# INJURIES FROM CHILD RESTRAINT MISUSE 

Kristopher Lyon, MD, EMT, FACEP, FAEMS

## Scope of the problem (2016)



128,000 children 12 or younger were injured

## Scope of the problem (2016)

Car seat use reduced injuries by 71-82\%

Booster seats reduce the risk for serious injury by $45 \%$ for children 4-8 years old


ALMOST ½ OF BLACK AND HISPANIC CHILDREN WHO DIED WERE NOT RESTRAINED (20092010)

# 1/3 OF ALL CHILDREN WHO DIED IN CRASHES IN 2011 WERE NOT BUCKLED! 

## Evidence shows that state laws result in more children being buckled up.

Only 2 states (Tennessee and Wyoming) have child passenger restraint laws requiring car seat or booster seat use for children age 8 and under.

Child passenger restraint laws that increase the age for car seat or booster seat use result in more children being buckled up. Among five states that increased the required car seat or booster seat age to 7 or 8 years, car seat and booster seat use tripled, and deaths and serious injuries decreased by $17 \%$.


0.5 $\qquad$


Death rate per 100,000 children aged 12 or younger 2002-2011

- $2002-2.2$
- 2003-2.1
- 2004-2.3
- 2005-2.1
- 2006-2.0
- 2007-1.7
- 2008-1.3
- 2009-1.4
- 2010-1.2
- 2011-1.2

SOURCES: Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 2002 - 2011; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2013

## MORE THAN 800 ADDITIONAL LIVES COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED IF CAR SEATS WERE USED BY 100\% OF 0-4 YEAR OLDS FROM 20022011.




Crandall, J.R. 2013, Pediatric Injury Biomechanics


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- Children age 0-23 month across all types of crash are $76 \%$ more likely to be seriously injured if restrained in forward facing child restraint system when compared to children in rear facing child restraints


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- $12 \%$ of fatalities due to gross misuse of the child restraint.

Restraint Misuse

Decina and Lococo 2005 $72.6 \%$ of 5000 children observed had some form of misuse

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## Contact Head Injuries

- Excursion of the head
- Intrusion
- Looseness of restraint harness.
- Looseness of restraint attachment.



## Contact Injuries

- Skull Fracture


## Contact Injuries

- Epidural Hematoma



## Contact Injuries

- Frontal Lobe Contusion


## Non Contact Head Injuries

- Loose attachment to vehicle limits effectiveness of vehicle energy management systems.
- Loose harness allows movement between torso and back of seat.
- Produce brain injuries without external trauma.


## Extremity Injuries

- Increased movement of FFCRS allows lower extremities to contact front seatback.


## Cervical Spine

- Rare in restrained children.
- Higher mortality due to upper cervical spine
- Under 8-9 years may injuries of upper C Spine and SCIWORA


## DURBIN ET AL 2003 59\% LOWER ODDS OF INJURY IN 4-7 YEAR OLDS VERSUS SEATBELTS

Belt
positioning booster

## Seat-Belt Syndrome

- Distinct pattern of injury associated with lap belts.
- Hip and abdominal contusions aka seatbelt sign
- Pelvic fractures
- Lumbar spine injuries
- Subluxations
- Compression fractures of L2-L4
- Intra-abdominal injuries of solid organs and hollow viscera
- Gl perforation
- Small bowel mesenteric tears and perforation



## SEAT BELT SYNDROME

## Seat Belt Syndrome



## Risk Factors:

Age 4-8
Poor fit of belt
Child movement forward prior to crash
Shoulder belt placed behind back


Children with appropriate CRS $1 / 3$ as likely as suboptimally restrained to sustain abdominal injury


## Seat Belt Syndrome

- Lumbar Fractures: Due to excessive flexion
- Chance fractures
- Compression fractures


## Airbags

- Children 12 and younger should not be placed in the front seat especially with active airbag.
- Atlanto-occipital fracture
- Brainstem injuries
- Diffuse axonal injury


# SEATING POSITION 

Center rear seat considered safest for children in child restraints (Lund 2005)

Table 2.4 Patterns of AIS2+ injury stratified by restraint type

|  | RFCRS, 0-11-month-olds | FFCRS, <br> 12-47-month-olds | Belt-positioning booster seats, 4-7-year-olds | Seat belt (lap and lap-shoulder), <br> 4-7-year-olds | Seat belt (lap and lap-shoulder), <br> 8-15-year-olds |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Overall AIS2+ injury risk (per 1,000 children in crashes) | 2.3 | 3.0 | 4.9 | 16.6 | 13.6 |
| Head (\%) | 83.3 | 56.9 | 61.1 | 67.3 | 62.5 |
| Face (\%) | 0.0 | 8.3 | 7.0 | 5.8 | 6.5 |
| Chest (\%) | 2.4 | 2.8 | 5.7 | 1.3 | 5.9 |
| Abdomen (\%) | 2.4 | 3.3 | 8.9 | 17.8 | 7.1 |
| Neck/spine (\%) | 0.0 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 1.6 |
| Upper extremity (\%) | 7.1 | 8.3 | 7.0 | 4.5 | 11.0 |
| Lower extremity (\%) | 4.8 | 18.8 | 8.9 | 2.5 | 5.4 |

Data from PCPS from 12/1/98-11/30/07. Limited to model year 1998 and newer vehicles. Differences between restraint types should not be interpreted as statistically significant differences

Table 2.3 Summary of restraint effectiveness data

| Restraint | Effectiveness for reducing fatalities | Comparison group | Effectiveness <br> at reducing serious injuries | Comparison group |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



Keep children ages 12 and under properly buckled in the back seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active air bag. Recommended oge ranges for each seot type vary to occount for differences in child growth and heightifveight imits of car seats snd booster seats.

Child satety seat recommendations: American Academy of Pediatics.
www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/cps

