



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Thomas J. Stickrath, Director
www.publicsafety.ohio.gov



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Contact: China Dodley, Public Information Officer (614) 466-2551

Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Safe Kids to Promote Child Passenger Safety Week

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are joining together to promote safety during national Child Passenger Safety Week. The agencies are urging parents and caregivers to make sure their child safety seats are properly installed on “National Seat Check Saturday,” September 25.

As part of Child Passenger Safety Week (September 19-25, 2010) the Ohio Safe Kids Coalition, as well as other local community partners will have certified technicians available to provide free hands-on child safety seat inspections and advice.

“It’s the responsibility of every single parent and caregiver to make sure their children are safely restrained, every trip, every time,” said ODPS Director Thomas J. Stickrath. “We are urging everyone to have their child safety seats inspected. When it comes to the safety of a child, there is no room for mistakes.”

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) research, 8,959 lives have been saved from 1975 to 2008 by the proper use of child restraints. In 2008, among children under age 5 in passenger vehicles, an estimated 244 lives were saved by child restraint use (child safety seats and adult seat belts). Research shows that child restraints provide the best protection for all children up to age 8.

“Many parents believe they’re keeping their children safe by having their child ride in a safety seat, but what parents don’t know is that as many as three out of four child safety seats aren’t installed correctly,” said ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D. “I urge parents and caregivers to have their seat installation checked by a child passenger safety technician. This simple step will protect Ohio’s children from unnecessary injury.”

For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers can visit their local inspection stations and refer to the following *4 Steps for Kids* guidelines that determine which restraint system is best suited to protect children based on age and size:

1. For the best possible protection, keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds.

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2. When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).
3. Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall).
4. When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall) they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat, if it fits properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

Remember: All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.

For more information on Child Passenger Safety Week and to find the child seat inspection station nearest you visit,
www.healthyohioprogram.org/diseaseprevention/childinjury/cpsweek.aspx.

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