupant restraint for the child’s age, weight, height, and developmental needs. During Child Passenger Safety Week many communities plan educational programs and community car seat check events staffed with certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians to provide education on how to use car seats, booster seats, and seat belts. They also educate families about choosing the right car seat for a child, the importance of registering that car seat with its manufacturer, and what to do if the car seat is subject to a safety recall. The week concludes with National Seat Check Saturday on September 24th.

The Pennsylvania Traffic Injury Prevention Project and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation are providing this planner to assist you as you coordinate community safety events throughout the State. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported the following percentage of child fatalities who were unrestrained in passenger vehicles:

- 29% of children less than 1 year of age;
- 16% of children who were 1 to 3 years of age;
- 30% of children who were 4 to 7 years of age; and
- 44% of children who were 8 to 12 years of age. (NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2014)

Every parent wants to protect their children and keep them safe. The best way to protect children in a car is to secure them in the right seat, at the right time, and to use it the right way.

**“Back to 2” is the theme for Child Passenger Safety Week** to highlight the change in Pennsylvania’s Child Passenger Safety Law and the importance of keeping all infants and toddlers in a rear-facing car seat up to 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer. Children younger than age 2 are 75 percent less likely to die or to be severely injured in a crash if they are rear-facing. Children, ages 12 to 23 months, were over five times as likely to be injured when forward-facing compared to children of the same age secured rear-facing. Unfortunately, twenty-one percent (21%) of the children in the U.S., who are less than one year of age or 20 pounds, are incorrectly seated forward-facing.

The American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement addresses best practice for the use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts for children of all ages, birth through teenage drivers. These recommendations are evidence-based, and Child Passenger Safety Week provides the opportunity to teach parents to make the tough choices to keep the entire family safe. Information on these policies are found within the planner. Educational resources useful in promoting child passenger safety are also provided.

Please contact us if there is anything we can do to support your efforts in promoting Child Passenger Safety Week. The PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project (PA TIPP) will compile a list of all events and activities for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and NHTSA. To have your event included on the statewide event list, complete the event registration form provided on the back page. 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,

**PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project Staff**

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In 2015, there were 127,127 reportable traffic crashes in Pennsylvania. These crashes claimed the lives of 1,200 people and injured another 80,004 people. (2015 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics)

On average in Pennsylvania, each day:
- 348 reportable traffic crashes occurred
  - about 15 crashes every hour.
- 3 persons were killed in reportable traffic crashes
  - one death every seven hours.
- 225 persons were injured in reportable crashes
  - about 9 injuries every hour.

Pennsylvania seat belt usage rate was 83% in 2015. National statistics show that for every one percent increase in seat belt usage, eight to twelve lives can be saved on the highways.

Lap and shoulder seat belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%. For light-truck occupants, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60% and moderate-to-critical injury by 65%.

Three out of four crashes occur within 25 miles of home.

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children.
- Every 33 seconds, one child under the age of 13 is involved in a crash.
- From 2010 to 2014, there were 3,181 children younger than 13 years killed and about 601,000 children injured in car crashes.
- In 2014 alone, an estimated 112,000 children younger than 13 years were injured as passengers in car crashes.
- On average, nearly 2 children under 13 were killed and 308 children were injured every day in 2014 while riding in cars, SUVs, pickups, and vans.
- From 2010 to 2014, there were 1,499 children ages 8 to 14 killed in cars, vans, and SUVs.
- In 2014, the 4 to 7 age group had the highest number of fatalities (213) among children.
- In 2014, over one-third (34%) of children younger than 13 years killed in car crashes were not in car seats, booster seats, or seat belts.

Car Seats Work Best When Used Correctly
- Research has shown that correctly using an appropriate child restraint or seat belt is the single most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries in crashes.
- In passenger cars, child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers. For infants and toddlers in light trucks, the corresponding reductions were 58 percent and 59 percent, respectively.
- Most parents are confident they have correctly installed their child’s car seat, but in most cases (59%) the seat has not been installed correctly.

