



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Public Health Press Release**

**2017 Child Passenger Safety Week**  
**September 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>**

**September 23<sup>rd</sup> National Seat Check Saturday**

News Release From: **Jackson County Health Department-Car Seat Safety Program**

1715 Lansing Ave.  
Jackson, Michigan 49202

Contact Person: Kellie Underwood, Car Seat Safety Program Coordinator,  
Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician  
(517) 768-2181

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**The Car Seat Safety Program Urges Parents and Caregivers to Have Their Child's Car Seat Inspected during Child Passenger Safety Week**

**JACKSON COUNTY, Mich.** -The Car Seat Safety Program at the Jackson County Health Department urges parents and caregivers to have their child's car seat checked, for proper use and installation, during Child Passenger Safety Week- September 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. The Car Seat Safety Program is a part-time program providing car seat safety inspections, low cost car seats and car seat safety education by appointment. Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians are available to inspect car seats for proper use and installation and provide hands-on car seat education.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 0 to 13. Every 33 seconds, one child under 13 is involved in a crash. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), report that car seats reduce the risk of death in car crashes by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers ages 1 to 4. Booster seats reduce the risk for serious injury by 45% for children ages 4 to 8 years. Between 1975 and 2013, child restraints saved an estimated 10,421 lives of children ages 4 and younger. "The Car Seat Safety Program wants to help parents and caregivers do all they can to best protect their child when traveling in a vehicle, when it comes to the safety of your child, there is no room for mistakes," said **Kellie Underwood, Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and Coordinator of the Car Seat Safety Program.**

Below are the most current **Car Seat Recommendations for Children** from NHTSA. They emphasize how important it is to keep children in each restraint type for as long as possible before moving them to the next type.

### **Birth-12 months**

**Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat.**

There are different types of rear-facing car seats; Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

### **1-3 years**

**Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible.** It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

### **4-7 years**

**Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer.** Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

### **8-12 years**

**Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly.** For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not across the neck or face.

**Remember: All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.**

**Michigan Law requires all children to ride in a booster seat until they are age 8 or 4'9" tall.**

For more information, please contact Kellie Underwood, Car Seat Safety Program-Jackson County Health Department, (517)768-2181 or visit [www.safercar.gov/therightseat](http://www.safercar.gov/therightseat) or [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)