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hroughout the United States, many people and organizations have worked to promote motor vehicle occupant protection for children, youth, and young adults. In spite of the great strides made, thousands of young people, from newborns through age 20, continue to die or experience serious injuries that could have been prevented had they been properly restrained in a child safety seat, booster seat, or safety belt.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has developed this booklet to provide information supporting the ongoing need for legislative, enforcement, education, and public awareness activities promoting occupant protection for children, youth, and young adults. Collectively, this information illustrates the national imperative for addressing motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of death and injury for children and youth in the United States.

As a resource for occupant protection advocates, this booklet focuses on passenger vehicles. The majority of data in this fact book are from 2003, which was the most recent year data was available at press time, and are generated from the *Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)* and the *General Estimates System (GES)* produced by the National Center for Statistics and Analysis at NHTSA.

### **The National Scope of Motor Vehicle Crashes**

In 2003, police filed reports on about 6.3 million traffic crashes. The police reports indicated that some 2.9 million people were injured, 42,643 people were killed, and property damage was sustained in about 4.3 million of these crashes.<sup>1</sup>

The economic cost of motor vehicle crashes (police-reported as well as non-reported crashes) that occurred in 2000 totaled \$230.6 billion.<sup>2</sup> In 2003, safety belt nonuse in crashes caused an estimated \$18 billion in economic costs to society.<sup>3</sup> When vehicle occupants do not wear safety belts, the potential costs increase because unbelted crash victims often sustain more severe injuries and more fatalities than belted crash victims. On average, hospital costs for unbelted crash victims are more than 50 percent higher than belted crash victims.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Data on the number of licensed drivers include 15-year-olds.

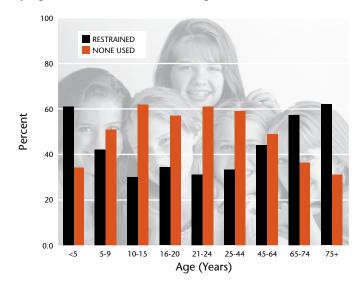
Blincoe, L., Seay, A., Zaloshnja, E., Miller, T., Romano.E., Luchter, S., and Spicer, R. The Economic Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2000. DOT HS 809 446, May 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Estimate, 2003. Office of Planning and Financial Management.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Johnson, S., Walker J., Utter, D. Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) Project-Safety Belt and Helmet Analysis, February 1996.

In 2003, a total of 17,986 (56%) passenger vehicle occupants who were killed in a crash were reported not to have used a safety belt or child safety seat. Chart 1 compares the percentage of fatally injured occupants who were restrained to those who were unrestrained in passenger vehicle crashes.<sup>5</sup>

### **Chart 1** Occupant Fatalities in 2003 By Age and Restraint Use, in Passenger Vehicles



### Using this Booklet as a Resource

The facts contained in this booklet can be used to develop speeches and presentations, public information and education publications, backgrounders, and news releases for the media, and to promote the use of occupant restraints in conjunction with law enforcement officials. States and local communities have an important role to play in creating a national norm that makes it unacceptable to ride unrestrained in a motor vehicle. Our national goal must be to make occupant restraint use a lifelong habit for everyone.

The booklet is divided into three main sections. The first section presents general information on the need for and importance of promoting occupant restraint use for children, youth, and young adults. Most of the data and discussion in the document refer to these groups according to the following ages:

- > Children: newborns to age 7
- ➤ Youth: 8 to 15 (in some States 15-year-olds are permitted to obtain a learner's permit, so they are sometimes included as "young drivers")
- Young adults: 16 to 20

The next section provides occupant protection facts specific to children and youth, followed by facts for young adults. The last section includes survey findings from NHTSA's 2003 Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey on self-reported behavior, attitudes, and opinions about safety belt use and laws. This biennial telephone survey measures consumers' attitudes and opinions about occupant protection.

<sup>5</sup> The majority of the data in this report are presented after unknown categories were distributed proportionally to the known use categories.

### **Definitions**

As you review the data that follow, keep in mind the following general definitions:

*Fatal Crash:* A police-reported crash involving a motor vehicle in which at least one person dies within 30 days of the crash (includes the deaths of individuals who were not in the vehicle, such as pedestrians and pedalcyclists)

*Injury Crash:* A police-reported crash involving a motor vehicle in which no one died but at least one person was reported to have (1) an incapacitating injury, (2) a visible but not incapacitating injury, (3) a possible but not visible injury, or (4) an injury of unknown severity.

*Passenger Vehicles:* Includes all cars, SUVs, vans up to 15-passenger capacity, and light trucks (under 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight rating) including pickups and truck-based station wagons. Motorcycles, buses, and large trucks (more than 10,000 lbs. GVWR) are not included in this category.



"The premature graduation of young children from child restraint systems to safety belts puts them at a greatly increased risk of significant injury in crashes."



"In some States, a 10-year-old can ride legally in the back seat without being secured because the child is not covered by either the child restraint law or the safety belt law."



"Sixty-three percent of the young adults who were killed when riding in passenger cars in 2003 were not wearing safety belts."

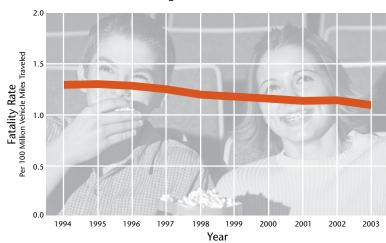
### THE NEED TO PROMOTE OCCUPANT RESTRAINT USE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH

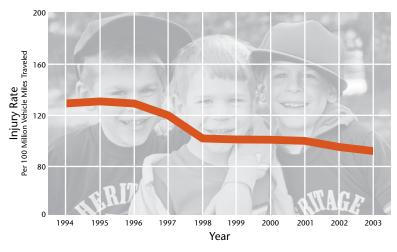


he use of occupant restraints must be reinforced at an early age to reduce the disproportionately high rates of death and injury that teens and young adults experience in motor vehicle crashes. But parents cannot bear the burden by themselves. In communities across the country, health professionals, law enforcement officers, educators, elected officials and public employees, and every adult, not just parents, must develop the social and legal infrastructures necessary to make safety belt use a lifelong habit. (See Appendix A for statistics on the number of children and youth who were killed in 2003 in motor vehicle crashes in each State.)

Passenger vehicle occupant fatality and injury rates (per 100 million vehicle miles traveled [VMT]) have declined slightly during the past 10 years (see Chart 2 below).

**Chart 2** Occupant Fatality and Injury Rates, 1994-2003 Per 100 Million VMT, in Passenger Vehicles





Thousands of children and young adults continue to be killed and injured in motor vehicle crashes. A total of 7,034 children and youth from birth to age 20 were killed and approximately 700,000 were injured in passenger vehicle crashes in 2003. Despite widespread public education campaigns promoting the use of proper occupant restraints, nearly 50 percent of children 4 to 7 and 66 percent of children 8 to 15 who were killed in passenger vehicle crashes in 2003 were unrestrained. *Charts 3 and 4* illustrate the toll that motor vehicle crashes take on our children and youth, particularly among those 16 to 20.