Children are likely to be buckled 93% of the time when adults are buckled and only 72% of the time when adults are not buckled.
- Everyone should buckle up, every time!
- Restraint use for children from birth to 7 years old is 91%.
- Children seated in a rear seat in vehicles;
  - Younger than age 8: 93%
  - Birth to 12 months: 98%
  - Age 1 to 3 years: 100%

Resources on Child Passenger Safety:
- There are approximately 1,400 nationally certified child passenger safety technicians in Pennsylvania who teach parents and caregivers how to properly use their child’s car seat.
- There are 171 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](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) or call 1-800 CAR BELT for a listing of child safety seat events and safety information for car seats.
- Visit [safecar.gov/therightseat](http://safecar.gov/therightseat), NHTSA’s parent resource website, for information on making sure you are using the correct seat for your child’s age and size.
Child Passenger Safety: What You Should Know Rear-Facing

American Academy of Pediatrics
Best Practice Recommendations for Transporting Children Younger Than 2 years of Age

(Published in the April 2011 issue of Pediatrics)

The American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines:

- All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat’s manufacturer.
- All children should be restrained in the rear seat of the vehicle.

WHY?

- Children younger than age 2 are 75 percent less likely to die or to be severely injured in a crash if they are rear-facing.
- Children, ages 12 to 23 months, were over five times as likely to be injured when forward-facing compared to children of the same age secured rear-facing.
- A rear-facing car seat supports the head, neck and spine of infants and toddlers in a crash and distributes the crash force over the entire body.
- Children, up to age 2, placed in forward-facing child safety seats are 1.8 times more likely to be seriously injured than those secured in a rear-facing child safety seat.
- Twenty-one percent (21%) of the children in the U.S., who are less than one year of age or 20 pounds, are incorrectly seated forward-facing.

Pennsylvania Child Passenger Safety Law

All drivers are responsible for securing children in the appropriate child restraint system.

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

- 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.

(Effective August 12, 2016)

Violators are subject to a fine of $75.00, plus Court Costs, $45.00 Surcharge, $10.00 EMS, and $10.00 Administrative Costs.

Total cost: $140.00 + Court Costs.

Tips to Achieve Correct Use of a Rear-Facing Car Seat

- Confirm the car seat is in good condition and has not been recalled.
- Confirm the car seat has not met the manufacturer's designated expiration date.
- Read the car seat instructions and/or label to make sure the car seat is appropriate for the child’s age, weight and height.

Correct Direction

- Keep the 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.

Seating Location

- Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.

Tight Installation

- Thread and tighten the seat belt or lower connectors through the correct rear-facing belt path.
- Confirm the car seat does NOT move side-to-side or front-to-back more than 1-inch when tested at the belt path.

Snug Harness

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

More Information on Buckling Up Children Safely

- **Always** read the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual.
- Car seat manufacturers recommend replacing car seats that have been in a crash. Check the car seat instructions for guidance on when a car seat needs to be replaced. Check with insurance companies regarding their crash replacement policy.
- Check the car seat label or the instructions for an expiration date or time frame. Car seats used beyond their life span are not considered safe.
- If you are unsure of how to use or install your car seat, in Pennsylvania you can contact the PA Traffic Injury Prevent Project at 1-800-CAR-BELT or www.pakidstravelsafe.org for information on fitting station locations.
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. All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.

Here’s What to Do:
- Use a rear-facing car seat:
  - In the back seat for as long as possible.
  - Up to the rear-facing weight or height limits, even beyond the age of 2.
- If your child outgrows their rear-facing car seat before age 2, use a car seat with a higher weight and/or height limit to keep the child rear-facing longer.
- Leg crowding is expected and does not cause harm as long as the child is within the weight and height limits for the car seat.

Here’s Why:
- The rear-facing car seat absorbs the crash forces.
- The head, neck, and spine are supported by the shell of the rear-facing car seat reducing harm to the child.
- Children younger than 2 years are more likely to be injured if they are secured forward-facing.

Rear-Facing: Position the Shoulder Harness At or Below Child’s Shoulders

When a child is rear-facing the harness straps should be coming out of a slot AT OR BELOW shoulder level.

