

Partners for Child Passenger Safety

An Overview



What is Partners for Child Passenger Safety (PCPS)?

PCPS is a comprehensive research collaboration between State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), and the University of Pennsylvania studying how and why children are injured or killed in car crashes.

Research is currently being conducted in: Arizona, California, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C.

To qualify for the study, the following must occur:

- Crash occurred in one of the participating PCPS states.
- At least one child under age 16 years was in the vehicle at the time of the crash.
- The State Farm insured vehicle in the crash was model year 1990 or newer.

Study components include:

- In-depth telephone interviews with the driver of the vehicle
- On-site crash investigations
- Computer crash simulations
- Interdisciplinary analyses and interpretation of the data collected

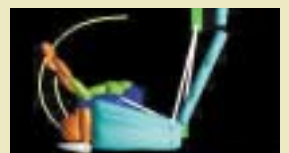
PCPS objectives:

- To estimate the number of children in crashes
- To identify specific safety problems for children in motor vehicles
- To suggest solutions to those problems
- To evaluate real-world effectiveness of vehicle and restraint system features

Appropriate vs Inappropriate Restraint of a Child



6 year-old child dummy in a belt-positioning booster seat, restrained by a lap-shoulder belt. 35 mph frontal crash. Little dummy movement.



6 year-old child dummy, restrained by only the lap belt. 35 mph frontal crash. Extensive dummy movement.

How are Children Being Restrained?

Key PCPS finding:

The results below reflect estimates from data collected between 12/1/98- 9/1/00. Data were derived from children in crashes in State Farm insured vehicles enrolled in the study.

More than 82% of child car seats are being misused according to current safety recommendations.

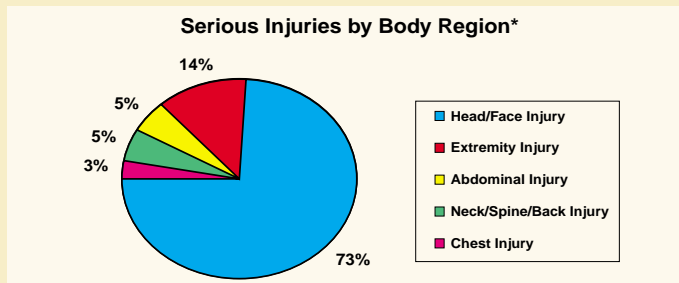
Head Injuries Most Common

Current safety recommendation from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and The US Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):

- All children should be restrained in an age and weight appropriate restraint regardless of seating position.

PCPS finding:

- Unrestrained children are 3 times more likely to suffer a serious injury, most commonly head injuries, compared to restrained children.



* Serious injuries include concussions, serious brain injuries, facial lacerations, internal organ injury, and fractures.

Infants Inappropriately Turned Forward

Current safety recommendations from the AAP and The NHTSA:

- Infants should be restrained in the back seat in a rear-facing car seat until age 1 year AND 20 pounds.

PCPS finding:

- 30% of infants are incorrectly turned forward-facing in their car seats before reaching 1 year of age.

Premature Graduation Out of Car Seats

Current safety recommendation from the AAP and The NHTSA:

- Once turned from rear-facing to forward-facing, children should ride in a car seat with full harness until the seat is completely outgrown based on manufacturer height and weight limits.

PCPS finding:

- 29% of 3-year-olds are inappropriately graduated from car seats to booster seats.
- 16% of 3-year-olds are inappropriately moved from car seats to adult seat belts.

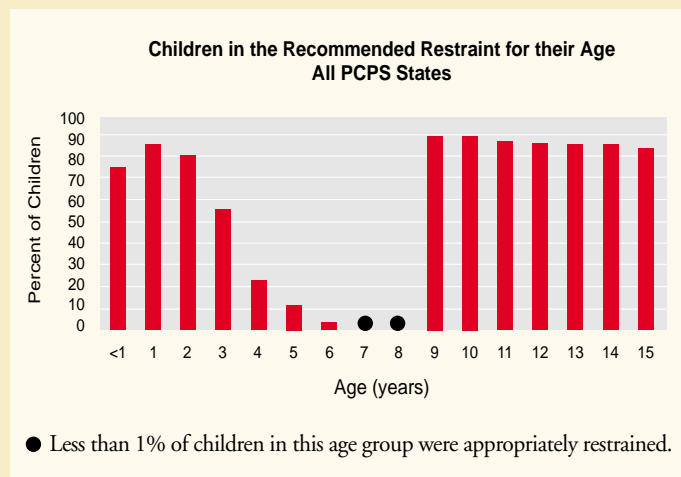
Few Children in BPB

Current safety recommendation from the AAP and The NHTSA:

- Children who have completely outgrown their car seats should ride in a belt-positioning booster (BPB) seat until an adult seat belt fits properly (usually 4'9" and 80 pounds).

PCPS finding:

- 83% of children between the ages of 4 and 8 years are inappropriately restrained in adult seat belts.
 - More than 90% of children between ages 4 and 8 years who were seriously injured were NOT in a booster seat.
 - Children 4-8 years old are 4 times more likely to suffer a serious head injury while being restrained in a seat belt rather than a booster seat.
- No children ages 7 or 8 years enrolled in the study were appropriately restrained in a BPB seat.



The above graph represents children who are restrained in the recommended restraint for their age according to current safety recommendations (as stated by the AAP and The NHTSA). Very few children between the ages of 4-8 years old were in the appropriate restraint for their age.

12-Year-Olds Inappropriately Sitting Up Front

Current safety recommendation from the AAP and The NHTSA:

- Children age 12 years and under should ride in the back seat.

PCPS finding:

- 16% of children age 12 years and under are inappropriately seated in the vehicle front seat.

For a copy of this sheet or more information on the PCPS project, refer to: www.traumalink.chop.edu or www.statefarm.com.

This educational tool was created by the PCPS research team with assistance from the State Farm Insurance Companies.

The results presented in this report are the interpretation solely of the Partners for Child Passenger Safety research team at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and are not necessarily the views of State Farm Insurance Companies.

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