**Chart 3** Occupant Fatalities in 2003 By Age, in Passenger Vehicles

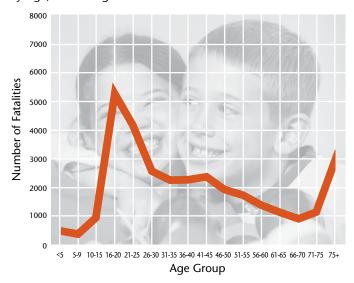
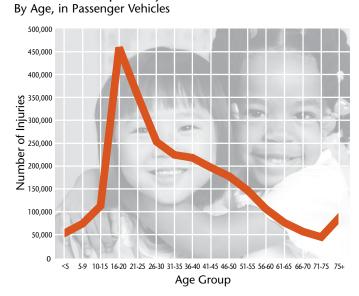


Chart 4 Occupant Injured in 2003



### **Adult Safety Belt Use Makes a Difference**

Research conducted by NHTSA on occupant protection use from 1994 to 2003 confirms there is a strong positive correlation between the restraint use of an adult driver and that of young children in the vehicle. Among fatally injured children from birth to 15, the research revealed the following:

- The probability of being unrestrained was nearly four times greater for infants and toddlers when the child was with an unrestrained driver, versus being with a restrained driver.
- ➤ When drivers were unrestrained, 63 percent of children up to age 3 were also unrestrained; conversely, when a driver was wearing a safety belt, 25 percent of children up to 3 were unrestrained.
- Among fatally injured children 4 to 7, 80 percent were unrestrained when the driver was unrestrained; conversely, when the driver was wearing a safety belt, 35 percent of children 4 to 7 were unrestrained.
- Among fatally injured children 8 to 15, 90 percent were unrestrained when the driver was unrestrained. Conversely, when the driver was wearing a safety belt, 45 percent of children 8 to 15 were unrestrained.

Exhibit 1 illustrates the relationship between driver and child restraint use in crashes in which a child was fatally injured.

**Exhibit 1** Driver and Child Restraint Use in Fatal Crashes Involving Children from Birth to 15, 1994-2003

Percentage of Child Passengers Unrestrained, by Age Group							
	<b>&lt;4</b>	4-7	8-15				
<b>Driver Unrestrained</b>	63%	80%	90%				
<b>Driver Restrained</b>	25%	35%	45%				

This strong association between parental and child restraint use speaks to the importance of maintaining ongoing programs and outreach for children, youth, and parents to encourage the use of occupant restraints. NHTSA's 2003 Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey (MVOSS) further illustrates this need. In the 2003 MVOSS, researchers asked respondents their level of agreement with the statement, "I have a habit of wearing a seat belt because my parents insisted I wear them when I was a child." Among people 16 to 24, 69 percent either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with this statement.

## Occupant Restraints for All Age Groups Save Lives

Most of the people who die in motor vehicle crashes are vehicle occupants (less than one-fourth of fatalities caused by crashes involve pedestrians, pedalcyclists, and motorcyclists). Safety belts and child safety seats have been designed to protect drivers and passengers from death and injury during a crash. But these restraints cannot save lives if they are not used. See Appendix B—Passenger Vehicle Occupants Killed in Motor Vehicle Crashes, by State and Restraint Use, 2003.

- ➤ In 2003, child restraints saved the lives of 446 children age 4 and under.
- ➤ Child safety seats are 71 percent effective in reducing fatalities among infants (less than 1-year-old) and 54 percent effective for toddlers (1- to 4-years-old) in passenger cars. For infants and toddlers in light trucks, the effectiveness in reducing fatalities is 58 percent and 59 percent, respectively.
- ➤ Among passenger vehicle occupants over 4 years old, safety belts saved an estimated 14,903 lives in 2003.

- ➤ Booster seat use substantially reduces the risk of injury for children 4- to 8-years-old; however, most children in this age group are currently (and very often incorrectly) restrained by safety belts designed for adults. A recent study by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) found that the use of belt-positioning booster seats lowers the risk of injury to children in crashes by 59 percent, compared with the use of vehicle safety belts.<sup>7</sup>
- According to NHTSA's *The Economic Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes 2000*, the use of safety belts saved society \$585 billion in medical care, lost productivity, and other injury-related economic costs (since 1975).
- ➤ When lap/shoulder safety belts are used properly, they reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat occupants riding in passenger cars by 45 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent. For light-truck front-seat occupants, safety belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 65 percent.<sup>8</sup>

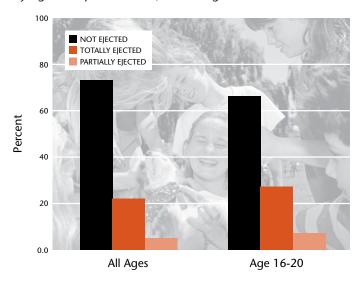
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Passenger cars are one of the vehicle types included in the passenger vehicle category.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Durbin, D., Elliott, M., and Winston, F. Belt-Positioning Booster Seats and Reduction in Risk of Injury Among Children in Vehicle Crashes. Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol 289 (21), 2835-2840, June 2003.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Traffic Safety Facts 2003, Occupant Protection, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, DOT 809765.

- Ejection from passenger vehicles is one of the most harmful events that can happen to people during a crash. In passenger vehicle crashes in which someone died in 2003, 74 percent of occupants who were completely ejected from the vehicle were killed. Safety belts are effective in preventing total ejections. In 2003, in crashes in which someone was killed, only 1 percent of the occupants using restraints were totally ejected, compared with 29 percent of unrestrained occupants.
- Nearly 30 percent of 16- to 20-year-old occupant fatalities were ejections, compared with 22 percent for the general population, illustrating the need to promote safety belt use in this age group. See Chart 5.

**Chart 5** Occupant Fatalities in 2003 By Age and Ejection Status, in Passenger Vehicles



# Closing the Gaps in Occupant Restraint Laws Can Save Young Lives

Every State except New Hampshire has adult safety belt laws and all States have child restraint laws requiring drivers to restrain children in approved, age-appropriate child restraint devices or safety belts. In some States, though, these laws do not cover all occupants in all seating positions (rear seats).

In some States, laws concerning the use of child restraint devices cover children only up to age 4, and laws concerning the use of adult safety belts cover only front-seat occupants, leaving some children uncovered by any occupant protection law. For example, in some States, a 10-year-old can ride legally in the back seat without being secured because, at this age and in this seating position, the child is not covered by either the child restraint law or the general (front-seat-only) safety belt law. *Appendix C contains information on State child restraint laws*.

