



SAFE KIDS USA POSITION STATEMENT CHILDREN RIDING IN THE FRONT SEAT OF A VEHICLE

Studies by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance show that a child is 40% safer in a back seat. When a child rides in a back seat and uses restraints, the risk of injury drops to less than 2%.

But research also finds that, even when a back seat is free, 30% of 4- to 8-year-olds and 73% of 9- to 12-year-olds ride in the front seat. Children see riding in the front seat as part of becoming an adult. Also, many parents don't insist kids ride in the back. In 2008 interviews conducted by Safe Kids Buckle Up, parents said they know the back seat is safer, but they allow children to ride in the front anyway, often to help them.

Safe Kids USA's policy is that all passengers—but especially children under age 13—should ride in a back seat with properly fitted restraints appropriate for their weight and height.

Kids riding in the front seat can be injured by:

- Hitting the dashboard or windshield
- Being hit in the head or chest or both by an adult-sized airbag
- Being closer to the point of impact in frontal collisions (which make up more than half of all car crashes)

Among the concurring organizations are:

American Academy of Pediatrics

<http://www.aap.org/>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

www.chop.edu/carseat

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

www.safekids.org