

Motor Vehicle Child Restraints



- In 2008, there were 2,662 children ages 5-7 years in traffic crashes. Of these 2,604 (98%) were motor vehicle occupants, 32 (1%) were pedestrians, and 26 (1%) were bicyclists. For every 1 pedestrian aged 5-7 years that were in a traffic crash there were 81 motor vehicle occupants of the same age in a traffic crash.
- From 2003-2007, 5,709 Utah children (ages 0-9) visited the Emergency Department (ED) or were admitted to the hospital as a result of being an occupant in a motor vehicle crash. The ED and hospitalization charges for these children totaled \$7,160,939 (Utah Emergency Department Encounter Database, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, UDOH)
- In 2007, Utah children ages 4-8 involved in traffic crashes on roads with speed limits of 45 MPH or less:
 - Unrestrained children were 3.29 times more likely to be injured than children in booster seats
 - Seat belted children were 15% more likely to be injured than children in booster seats.
- 2005 Partners for Child Passenger Safety Fact and Trend Report (<http://jcots.state.va.us/pdf/2006/PCPS-State Farm Child Restraint Report.pdf>) showed that in crashes with children under 16 in the vehicle:
 - 57% of crashes occurred 10 minutes or less from home; nearly 60% of the children involved in these crashes were 8 years old or younger
 - Trips involving normal daily activities and recreational trips accounted for the majority of crashes (79%).
- May 2008 - Utah legislation went into effect that increased the age that children were required to use a child restraint device in motor vehicles from younger than four years of age to younger than eight years of age.

According to the Utah Highway Safety Office Crash Reports:

- Booster seat use increased from 35.1% to 45.7% with the passage of the booster seat legislation in 2008 that required a child younger than 8 to use a child safety restraint device.
- The law increased Child Safety Seat use among all ages:

- 4-year-olds by 9%	- 7-year-olds by 105%
- 5-year-olds by 24%	- 8-year-olds by 91%
- 6-year-olds increased by 87%	
- Occupants in traffic crashes ages 4-7 years are 55% more likely to be restrained in a booster seat now than before the passage of legislation.

According to Booster Seat Studies:

- Children aged 4-8 years in booster seats were 45% less likely to sustain injuries than children in seatbelts only. - Pediatrics, vol 124 #5, Nov 2009, pages 1281-1286
- Booster seats reduce the risk for injury to children aged 4-7 years by 59% compared to seatbelt use. - JAMA, 2003;289(21):2835-2840.