### Primary Enforcement Laws Help Protect Children of All Ages

Although child restraint laws are "primary" laws (laws that allow law enforcement officers to stop vehicles and issue citations for unrestrained drivers or passengers), the safety belt laws in many States are "secondary" enforcement laws. This means that police officers cannot stop drivers for the sole purpose of enforcing the use of occupant restraints. Rather, police officers can write tickets for not using occupant restraints only if they stop vehicles for another driving infraction. See Exhibit 2 for a map of States with primary and secondary laws that were enacted at the time of this publication.

# Booster Seat Use Saves Lives and Reduces the Risk of Injury

In 2003, 51 percent of 4- to 7-year-old passenger vehicle occupants who were killed in crashes were restrained. Persuading parents to place their children in any kind of occupant restraint would undoubtedly reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured. In addition, children who have outgrown child safety seats, but are too small to ride safely in adult belts, should be properly restrained in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, unless they are 4 feet 9 inches tall. If placed in adult safety belts prematurely, children can suffer serious internal injuries, slip out of the safety belt, or be ejected from the vehicle during a crash.

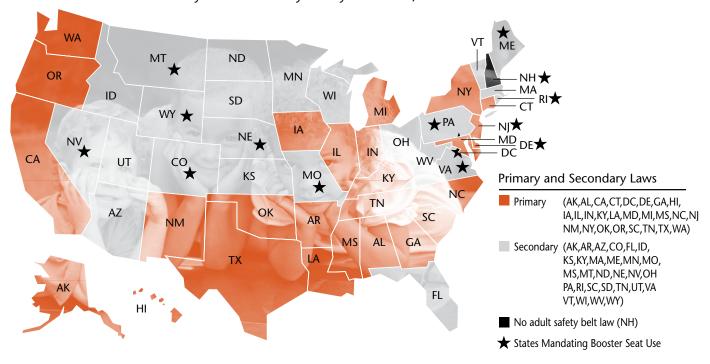
Booster seat use substantially reduces the risk of injury for children 4 to 8; however, most children in this age group are currently restrained by safety belts designed for adults. In the 2002 study by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), only 16 percent of 4-year-olds, 13 percent of 5-year-olds, and 4 percent of 6- and 7-year-olds were using booster seats.<sup>9</sup>

The CHOP study found that the use of belt-positioning booster seats lowers the risk of injury to children in crashes by 59 percent compared with the use of vehicle safety belts. The study also found that none of the 4- to 7-year-olds who were in belt-positioning booster seats had any injuries to the abdomen, neck, spine, or back. Yet, such injuries did occur in children who used safety belts alone.<sup>9</sup>

Children who are 4 feet 9 inches tall before their 8th birthday may be ready for adult belts. They can start using safety belts when they can place their backs firmly against the vehicle seatback cushion with their knees bent over the vehicle seat cushion.

As this booklet is published, 38 States and the District of Columbia had enacted provisions in their child restraint laws requiring the use of a booster seat or other appropriate restraint device by children who have outgrown their forward-facing child safety seats, but who are still too small to use an adult safety belt system correctly. The following jurisdictions have enacted these lifesaving provisions: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. See Exhibit 2 for a map of States that mandate booster seats or appropriate restraint use by older passengers. A number of other States are considering legislation that would require similar upgrades for booster-seatage child passengers. For up-to-date information on booster seats and State laws visit www.boosterseat.gov.

Exhibit 2 States With Primary and Secondary Safety Belt Laws, 2003



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Durbin, D., Elliott, M., and Winston, F. Belt-Positioning Booster Seats and Reduction in Risk of Injury Among Children in Vehicle Crashes. Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol 289 (21), 2835-2840, June 2003.

### FACTS ABOUT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

otor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for every age from 3 to 33. 10 Although the fatality rate has decreased, the total number of child occupant deaths is still high. This is due to population increases (children up to age 14 represented about 21 percent of the population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2003 American Community Survey) and a near doubling, over the past 20 years, of the number of miles Americans travel on our roadways.

### **Facts About Restraint Use**

- In 2003, the use of child restraints saved the lives of an estimated 446 children age 4 and under.
- During 2003, a total of 1,794 children from birth to age 15 were killed in passenger vehicle crashes. About 54 percent of passenger vehicle occupants in this age group were unrestrained. The breakdown by age group is:
  - → 35 percent of children from birth to 4 were unrestrained;
  - → 55 percent of children 5 to 9 were unrestrained, and
  - ♦ 68 percent of children 10 to 15 were unrestrained.
- ➤ Of the 471 occupant fatalities among children from birth to age 4 in 2003, more than 30 percent were unrestrained.
- ➤ If 100 percent of motor vehicle occupants younger than age 5 had been protected by child safety seats, an estimated 550 lives (an additional 106 more lives than already were saved) could have been saved in 2003.
- From 1975 through 2003, an estimated 7,020 lives of children age 4 and under were saved by the use of occupant restraints (this includes child safety seats and safety belts).

In 2003, the use of child restraints saved an estimated 446 lives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Subramanian, R. Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes as Leading Cause of Death in the United States, 2001. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT 809 695, December 2003.

Chart 6 shows data on the use and nonuse of occupant restraints among those killed in passenger vehicle crashes in 2003. In most age groups except the youngest (4 and under) and the oldest (65 and older) the majority of occupants who were killed were not restrained. Unfortunately, being properly restrained cannot prevent all passengers from being fatally injured, especially in certain high-impact crashes. However, a certain and higher percentage of occupants in all age groups would not have been killed had they been properly restrained.

There is a significant decrease in restraint use among the 5-to-9, 10-to-15, and 16-to-20 age groups (when compared to the 4 and under age group). This decrease illustrates the critical need for public information and education about the importance of restraint use, along with the need for ongoing enforcement of existing laws.

When viewing the chart, keep in mind that even with the use of occupant restraints:

- ➤ Some crashes are so severe that occupants do not survive even when properly protected by a child safety seat, booster seat, or safety belt.
- There are instances in which the effectiveness of a child restraint or safety belt is compromised by incorrect use, such as improper installation or use of a child safety seat, or placing a child in an adult belt.
- ➤ Occupants in the youngest age group, 4 and under, and oldest age group, 65 and older, are more fragile. Therefore, they are more vulnerable to death or serious injury during a crash.
- In many States, there is no law requiring the use of appropriate occupant restraints (booster seats) for children who have outgrown their child safety seats but who do not yet fit properly in adult belt systems. As a result, many young children are inappropriately placed in adult belts.