The correct position of the shoulder harness is at or below your child’s shoulders. Correct shoulder harness height is critical to optimally securing the child and reducing the child’s movement in the event of a sudden stop or impact.

Incorrect Installation
The shoulder harness threaded in a slot above the child’s shoulders when rear-facing will allow the child to move upwards in a frontal collision. This could allow the child’s torso to travel twice the distance compared to the proper positioning below the shoulders. (see illustration below) Many parents do not realize that leaving shoulder harnesses positioned too high for their child has a similar effect as not fully tightening the harness.

Most collisions happen when the car is moving forward. A rear-facing child’s back is pressed against the seatback of the car seat in this type of crash, making it extremely important to keep the child’s body from sliding upwards against the car seat’s seatback.

Any upward movement of the child influences the crash performance of a rear-facing car seat. The additional distance the child moves increases the forces exerted on the child’s body. The more a child’s body moves in a crash, the more the child’s head and chest are subjected to increased forces both at the beginning of the collision and while slowing down after the collision.

Correct Installation
The harness straps are anchored snugly at or below a rear-facing child’s shoulders, and better restrain the child from sliding upwards.

Correct Position:
The harness straps are positioned snugly below the rear-facing child’s shoulders, and hold them securely in place.

Incorrect Position:
DO NOT use shoulder harness strap slots that are above the child’s shoulders. In a rear-facing car seat, if the shoulder straps are too high they will not hold your child securely, allowing the child to slide upwards in a sudden stop or crash.
American Academy of Pediatrics
Best Practice Recommendations for Transporting Children

(Published in the April 2011 issue of Pediatrics)

The American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines:

- All children 2 years or older, or those who have outgrown the rear facing weight or height limit for their car safety seat, should use a forward facing car safety seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer.
- All children should be restrained in the rear seat of the vehicle.

Forward-Facing Seat Best Practice

While all children and car seats are different, there are some basic guidelines to help make sure that a child is being transported in the safest possible way.

Keep a child in a forward-facing seat with a harness until:
- The child reaches the maximum forward-facing weight limit.
- The top of the child’s ears reach the top of the car seat shell.
- The child’s shoulders are above the top harness slot.

Forward-Facing Guidelines

The right car seat 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 begin a lifelong habit of being secured in the vehicle every time the child travels.

- Select a car seat with an adjustable harness height to offer options for rapidly growing children.
- Many car seats are available with harnesses that accommodate children from 65 - 90 pounds.
- Avoid bulky clothing or padding behind the child.
- 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.
- A tether can reduce the distance that the child’s head moves forward in a crash by 4 to 6 inches, reducing the risk of head injuries in a crash.
- Do not exceed the maximum weight limit of the lower anchors provided by the car seat or vehicle manufacturer. If the vehicle manufacturer does not state a weight limit, do not use the lower anchors or the tether anchor if the child + the car seat combined weight is greater than 65 pounds.
- 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.

Tips to Achieve Correct Use of a Forward-Facing Car Seat

Selection
- Read the car seat instructions and/or label to make sure the car seat is appropriate for the child’s age, weight and height.
- Be aware of height and weight limits as a child grows.
- Confirm that the child’s ears are not above the top of the car seat shell.
- Seat the child in the car seat with their back and bottom in contact with the back of the car seat.

Correct Direction
- Attach the tether after securing with the seat belt or lower anchors, when forward-facing.

Seating Location
- Determine whether the seat belt or lower connectors will be used to secure the car seat.
- Choose a seating location with seat belts that can be locked or approved for LATCH, (Lower Anchors and Tethers for CHildren).
- Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.

Tight Installation
- Read and follow the car seat manufacturer’s instructions to determine the appropriate upright or semi-upright angle when installing the car seat in the forward-facing position.
- Thread and tighten the seat belt or lower connectors through the correct forward-facing belt path.
- Secure the tether with the seat belt or lower anchors, whenever possible.
- Confirm the car seat does NOT move side-to-side or front-to-back more than 1-inch when tested at the belt path.

Snug Harness
- Place the harness through the correct reinforced harness slots at or above the shoulder following the car seat manufacturer’s instructions.
- 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.

