



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.

Adapted from: Safe Kids Worldwide (SKW). Motor Vehicle Fact Sheet. Washington (DC): SKW, 2007, SFGH ED data.

