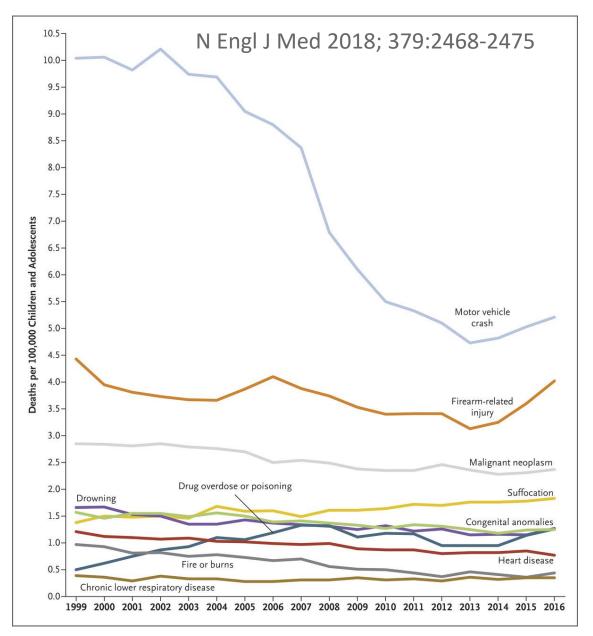
# **Child Passenger Safety**

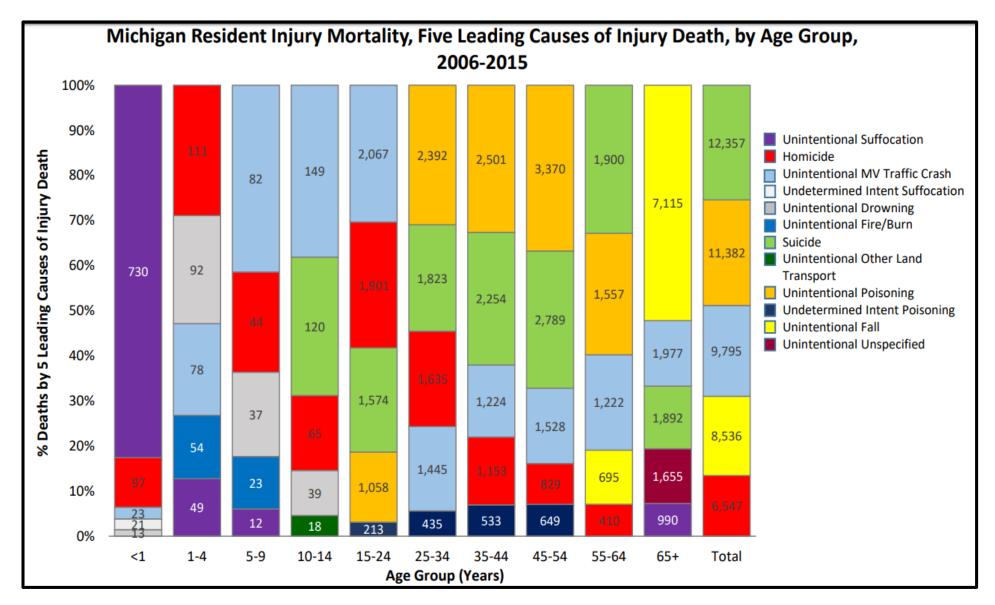


## Effectiveness of Child Restraint Systems



- Motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death overall in children and adolescents
- Car seats reduce the risk of death in infants by 71% and in toddlers by 54%
- Booster seats reduce the risk of injury by 46% in children 4-8 years of age
- For every child who dies in a MVA, many more are injured and require emergency care