**Chart 6** Occupant Fatalities in 2003 By Age and Restraint Use, in Passenger Vehicles

Age Group	Restrained	Percent Restrained	Unrestrained	Percent Unrestrained	Total	Total Percent
0-4	305	65	166	35	471	100
5-9	178	45	213	55	391	100
10-15	303	32	629	68	932	100
16-20	1,945	37	3,295	63	5,240	100
21-24	1,205	34	2,334	66	3,539	100
25-44	3,440	36	6,104	64	9,544	100
45-64	3,050	47	3,387	53	6,437	100
65-74	1,285	62	803	38	2,088	100
75+	2,136	67	1,070	33	3,206	100
Total	13,885	44	18,019	56	31,904	100

## Facts About Motor-Vehicle-Related Deaths and Injuries

Based on the 10-year period between 1994 and 2003, an average of 1,983 children from birth to age 15 died and 294,000 were injured in passenger vehicle crashes each year.

- ➤ In 2003, an average of almost 5 children (4.92 children) from birth to 15 were killed and 663 were injured every day in motor vehicle crashes.
- ➤ In 2003, a total of 1,794 children 15 and younger were killed and 242,000 were injured in passenger vehicle crashes. Nine percent of the injured occupants had incapacitating injuries.

- ➤ In 2003, there were 471 crash fatalities and 59,000 injured among children 4 and under.
- ➤ In 2003, there were 1,323 crash fatalities and 183,000 occupants injured among children 5 to 15.

*Chart* 7 highlights facts about injury severity. In 2003, more than 80,000 children, youth, and young adults from birth to 20 suffered incapacitating injuries in passenger vehicle crashes.

**Chart 7** Occupants Injured in Passenger Vehicles 2003 By Age and Injury Severity

	Injury Severity										
Age Group	Incapacitating		Non- Incapacitating		Possible Injury		Injured Severity Unknown		Total		
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
<5	4,675	8	12,884	22	40,657	69	606	1	58,822	100	
5-9	5,892	8	17,868	25	46,281	66	485	1	70,525	100	
10-15	10,414	9	32,009	29	67,904	61	1,638	1	111,965	100	
16-20	48,842	11	145,279	32	258,771	57	4,155	1	457,047	100	
21-24	30,548	10	83,666	29	174,589	60	3,693	1	292,496	100	
25-44	86,514	9	235,390	26	588,512	64	10,192	1	920,608	100	
45-64	54,856	10	128,354	24	342,685	65	5,348	1	531,244	100	
65-74	11,879	11	25,968	24	69,744	64	601	1	108,192	100	
75+	11,426	13	26,590	30	50,511	56	1,206	1	89,734	100	
TOTAL	265,045	10	708,009	27	1,639,655	62	27,924	1	2,640,634	100	

Note: Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

### FACTS ABOUT YOUNG ADULTS 16 TO 20



n 2003, young drivers 16 to 20 made up about 6.3 percent (12.4 million) of the 196.2 million licensed drivers in the United States. These 12.4 million young drivers represent a 6 percent increase compared to the number of young drivers in 1993 (11.7 million). 11

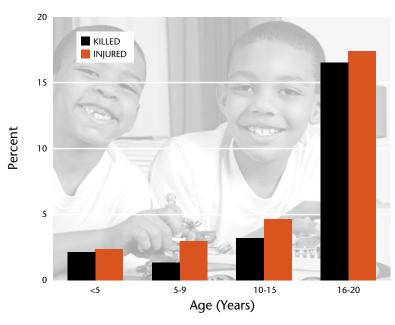
The estimated economic cost of police-reported crashes involving drivers 15 to 20 was \$40.8 billion in 2002. This cost represents approximately 18 percent of the \$230 billion a year these crashes cost society. In short, 6.4 percent of the drivers are responsible for 18 percent of the costs of traffic crashes.

In addition to the disproportionate "harm" that 16- to 20-year-old drivers experience from motor vehicle crashes, consider the following additional "costs" for young drivers and passengers:

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for young adults 16 to 20.

## **Chart 8** Percentage of All Occupants Killed or Injured in 2003

By Age, in Passenger Vehicles

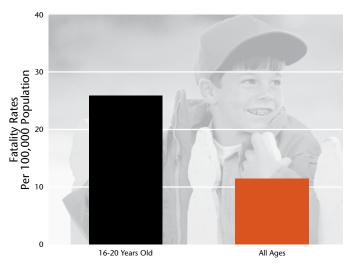


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Highway Statistics 2003. Section III: Driver Licensing. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohim/hs03/dl.htm).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Traffic Safety Facts 2002. Young Drivers, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT HS 809 767. [Note: When available, data on 15-year-olds are included in this section because in some States 15-year-olds are licensed to drive. However, 15-year-olds constitute only 0.2 percent of licensed drivers.]

- ➤ Young adults 16 to 20 are more likely to be killed or injured in motor vehicle crashes than children 15 and under. In 2003, of the 7,034 children up to age 20 who were killed in crashes, 74 percent were 16 to 20; of the 700,000 injured from birth to age 20, 65 percent were 16- to 20-year-olds.
- ➤ Although young drivers make up about 7 percent of the total licensed driving population, 15 percent (8,463) of all drivers involved in fatal crashes were young drivers 15 to 20 years old, and 17 percent (597,000) of all drivers involved in police-reported injury crashes were young drivers.
- During 2003, a young person died in a traffic crash an average of once an hour on weekends (6 p.m. Friday to 5:59 a.m. Monday) and nearly once every 2 hours during the week.
- ➤ In 2003, a total of 1,845 16- to 20-year-olds died when they were totally or partially ejected from a passenger vehicle.
- ➤ In 2003, the fatality rate (per 100,000 population) in motor vehicle crashes for 16- to 20-year-olds was approximately twice the rate for all ages. *See Chart 9*.

### **Chart 9** Occupant Fatality Rates Per 100,000 Population in 2003 By Age, in Passenger Vehicles



### **Facts About Safety Belt Use**

- ➤ Sixty-three percent of the 5,240 young people 16 to 20 killed when riding in passenger vehicles in 2003 were not wearing safety belts.
- ➤ In 2003, almost 60 percent of the 3,237 drivers in the 16- to 20-year-old age group who were killed in passenger vehicle crashes were not wearing safety belts.
- ➤ Young drivers are less likely to use restraints if they have been drinking alcohol. In 2003, of the young drivers of passenger vehicles who had been drinking and were killed in crashes, 74 percent were unrestrained.

# Facts About Motor-Vehicle-Related Deaths and Injuries

- ➤ In 2003, 16- to 20-year-old drivers had the highest fatality and injury rates per 100,000 licensed drivers. In fact, the fatality rate for young drivers was about three times the rate for drivers 25 to 64 years old.
- In 2003, about 53,000 young adults experienced incapacitating injuries. This number represents about 17 percent of all (313,000) incapacitating injuries.
- ➤ In 2003, about 157,000 young adults experienced nonincapacitating injuries. This number represents almost 20 percent of all (812,000) people with nonincapacitating injuries.

