Look for certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians in your community participating in Child Passenger Safety Week. They will be providing free, hands-on car seat education and inspections from September 15-21.

In 2011, an estimated 123,000 children under age 13 riding as passengers of cars, SUVs, pickups and vans were injured in traffic crashes.

Car seats, booster seats and seat belts save lives and offer the best protection for children in crashes.

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children 1 to 13 years old.

More than 3,660 children were killed in car crashes during a 5-year period (2007-2011).

From 2007-2011, an estimated 634,000 children were injured. That’s more than the population of Boston, Massachusetts.

In 2011, on average nearly 2 children under the age of 13 were killed and 338 injured every day while riding in cars, SUVs, pickups and vans.

In 2011, over one third of children killed in car crashes were not in car seats or wearing seat belts.

Car seats reduce the risk of fatal injury in cars by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers. In SUVs, pickups and vans, they reduce the risk by 58 percent for infants and 59 percent for toddlers.

In 2011, an estimated 314 lives were saved by car restraints among children 4 and younger.

All 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have laws requiring children to be restrained while riding in cars. Some States now require kids to ride in appropriate car seats or booster seats until age 9.

NHTSA recommendation: Keep children rear-facing as long as possible up to the top height or weight allowed by their particular car seats.

The safest place for kids under 13 is in the back seat of the car.

Far too many car seats are being used incorrectly, despite kids’ safety being a top priority for parents.

Of the many questions you ask yourself every day, “Is my child as safe as possible in the car?” should be at the top of your list.

Want to know one of the best ways to protect your children? Place them in the right car seats for their ages and size, install them correctly, and ensure that the seats fit in your vehicle.

SUVs are involved in a larger number of crash-related deaths for children than any other vehicle. Worse yet, roughly two-thirds of all children who died while riding in SUVs weren’t buckled in at the time of their deaths.

To locate a Certified Child Passenger Safety technician in your area, go to [safercar.gov/therightseat](https://www.nhtsa.gov/cps/cpsfitting) or download the free SaferCar app from the iTunes App Store.

Parents, guardians and caregivers: Take initiative! Visit [safercar.gov/therightseat](https://www.safercar.gov/therightseat) to learn tips on car seat safety, watch how-to videos and sign up for car seat recall notifications.

A goal of National Seat Check Saturday is to teach parents how to correctly install and use car seats, and ensure children are in the right seats for their ages and sizes.

Children killed in car crashes in rural areas outnumber urban areas by more than two to one (2,473 versus 1,178 from 2007-2011).

National Surveys show Hispanic and African-American children are restrained in car seats well below the averages for all other groups.

Many parents and caregivers move their children to the next restraint type (car seat, booster seat, seat belt) too soon. That’s why hands-on inspections and instruction are so important.