What you need to know about...

Child Passenger Injuries

Key Facts

In the United States...
► motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death in children ages 2 to 14. They are also the leading cause of injury-related death for children under 2 years.
► more than 1,400 child passengers 0 to 14 years died in motor vehicle crashes in 2005. Nearly half were not using child safety seats or seatbelts.
► 203,000 child passengers 0 to 14 years were injured in motor vehicle crashes in 2005.

In California...
► passenger injuries were the 2nd leading cause of hospitalized unintentional injury among children ages 0 to 14 in 2005.
► 1,166 children ages 0 to 14 were hospitalized for passenger injuries in 2005.
► Latino children ages 0 to 14 and children ages 10 to 14 accounted for the greatest number of hospitalized unintentional passenger injuries in 2005.

In San Francisco...
► passenger injuries were the 7th leading cause of hospitalized unintentional injury among children ages 0 to 14 in 2005.
► child passengers 5 to 9 years had the greatest number of injuries among children ages 0 to 14 in 2005.
► passenger injuries were the 2nd leading cause of admittance to the San Francisco General Hospital Emergency Department for children ages 0 to 14 in 2006.
► passenger injuries were the 3rd leading cause of hospitalized unintentional injury at the San Francisco General Hospital Emergency Department for children ages 0 to 14 in 2006.

Who is most at risk?
► In the U.S., African American children ages 4 to 7 have the lowest use of child safety seats.

Child Safety Seat Effectiveness
► Children who use child safety seats have an 80% lower risk of fatal injury compared to those who don’t.
► Children ages 2 to 5 who use seatbelts, instead of child safety seats or booster seats, are four times more likely to suffer a serious head injury in a crash.