Harness Slots:
Select and use the reinforced harness slots that are at or above the child’s shoulder, following the car seat manufacturer’s instructions.

Harness Retainer Clip:
Positioned at armpit or mid-chest level.

Snug Harness:
A snug harness does not allow the harness webbing to be folded between your thumb and forefinger when pinched at the shoulder.
When children outgrow the rear-facing car seat, secure them in a forward-facing child safety seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat. All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.

**Here’s What to Do:**
- Use a forward-facing car seat with a harness as long as possible up to the upper weight or height limits for the harness.
- Secure the car seat with the seat belt or LATCH system in the back seat.
- Use the tether when securing a forward-facing car seat.

**Right Seat + Right Time + Right Use = Reducing Car Crash Injury.**

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**Forward-Facing**

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

**Forward-Facing Checklist:**
- Child’s ears should not be above the top of the shell of the car seat.
- Harness straps are positioned at or above the shoulder.
- Harness straps lay flat and fit snugly on the child with the harness retainer clip at armpit level.
- Seat belt or lower anchors in the correct belt path are locked and tight with less than one inch of side-to-side movement when pulled at the belt path.
- Tether should be used following the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Read and follow the car seat manufacturer’s instructions to determine the appropriate upright or semi-upright angle when installing the car seat in the forward-facing position.

**Here’s Why:**
- The car seat harness:
  - Spreads the crash forces over the strong parts of the child’s body.
  - Holds the child in the car and keeps the body positioned in a crash.
  - The tether limits head injuries by reducing movement in a crash.

**Forward-Facing: Position the Shoulder Harness At or Above Child’s Shoulders**

*When a child is forward-facing the harness straps should be coming out of a slot AT or ABOVE shoulder level.*

The correct position of the shoulder harness is at or above your child's shoulders. Correct shoulder harness height is critical to optimally securing the child and reducing the child's movement in the event of a sudden stop or impact.

**Harness Positioning For Forward-Facing**

In a frontal collision, a child will move forward with sudden force against the shoulder harness. The correct positioning of the shoulder harness, at or above the child’s shoulders when forward-facing (see illustration to the right), most effectively decrease the distance the child will travel when propelled forward in a crash. The proper positioning of the harness reduces the amount of forward movement resulting in the child experiencing less violent forces.

**Selecting the Correct Harness Slot**

Read the car seat instructions to learn how to adjust the harness height for the child. On many car seats, harness height is adjusted by threading the webbing through slots at different heights on the back of the car seat. Some car seats have a no-rethread harness that adjust the harness height by pulling on levers, pushing buttons, or turning knobs to raise and lower the harness.

Convertible car seats with a rethread harness may require the use of the top slots or allow only certain slots be used for forward-facing. Use only the reinforced harness slots permitted in the instructions to keep the harness secure in a crash. All harness slots are reinforced on combination car seats and forward-facing-only car seats. Use the harness slots that are closest to the child and located at or above the child’s shoulders.

**Correct Installation**

The harness straps are anchored snugly at or above a forward-facing child’s shoulders, and better restrain the child from moving forward.

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[www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org)
1-800 CAR BELT
Child Passenger Safety: What You Should Know—Belt-Positioning Booster Seats

Belt-Positioning Booster Seat
Once children outgrow their 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. All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.

Here’s What to Do:
- Use a belt-positioning booster seat in the back seat until the seat belt fits.
- Belt-positioning booster seats raise and position a child so the vehicle’s lap and shoulder belt fit properly over the strong parts of a child’s body.
- The lap belt must be snug across the hips/upper thighs.
- The shoulder belt must be snug across the shoulder and chest.

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

Belt-Positioning Booster Seat Checklist:
- The belt-positioning booster seat is ALWAYS used with the vehicle’s lap and shoulder belt.
- Shoulder belt is snug across the center of the child’s shoulder and chest.
- Lap belt is low and snug across the child’s hips/upper thighs.

Here’s Why:
- A belt-positioning booster seat raises the child up so the seat belt rests on the strong parts of the body which reduces stomach, neck and spine injuries.
- The correctly positioned shoulder belt keeps children from putting the shoulder belt under their arm or behind their back, which is harmful in a crash.