- Despite a small improvement in safety belt use for 16- to 20-year-old drivers, the percentage of fatalities in which the driver was not wearing a safety belt has been 60 percent or higher for the past 10 years. Only in 2003 did it drop below this, to 58 percent. See Chart 10.
- ➤ Drivers 16 to 20 have the highest involvement rates for fatalities and injuries (per 100,000 licensed drivers) in passenger vehicle crashes. This is especially true for male drivers in this age group. *See Charts 11 and 12*. <sup>13</sup>

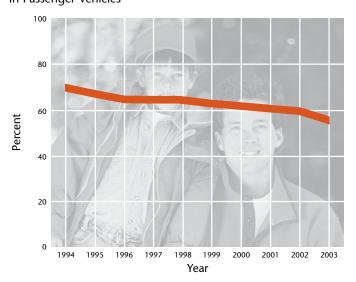
## Self-Reported Behavior, Attitudes, and Opinions on Safety Belt Use

The following information was reported in NHTSA's 2003 Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey. This telephone survey was administered to a randomly selected national sample of 6,000 people 16 and older (with younger ages over-sampled).

### Safety Belt Use Behavior Among 16- to 20-Year-Olds

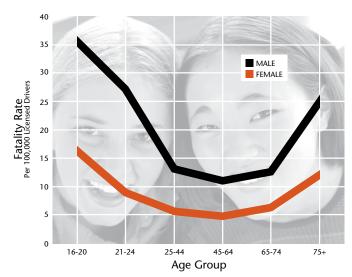
- Most drivers (79%) reported that they wear their safety belts all the time. About 11 percent reported that they wear their safety belts most of the time.
- ➤ Most (87%) 16-19-year-olds reported that when they were riding as passengers, they usually rode in the front seat. However, only 49 percent said they always wore safety belts when riding in the back seat, while 14 percent said they never wore their safety belts when riding in the back seat.
- ➤ One-fourth reported their use of safety belts when driving had increased in the past 12 months. (An estimated 2 percent indicated a decrease, while 73 percent indicated that use had stayed the same.)

**Chart 10** Percentage of Driver Fatalities Among 16- to 20-Year-Olds, in Which Driver Was Unrestrained, 1994-2003 In Passenger Vehicles



**Chart 11** Driver Fatality Rates per 100,000 Licensed Drivers in 2003

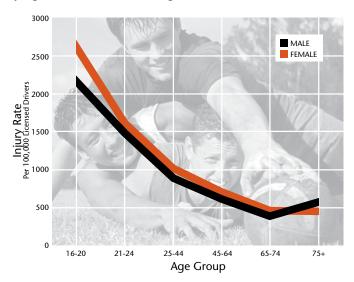
By Age and Gender, in Passenger Vehicles



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Rates shown in Chart 10 are obtained by dividing the number of involved drivers by the number of licensed drivers.

**Chart 12** Driver Injury Rates per 100,000 Licensed Drivers in 2003

By Age and Gender, in Passenger Vehicles



### **Attitudes Toward Safety Belt Use**

- Among people 16 to 24, 69 percent either strongly (51%) or somewhat (18%) agreed with the statement, "I have a habit of wearing a seat belt because my parents insisted I wear them when I was a child."
- The number dropped to 44 percent among people 25 to 34 and to 26 percent among people 35 to 44, reflecting the lower usage rates during their childhood years.
- The vast majority of the public 16 and older either strongly agreed (88%) or somewhat agreed (7%) with the statement, "If I were in an accident, I would want to have my seat belt on." However, about one-half (47%) of 16- to 20-year-olds also agreed with the statement, "Seat belts are just as likely to harm you as help you."

- ➤ About one in five people (19%) either strongly (13%) or somewhat (6%) agreed with the statement, "I would feel self-conscious around my friends if I wore a seat belt and they did not." However, more than one in four (30%) of 16- to 20-year-olds strongly or somewhat agreed with this statement.
- Injury avoidance was the most frequent reason given for wearing a safety belt.
- ➤ The most common reasons given by drivers in the 16-20 age group for not wearing safety belts were that they forgot or were driving a short distance.
- Thirty percent of 16- to 20-year-olds agreed with the statement that a crash close to home was usually not as serious, and 27 percent agreed that putting on a safety belt makes them worry more about being in a crash.

### **Opinions About Safety Belt Use Laws**

- ➤ When asked whether they favor front safety belt laws, 66 percent of 16- to 20-year-olds said they favor them "a lot" and 26 percent said they favor them "some."
- Many (64%) 16- to 20-year-olds answered "yes" when asked whether police should be allowed to stop a vehicle if they observe a safety belt violation when no other traffic laws are being broken.
- Many (65%) 16- to 20-year-olds favored fines for drivers who do not wear safety belts.
- ➤ Almost half (42%) of 16- to 20-year-olds favored points against a license as a penalty for safety belt violations.



### Fatalities in Passenger Vehicles By State and Age Group, 2003

AGE	<5	5 to 9	10 to 15	16-20	21-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	TOTAL
Alabama	7	9	23	136	93	125	134	132	63	49	63	834
Alaska	0	1	3	12	8	7	8	16	2	4	3	64
Arizona	14	15	33	113	90	126	140	89	63	54	63	800
Arkansas	13	9	17	69	66	70	69	70	49	24	45	501
California	50	47	91	482	371	492	416	334	232	165	250	2,930
Colorado	8	7	31	85	50	80	68	51	42	26	40	488
Connecticut	0	3	1	46	43	36	25	24	12	11	19	220
Delaware	0	0	0	26	16	15	14	17	6	9	7	110
Dist of Columbia	0	0	1	6	10	9	5	6	2	1	1	41
Florida	26	20	59	299	209	338	295	248	177	176	253	2,100
Georgia	24	11	34	198	122	202	191	159	109	82	111	1,243
Hawaii	0	0	3	20	17	14	12	8	4	5	2	85
Idaho	8	3	8	39	30	31	37	30	17	18	23	244
Illinois	11	13	32	200	125	153	140	104	83	74	127	1,062
Indiana	11	7	12	116	84	76	97	75	59	43	64	644
	4		16	57	36	52	39	34	26	23	56	346
lowa	6	3 4	18	73	45	52 59	53	42	31	23 21	30 41	393
Kansas	10	7	23	73 93	75	125	33 117	95	77	56	82	
Kentucky Louisiana												760
	13	9	13	119	96	109	105	88	49	33	49	683
Maine	0	3	4	17	16	26	27	14	14	13	34	168
Maryland	4	7	11	78	51	84	56	40	38	31	52	452
Massachusetts	2	5	7	64	31	47	46	26	19	20	56	323
Michigan	13	14	31	144	103	126	124	111	90	77	126	959
Minnesota	6	6	12	100	50	79	73	77	33	34	51	521
Mississippi	17	11	32	88	69	117	124	113	63	52	68	754
Missouri	12	11	34	171	107	133	143	118	87	71	106	993
Montana	4	1	13	34	25	33	29	33	22	14	20	228
Nebraska	5	4	7	45	32	29	34	35	17	14	28	250
Nevada	5	2	13	44	21	47	38	34	23	9	17	253
New Hampshire	0	0	1	19	6	10	16	9	17	4	9	91
New Jersey	5	4	11	42	42	50	44	39	29	23	52	341
New Mexico	8	7	17	48	36	50	59	29	26	22	21	323
New York	16	5	11	162	107	130	114	107	73	73	120	918
North Carolina	17	10	28	191	128	219	169	126	100	81	142	1,211
North Dakota	1	0	5	14	8	9	11	8	7	7	12	82
Ohio	12	11	33	178	97	144	140	127	86	61	97	986
Oklahoma	9	6	10	80	52	95	93	61	45	37	58	546
Oregon	6	5	17	63	45	54	60	47	30	28	44	399
Pennsylvania	15	7	17	239	124	158	151	144	90	79	145	1,169
Rhode Island	1	0	0	17	11	12	6	4	3	7	13	74
South Carolina	12	8	13	110	88	130	125	96	53	51	72	758
South Dakota	5	3	9	25	26	32	17	20	10	9	13	169
Tennessee	11	10	19	154	89	159	165	118	86	69	86	966
Texas	53	49	90	476	317	487	386	355	238	142	186	2,779
Utah	7	6	10	49	15	41	25	19	24	27	14	237
Vermont	0	1	3	11	7	6	1	12	6	5	3	55
Virginia	3	10	19	117	77	120	111	84	72	54	88	755
Washington	3	7	12	84	42	73	60	52	24	36	52	445
West Virginia	3	3	8	47	33	52	44	43	22	28	30	313
Wisconsin	6	6	12	124	84	93	86	81	48	32	81	653
Wyoming	5	1	5	16	14	18	20	25	10	4	11	129
TÓTAL	471	391	932	5,240	3,539	4,982	4,562	3,829	2,608	2,088	3,206	31,848

