

Nine in ten parents move children from booster seat to seat belt too soon

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What to Know about Booster Seats

Booster seats protect children who are too big for a car seat but too small for a seat belt.

Seat belts don't fit children properly until they are at least 57" (4'9") tall and weigh between 80 and 100 pounds.

Motor vehicle crashes are the second leading cause of death for children 4 to 10 years old.

340 children this age died in motor vehicle crashes in 2012.

1/3 of these children were riding without a restraint that could have saved their lives.

Although seat belts are safer than nothing at all, children who should be in booster seats but wear only seat belts are at risk of **severe abdominal, head and spinal injuries** in the event of a crash.

Booster seats can **reduce the risk of serious injury by 45 percent** compared to seat belts alone.

Safe Kids Worldwide surveyed 1,000 parents of 4 to 10 year olds. The study found **seven in ten parents do not know** that a child should be at least 57 inches (4'9") to ride in a car using a seat belt without a booster seat.

The study revealed 9 out of 10 parents move their child from a booster seat to seat belt **before their child is big enough**.

One in five parents whose children carpool say they "**bend the rules**" when driving, letting children ride without seat belts and without the car seat or booster seat they would normally use.

And **61 percent** of parents say they notice other carpool drivers bending the rules.

Buckle up every ride, every time, in the right seat.

REMEMBER: A child needs to be at least 57" tall (4'9") and weigh between 80 and 100 pounds to ride with just a seat belt.

SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE

Learn more at www.safekids.org

As part of National Child Passenger Safety Week (Sept. 14-20), Safe Kids Worldwide today released a study that finds nine out of 10 parents take children out of car booster seats before they are tall enough.

The report, "Buckle Up: Booster Seats," funded in part by a \$2-million grant from the General Motors Foundation, also finds seven out of 10 parents do not know a [child](#) should be at least 57 inches (4-foot-9-inches) tall to ride in a car without a booster seat.

"Car seats, [booster seats](#) and [seat belts](#) are engineered to offer more protection than ever," said Kate Carr, president and CEO of Safe Kids Worldwide. "But we found there's a need to remind parents, and anyone who drives a child, about the importance of using a booster seat until a child is at least 57 inches tall and weighs between 80-100 pounds."

The study is based on a national online survey of 1,000 parents of children ages 4 to 10.

"We're committed to our partnership with Safe Kids and the work we do to improve child passenger safety," said Jeffrey Boyer, General Motors vice president for Safety and GM Foundation board member. "All who share a commitment to protecting passengers should take pride in the progress that's been achieved. However, this report is an important reminder that there's more we can do to ensure that children are buckled up correctly on every ride, every time."



While this child is properly restrained in a booster seat, Safe Kids Worldwide released a study today revealing nine in 10 parents move their kids from booster seats to seat belts too soon.

Throughout the week, including "National Seat Check Saturday" on Sept. 20, Safe Kids coalitions will partner with Chevrolet and other GM dealerships across the country to host more than 600 events to ensure children are fitted with the proper seat and to check that child safety seats are installed correctly in the vehicle.

More information: The report, "Buckle Up: Booster Seats," is available online: [www.safekids.org/research-repo ... buckle-booster-seats](http://www.safekids.org/research-repo...buckle-booster-seats)

Provided by General Motors

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