Note: Most children need to ride in a booster seat until age 10 - 12.

www.pakidstravelsafe.org
1-800 CAR BELT

How Belt-Positioning Booster Seats Protect Children
Children who have outgrown their forward-facing car seat by height or weight, but are still too small to ride safely in the vehicle’s lap and shoulder belt, should be properly restrained in a belt-positioning booster seat. A belt-positioning booster seat elevates the child so the vehicle’s lap and shoulder belt fit properly over the strong bones of the child’s body. A booster seat helps to position the vehicle’s lap and shoulder belt across the center of the child’s shoulder and chest, and the lap belt low and snug across the hips providing a safe transition between the car seat with a harness and the vehicle’s seat belt. There are 2 types of belt-positioning booster seats.

- Backless Belt-Positioning Booster Seat
  - Use only with a lap and shoulder belt in a vehicle seating position with a tall seat back or head restraint so the child’s head can be supported, up to the top of the ears.

- High-Back Belt-Positioning Booster Seat
  - Recommended for vehicles that do not provide head restraint or support for the child’s head to provide head, neck, and back support.
  - Many designed with large side “wings” that provide head protection during an impact. They help to contain the head during an impact, and often contain foam designed to absorb energy in a crash.

Tips to Achieve Correct Use of a Belt-Positioning Booster Seat

Car Seat Selection
- Select a belt-positioning booster seat only when the child has outgrown a forward-facing car seat with a harness.
- Read the booster seat instructions and/or label for the weight ranges and guidance on correct use.

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.
- 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.
Seat Belt

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

Here’s What to do:
- Use a correctly fitted lap and shoulder belt in the back seat for children when they outgrow the booster seat.
- Use the seat belt when the child is:
  - Tall enough to sit on the vehicle seat without slouching.
  - Able to keep their back against the vehicle seatback.
  - Able to keep their knees naturally bent over the front edge of the vehicle seat.
  - Able to keep their feet flat on the floor.
- The lap belt must be snug over the hips/upper thighs, not the stomach.
- The shoulder belt must be snug across the shoulder and the chest.

Seat Belt

Lap and shoulder seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 45%.

Seat Belt Checklist:
- Seat belts can be used safely when the child is:
- Able to sit with their back and hips against the vehicle seat back without slouching.
- Able to easily bend their knees over the front edge of the vehicle seat.
- Able to keep their feet flat on the floor.
- Able to place the snug shoulder belt across the center of the chest and shoulder.
- Able to place the lap belt low and snug across the hips/upper thighs.
- Able to stay in position for the entire ride.

Here’s Why:
- A seat belt:
  - Keeps the child in the vehicle.
  - Spreads the crash forces.
  - Protects the head and spine.
- The back seat is:
  - Nearly two times safer.
  - Away from frontal crash forces and frontal air bags.

The lap and shoulder belt should always be used for optimal protection.

www.pakidstravelsafe.org
1-800 CAR BELT

Recommendations for Children in Seat Belts

Seat belts can be safely used to secure children who are big enough for the seat belt to fit correctly. Seat belts are designed so that the strongest areas of the body, the bones of the hips and shoulder, absorb the forces in a crash. Seat belts prevent occupants from being thrown inside the vehicle, into each other, or from being ejected from the vehicle.

When you can answer ‘yes’ to all of the following questions, your child is ready to safely sit on a vehicle seat using a lap and shoulder belt without a booster seat:

1. Can your child sit with their lower back against the vehicle seat back?
2. Do your child’s knees bend comfortably at the front edge of the vehicle seat and do their feet touch the floor?
3. Does the vehicle shoulder belt cross the center of your child’s chest and shoulder?
4. Does the lap belt stay low and snug across the hips near the top of the thighs?
5. Can your child stay comfortably seated with the lap and shoulder belt correctly positioned for the entire trip?

Tips to Achieve Correct Use of a Seat Belt

- Selection
  - 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.
  - 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.
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.