### APPENDIX B

Passenger Vehicle Occupants Killed in Motor Vehicle Crashes, by State and Restraint Use, 2003

	Restrain	ed Used	No Restra	aint Used	Restraint Us	e Unknown	Total Occupants Killed	
State	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alabama	334	40	459	55	41	4.9	834	100
Alabama Alaska	33 <del>4</del> 24	37.5	439 28	43.8	12	4.9 18.8	63 <del>4</del> 64	100
	285	35.5	414	51.6	103	12.8	802	100
Arizona Arkansas	263 136	33.3 27.1	312	62.3	53	12.6	501	100
California		49.3		35.2	454		2,932	100
Colorado	1,446 199	49.3 40.8	1,032 287	53.2 58.8	434	15.5 0.4	2,932 488	100
Connecticut	83	37.7	100	36.6 45.5	37	16.8	220	100
Delaware	51	46.4	57	51.8	2	1.8	110	100
Dist of Columbia	13	31.7	37 17	41.5	11	26.8	41	100
Florida	840	31.7 39.9	1,245	59.1	20	20.6 1	2,105	100
	493	39.5	592	47.5	162	13	1,247	100
Georgia Hawaii	493 41	39.3 48.2	392	47.3 45.9	5	5.9	85	100
Idaho	94	38.5	142	58.2	8	3.9	244	100
Illinois	373	35.1	509	47.9	180	16.9 9.6	1,062	100
Indiana	286	44.4	296	46	62		644	100
lowa	138	39.8	147	42.4	62	17.9	347	100
Kansas	118	30	251	63.9	24	6.1	393	100
Kentucky	240	31.6	515	67.8	5	0.7	760	100
Louisiana	205	30	410	60	68	10	683	100
Maine	62	36.9	87	51.8	19	11.3	168	100
Maryland	227	49.9	212	46.6	16	3.5	455	100
Massachusetts	92	28.5	176	54.5	55	17	323	100
Michigan	479	49.9	348	36.3	133	13.9	960	100
Minnesota	215	41.2	285	54.6	22	4.2	522	100
Mississippi	243	32.2	507	67.2	5	0.7	755	100
Missouri	282	28.4	621	62.5	91	9.2	994	100
Montana	69	30.3	152	66.7	7	3.1	228	100
Nebraska	71	28.4	151	60.4	28	11.2	250	100
Nevada	99	38.8	145	56.9	11	4.3	255	100
New Hampshire	26	28.6	63	69.2	2	2.2	91	100
New Jersey	160	46.6	161	46.9	22	6.4	343	100
New Mexico	98	30.2	218	67.1	9	2.8	325	100
New York	453	49.2	362	39.3	106	11.5	921	100
North Carolina	601	49.5	526	43.3	87	7.2	1,214	100
North Dakota	16	19.5	61	74.4	5	6.1	82	100
Ohio	372	37.6	588	59.5	29	2.9	989	100
Oklahoma	193	35.3	350	64	4	0.7	547	100
Oregon	233	58.4	132	33.1	34	8.5	399	100
Pennsylvania	385	32.9	614	52.5	170	14.5	1,169	100
Rhode Island	23	31.1	47	63.5	4	5.4	74	100
South Carolina	238	31.2	496	65.1	28	3.7	762	100
South Dakota	34	20.1	120	71	15	8.9	169	100
Tennessee	316	32.7	597	61.8	53	5.5	966	100
Texas	1,368	49	1,348	48.3	74	2.7	2,790	100
Utah	102	42.3	137	56.8	2	8.0	241	100
Vermont	28	50.9	21	38.2	6	10.9	55	100
Virginia	256	33.9	429	56.8	70	9.3	755	100
Washington	245	55.1	1 <i>77</i>	39.8	23	5.2	445	100
West Virginia	116	37.1	178	56.9	19	6.1	313	100
Wisconsin	237	36.3	355	54.4	61	9.3	653	100
Wyoming	49	38	78	60.5	2	1.6	129	100
TOTAL	12,787	40.1	16,594	52	2,523	7.9	31,904	100

