

## MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages 3-14 and the second-leading cause of injury death for children under age 3. Every year, approximately 1,450 child passengers ages 14 and under die in motor vehicle crashes and approximately 203,000 go to the emergency room with injuries from motor vehicle crashes.

- Young children restrained in car seats have an 80 percent lower risk of fatal injury than those who are unrestrained.
- Booster seats reduce the risk of injury by an estimated 59 percent compared with the use of an adult safety belt alone.
- One out of four crashes occurs less than five minutes from the home.
- Children are more likely to be properly restrained when the driver is properly restrained. In a 2005 study, nearly 40 percent of children riding with unbelted drivers were completely unrestrained, compared with only 5 percent of children riding with belted drivers.
- An estimated 1,700 children's lives were saved between 1996 and 2002 solely because they were seated in a back seat.



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