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 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.
News for Immediate Release

Sept. 10, 2016

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

Town, City, Borough – Every day in Pennsylvania, too many children ride in car seats that have been installed incorrectly or are using the wrong car seats for their age and size, while other children ride completely unbuckled. (List in a series participating organizations,) are encouraging families to attend free car seat checkups throughout Pennsylvania during National Child Passenger Safety Week from Sept. 18 to 24.

This year’s theme, “Back to 2” highlights the importance of keeping all infants and toddlers in a rear-facing car seat until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat manufacturer. Children younger than age 2 are 75 percent less likely to die or to be severely injured in a crash if they are rear-facing.

Using car seats that are age and size appropriate is the best way to keep children safe. On an average day in Pennsylvania, there are about 348 reportable crashes on state highways. Research found that using the correct car seat reduces the chance of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers. In Pennsylvania from 2010 to 2014, 82 percent of the children under age 4 who were involved in crashes and restrained in a car seat sustained no injury. (2015 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics)

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. If everyone wore seat belts when riding in a vehicle, hundreds of lives in Pennsylvania alone would be saved. Research shows that children are likely to be buckled 93 percent of the time when adults are buckled and only 72 percent of the time when adults are not buckled. Make certain that everyone in the car is buckled, that your car seat is installed correctly, that every child is in the right car seat, and that the car seat is used correctly. Even if you think your child is safe, check again, so you can be sure that your child is safe while traveling.

Under Pennsylvania’s child passenger safety law, all drivers are responsible for securing children in the appropriate child restraint system. All 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 child passenger restraint system, to be used 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. Under Pennsylvania’s seat belt law, all drivers are responsible for the front seat occupants 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.

Media contact: Insert agency name and phone number here

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.
Right Seat • Right Time • Right Use
Unrestrained children are 3 times more likely to be injured in a crash.

1. Keep Children Rear-Facing as Long as Possible:
   - Use rear-facing car seats in the back seat up to age 2 or longer, until reaching the maximum rear-facing weight or height limit (even age 2 or 3).
   - Use a car seat with higher weight and height limits if your child outgrows their car seat before age 2 to keep your child rear-facing longer.
   - Leg crowding is expected and does not cause harm as long as the child is within weight and height limits for the car seat.

2. Keep Children in Car Seats with Harnesses as Long as Possible:
   - Use a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether in the back seat when the upper rear-facing height or weight limit is reached.
   - Use the car seat with a harness as long as possible up to the upper weight or height limit for the harness.

3. Keep Children in Booster Seats until the Seat Belt Fits:
   - Use booster seats in the back seat until the seat belt fits.
   - Use a seat belt when:
     1. The child can sit all the way back in the vehicle seat with knees bent at the edge of the seat.
     2. The shoulder belt crosses the center of the chest and rests on the shoulder (not the neck).
     3. The lap belt fits low and snug on the hips / upper thighs (not the stomach).

4. Keep Children Belted in the Back Seat until Age 13:
   - Use a correctly fitted lap and shoulder belt in the back seat for older children when they outgrow the booster seat, which may not happen until close to 12 years old.
   - The back seat is safest for all children.
CPS Week Event Registration  
Sept. 18 - 24, 2016

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 Sixth Annual "Seat Check Saturday" on Saturday, September 24th. 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 under the “2016 CPS Week” section, 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. PA TIPP will compile the statewide list and share with community partners and child passenger safety advocates.

NHTSA is requesting information on the events that are held during CPS Week. 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 under the “2016 CPS Week” section or submitted by FAX or email. Please submit the Follow-Up Data Collection form by September 30th. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE of EVENT</th>
<th>START TIME</th>
<th>END TIME</th>
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EVENT LOCATION __________________________________________________________ ADDRESS____________________________

CITY________________________________________________________ ZIP CODE _______________________________________

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: ______________________________________________________________________________________________

CONTACT NAME: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

PHONE: ____________________________________ EMAIL: __________________________________________________________

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Check Event Location</th>
<th>Safe Kids Event (Y or N)</th>
<th>Techs Assisting</th>
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Data collected will be included in the Pennsylvania report submitted by PennDOT to NHTSA  FAX to 484-446-3255 or email to aosterhuber@paaap.org