### State Child Restraint Laws<sup>1</sup>

State	Rear Safety Belts Required <sup>2</sup>	Child Safety Seat Required	May Use Child Safety Seat or Safety Belt	Max Fine <sup>4</sup>	Points	Major Exemptions to Child Passenger Laws <sup>6</sup>	Children Allowed in Cargo Area of Pickups?
AL	<15 yrs	<6 yrs	Ages 6-14 yrs	\$25	1 pt for 1st offense & 2 pts for 2nd offense	Tow trucks or buses weighing >1 ton	Yes
AK	<16 yrs	<4 yrs		\$50	2	None	No
AZ	<16 yrs	<5 yrs	Ages 5-15 yrs	\$10		All vehicle belts in use	
AR	<15 yrs	Age 6 yrs & >60 lbs	Age 6 yrs or >60 lbs	\$100		None	No
CA	<16 yrs	<6 yrs or <60 lbs	Ages 6-17 yrs	Up to \$295 per child	1	None	
СО	<16 yrs	<1 yr & <20 lbs rear facing; 1-4 yrs & 20-40 lbs forward facing; ages 4 & 5 & <55" tall booster seat	Ages 6-16 or 55" tall. Booster seat or safety belt required.	\$59		Transported in motor vehicle as a result of a medical emergency. Booster seat exempted if only lap belt available.	Yes, if sitting & tail- gate closed
СТ	<16 yrs	<6 yrs and <60 lbs	60 lbs & 7-<16 years	\$199	2	None	No
DE	<16 yrs³	<6 yrs	60 lbs & over	\$20	2	No major exemptions	No
DC	<16 yrs	<8 yrs	Ages 8-16 yrs	\$150	3	All vehicle belts in use <sup>7</sup>	No
FL	<18 yrs	<4 yrs	Ages 4-5 yrs	\$60	3	A truck of net weight of more than 5,000 lbs	No
GA	<17 yrs	<5 yrs	A 40 lb child may be secured by lap belt if vehicle not equipped with lap and shoulder belt, or if all belts being used to properly restrain other children	\$50	1	May use belt if age 6 and over	No
HI	<18 yrs	<4 yrs	Ages 3-17 yrs	\$100		All vehicle belts in use <sup>7</sup>	No <sup>6</sup>
ID	>6 yrs	<7	>6 yrs	\$69		All vehicle belts in use <sup>7,8</sup>	Yes
IL	<16 yrs	<8 yrs	Ages 4-15 yrs, all seat- ing positions	\$50		None	Yes
IN	<12 yrs	<8 yrs	Ages 8-15 yrs, all seat- ing positions & vehicles	\$25	4	Vehicle registered out of State	<16 yrs not allowed
IA	<11 yrs	<6 yrs	Ages 6-10 yrs	\$25		Motorcycles, school buses, emergency vehicles & medical reasons per physician	Yes
KS	<14 yrs	<8 yrs unless 4'9" or 80 lbs <sup>21</sup>	Age 8 or 80 lbs or 4'9"	\$60		All vehicle belts in use	If >13 yrs
KY	<16 yrs	40" & Under		\$50		None	Yes
LA	<13 yrs	<6 yrs or 60 lbs	Ages 3-13 yrs	\$100		Ambulances, school buses, church buses, commercial vehicles	If >11 yrs
ME	<12 yrs, <100 lbs	<8 yrs and between 40-80 lbs	<12 & 100 lbs	\$60		All vehicle belts in use <sup>9</sup>	<16 yrs not allowed
MD	<16 yrs	<6 yrs	>40 lbs	\$25		All vehicle belts in use, vehicle registered out of State exempt	No
MA	<13 yrs	<5 yrs and <40 lbs	5-12 yrs	\$25		Child physically unable to use conventional child restraint or one designed for special needs, certified in writing by a physician	If >16 yrs

## State Child Restraint Laws<sup>1</sup> (continued)

State	Rear Safety Belts Required <sup>2</sup>	Child Safety Seat Required	May Use Child Safety Seat or Safety Belt	Max Fine <sup>4</sup>	Points	Major Exemptions to Child Passenger Laws <sup>6</sup>	Children Allowed in Cargo Area of Pickups?
MI	<16 yrs	<4 yrs		\$15		All vehicle belts in use <sup>7</sup>	No <sup>12,13</sup>
MN	<11 yrs	<4 yrs		\$50		Child being nursed	No <sup>12,14</sup>
MS	<8 yrs	<4 yrs		\$25		See footnote <sup>20</sup>	Yes
МО	<16 yrs	<4 yrs	Ages 4-15 may use safety belts	\$25			No
MT	<19 yrs	<6 yrs	Age 6 and <60 lbs	Up to \$100		Physical or medical reasons per physician	No <sup>13,14</sup>
NE	<16 yrs	<6 yrs		\$25		Medical reasons per physician, emergency vehicles, taxi cabs	No
NV	<18 yrs	<6 yrs & 60 lbs	Ages 6-17 yrs	\$500		Public transportation	No
NH	<18 yrs	<6 yrs and 55"		\$25		None	No
NJ	<18 yrs	<8 yrs or 80 lbs		\$25		Children <8 yrs but more than 80 lbs may be placed in safety belt; All vehicle belts in use <sup>7</sup>	No
NM	<16 yrs	<1-4 yrs <sup>18</sup>	Ages 5-12 yrs	\$25		All vehicle belts in use19	No, if <18
NY	<16 yrs	<7 yrs		\$100	3	Booster seat exempted for children 4-6 yrs if only lap belt available	Yes <sup>15</sup>
NC	<16 yrs	<8 yrs and 80 lbs	8 yrs or 80 lbs or 40 lbs if no lap & shoulder belt available	\$25	Driver license = 2 Insurance = 0	Child's personal needs being attended to, or all available belts being used	If >11 yrs <sup>12,14,16</sup> If the vehicle is being operated in a county that has no incorporated area with a population in excess of 3,500
ND	<18 yrs (front and back seat)	<7 yrs	Ages 7-17 yrs	\$25	1	Child restraint and safety belts not required in vehicles that were not equipped with safety belts when manufactured; transported in an emergency situation	Yes
ОН	<4 yrs or <60 lbs	<4 yrs or <60 lbs		\$100		Vehicle registered out of State	If traveling <25 mph <sup>12</sup>
OK	No	<6 yrs	6-12 yrs	\$50 plus court cost		Children who weigh >40 lbs in the back seat of a vehicle with only a safety belt if all lap/shoulder belts are in use by another	Yes
OR	<16 yrs <sup>20</sup>	<4 yrs or <40 lbs	Age 6 yrs & >60 lbs	\$97		None unless all belted positions taken or <18 yrs and in scope of employment or licensed hunter between hunting camps	Yes
PA	<16 yrs	<4 yrs		Up to \$150		None	Yes
RI	<17 yrs	<7 yrs & 54" & 80 lbs in Feder- ally Approved Child Restraint System in back seat	Age 7 yrs or older	\$75		All vehicle belts in use	No, up to age 16
SC	<17 yrs	<6 yrs or <80 lbs	>1 but <6 years	\$150		If all vehicle belts in use	Yes, if on a hayride, traveling less than 35 mph, or on a farm, or in a parade or an adult is with them

### State Child Restraint Laws<sup>1</sup> (continued)

State	Rear Safety Belts Required <sup>2</sup>	Child Safety Seat Required	May Use Child Safety Seat or Safety Belt	Max Fine <sup>4</sup>	Points	Major Exemptions to Child Passenger Laws <sup>6</sup>	Children Allowed in Cargo Area of Pickups?
SD	<18 yrs	<5 yrs & <40 lbs	Ages 5-17, & > 40 lbs	\$20		None	Yes
TN	<18 yrs	<4 yrs <sup>25</sup>		\$50 <sup>5</sup>		All vehicle belts in use <sup>8,10</sup>	If >5 yrs or moving <20 mph
TX	<17 yrs	<4 yrs or <36"	Ages 4-16 yrs <sup>17</sup>	\$200		All vehicle belts in use	<17 yrs not allowed
UT	<19 yrs	<5 yrs	Ages 5-18 yrs	\$45		All vehicle belts in use, physi- cal or medical reasons per physician	Yes, If all seats are in use in the vehicle cab
VT	<16 yrs	> 1 yr but <8 and > 20 lbs	<16 yrs	\$25		All vehicle belts in use <sup>11</sup>	Yes
VA	<16 yrs	<5 yrs	Ages 6-15	\$50	3	No major exemptions	Yes
WA	<16 yrs	<8 unless 4'9" <sup>27</sup>	Ages 6-16 yrs <sup>23</sup>	\$101		No major exemptions <sup>24</sup>	Yes
WV	<16 yrs	<8 yrs	Ages 3-8 yrs	\$20		All vehicle belts in use	No
WI	<8 yrs <sup>28</sup>	<8 yrs <sup>28</sup>	Age 8 or 80 lbs or 4'9"	\$75		Attending to child's personal needs	No <sup>14</sup>
WY	<12 yrs	<9 yrs properly secured in CRS in back seat <sup>22</sup>	Ages 5-11 yrs <sup>26</sup>	\$50		Physician provides medical exemptions, rendering aid and or assistance to child by parent/quardian	Yes
AS	<5 yrs	>4 yrs	Ages 0-12 yrs	\$30		.,	Yes, < 13 must be accompanied by adult
CNMI	<12 yrs	<5 yrs	Ages 0-12 yrs	\$250		A child who, for medical or physical reasons is unable to utilize a child passenger restraint system.	Yes, < 13 must be accompanied by adult
GU	<12 yrs	<4 yrs	Ages 2-12 yrs	\$50		Yes >13 yrs	Yes, < 13 must be accompanied by adult
PR	All persons, all ages, unless in a safety seat must wear a safety belt	<5 yrs	<12 must ride in back seat	\$100		None	No

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This chart applies to children younger than age 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Front seat restraints are required for all children younger than 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Children < 12 years old and < 66 inches may not occupy front seat if equipped with passenger-side air bag.

<sup>4</sup> Maximum fine for first offense of child safety seat laws. Fines may be increased on subsequent violations and different for older children.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Or 30 days in jail.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Major exemptions are considered to be exemptions in private passenger vehicles (cars, vans, or pickups). Many States have exemptions for buses, taxis, or other public transportation, children with medical conditions, and emergency situations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Unrestrained children must be in the rear.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Law does not apply if the child's personal or physiological needs are being met.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Only for children > 1 year old.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Only for ages 4 through 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Only for children older than age 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Unless properly restrained in a safety belt or child safety seat.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Unless number of children exceeds number of safety belts available.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Unless used in farm work or farm activity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Unless there are more than five children younger than age 18 not accompanied by a person older than 18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Unless supervised by an adult.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Booster seats are considered child safety seat systems as long as the seat is appropriate for that child (child should fit within the weight range stated on the seat).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> < 1yr rear-facing CSS; age 1-4 child passenger restraint device or < 40 lbs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Or riding in an emergency vehicle, public transportation, or school bus.

<sup>20</sup> If there are more passengers than available safety belts, the driver/passengers are not in violation; public carriers for hire are exempted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Effective 7/1/06 with a one-year warning phase (the fine will be effective 7/1/06).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Unless the vehicle has only one row of seats, then the child can be placed in the front, as of 7/1/03, or if all safety belts are in use by other child passengers, as of 2/17/05.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> May use safety belt only if properly adjusted and fastened.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> The CPS law does not apply if the child is booster seat age/size and the vehicle has lap-only safety belts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Beginning 7/1/04, child < 1 or < 20 pounds in rear-facing safety seat.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Child within age requirement if the lap and shoulder belt fit properly across the collarbone, chest and hips of child and does not pose danger to neck, face or abdominal area in crash or sudden stop.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Change in CPS law goes into effect June 1, 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Child safety seat must be in the back seat if the vehicle is equipped with a back seat.

## Organizations to Contact for Additional Information About Occupant Restraints

This page contains a number of organizations that can be contacted for additional information on occupant restraint use and other occupant protection issues.

#### **Federal Resources**

### **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

400 Seventh Street SW. Washington, DC 20590

Tel: 888-327-4236 (Vehicle Safety Hotline)

Web site: www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Another Federal agency that is a good source of information is

### **National Transportation Safety Board**

490 L'Enfant Plaza SW. Washington, DC 20594 Tel: 202-314-6000

Web site: www.ntsb.gov

### **State Resources**

#### **Governors' Highway Safety Association**

750 First Street NE., Suite 720 Washington, DC 20002

Tel: 202-789-0942 Fax: 202-789-0946

Web site: www.ghsa.org

#### **Private Sector**

### **National Safety Council**

Web site: www.nsc.org

Headquarters:

1121 Spring Lake Drive Itasca, IL 60143-3201

Tel: 708-285-1121

Washington, DC, office:

1025 Connecticut Avenue NW., Suite 1200

Washington, DC 20036-5405

Tel: 202-293-2270 Fax: 202-293-0032 In addition, two special National Safety Council projects may be of interest:

### **National Safety Belt Coalition**

1025 Connecticut Avenue NW., Suite 1200

Washington, DC 20036-5405

Tel: 202-296-6263 Fax: 202-293-0032

Web site: www.nsc.org/traf/sbc.htm

### Air Bag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign

1025 Connecticut Avenue NW., Suite 1200

Washington, DC 20036-5405

Tel: 202-625-2570 Fax: 202-822-1399 E-mail: airbag@nsc.org

Web site: www.nsc.org/airbag.htm

Other private sector organizations:

#### AAA

1000 AAA Drive

Heathrow, FL 32746-5063

Tel: 407-444-7000 Web site: www.aaa.com

### **American Coalition for Traffic Safety**

1110 North Glebe Road, Suite 1020

Arlington, VA 22201 Tel: 703-243-7501

### **Insurance Institute for Highway Safety**

1005 North Glebe Road, Suite 800

Arlington, Virginia 22201

Tel: 703-247-1500 Web site: www.iihs.org

#### National SAFE KIDS Campaign

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20004 Tel: 202-662-0600

Web site: www.safekids.org

### **Advocates for Highway Safety**

750 First Street NE., Suite 901

Washington, DC 20002 Tel: 202-408-1711

Fax: 202-408-1699

Web site: www.saferoads.org