#### Motor Vehicle Accidents: Still a Leading Cause of Death



## Cars are getting safer. Drivers are more distracted

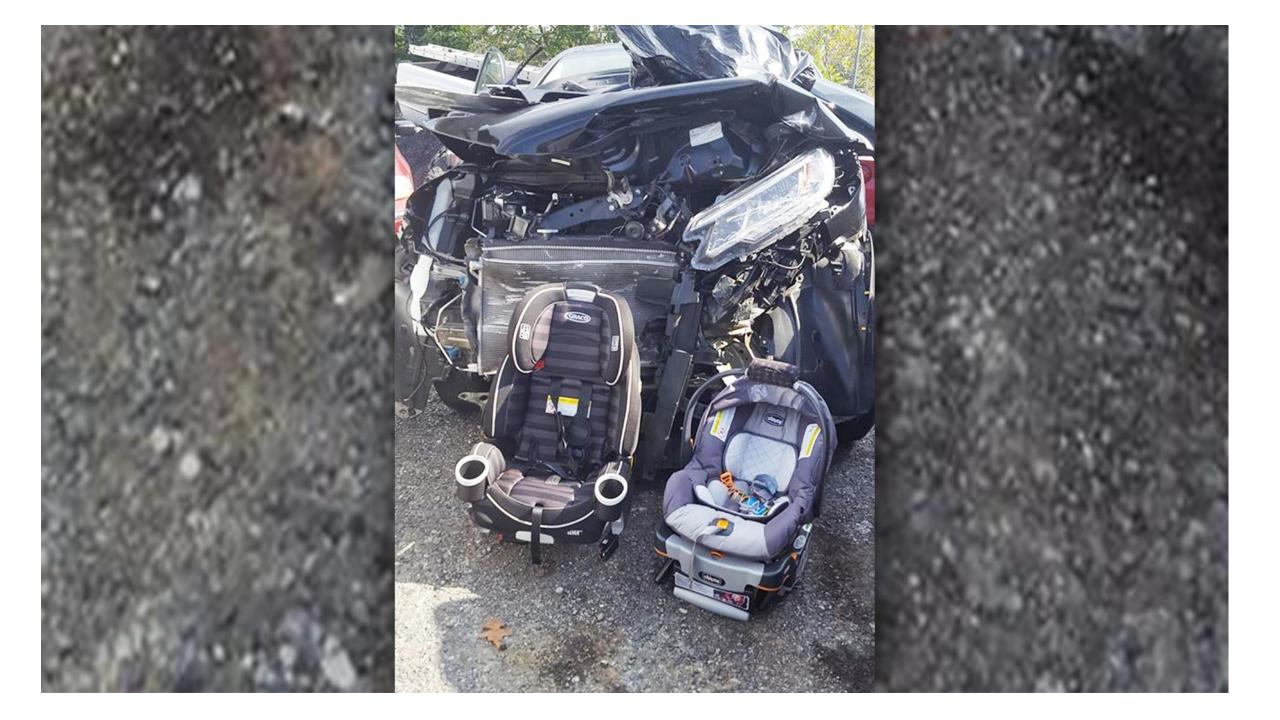








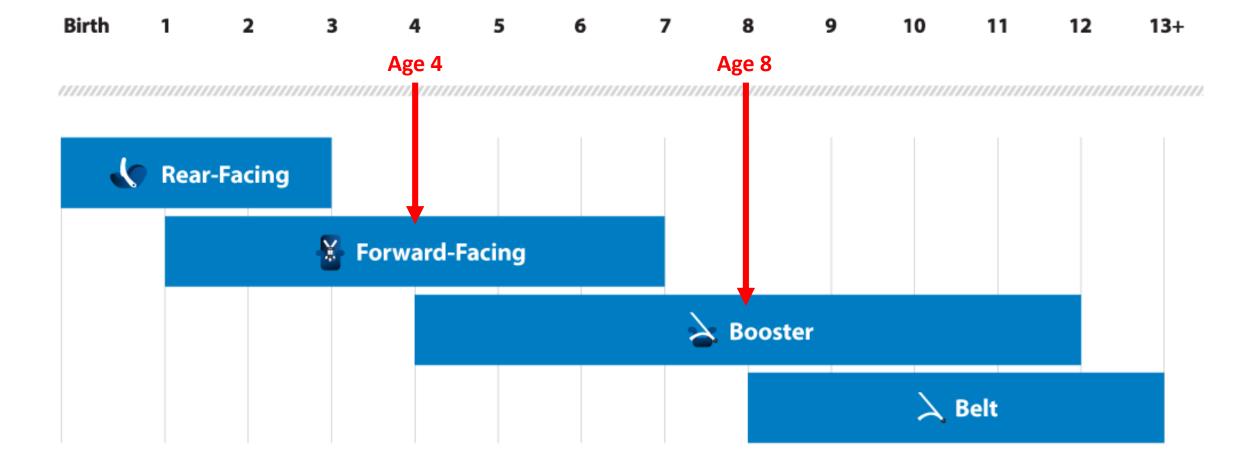


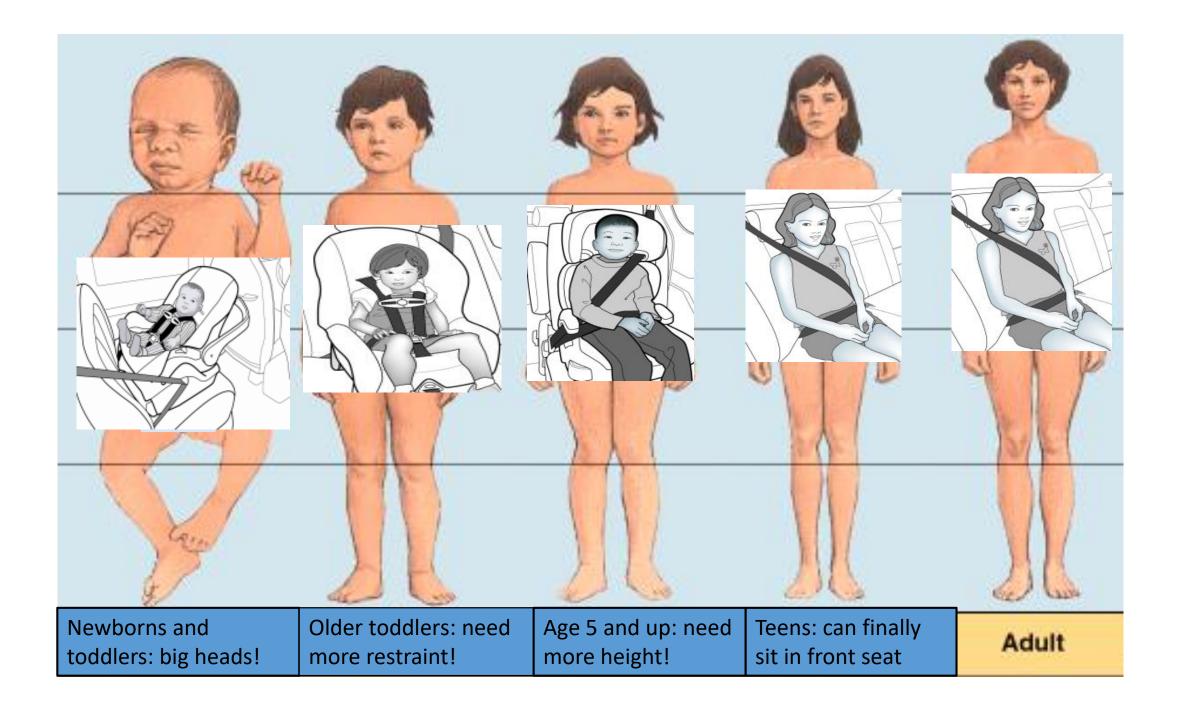


## Child Car Seat Laws in Michigan

Current Michigan Statute	American Academy of Pediatrics Policy 2018
	Infants and toddlers should ride rear facing as long as possible, until they reach the highest height or weight limit. (at least until age 2)
Young children should ride in car safety seats until at least age 4.	Young children should ride in car safety seats with a five- point harness as long as possible, until they reach the highest height or weight limit
School-aged children should ride in booster seats until a height of 57 inches or age 8.	School-aged children should ride in booster seats until the vehicle lap and shoulder belt fits properly (4' 9" tall and between 8 and 12 years of age)
	Children should sit in rear seat until <b>at least 13 years old</b>

#### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Car Seat Recommendations Current Michigan Statute





## Rear facing versus forward facing car seats: crash-testing



#### **Rear-Facing Car Seats**

Spreads the crash force more evenly and limits the motion of the head Cradles and moves with the child to reduce stress on fragile necks and spinal cords







#### Forward-facing seats with 5-point harness system Distributes crash forces and acts as a restraint to hold the child in place

ne belts provided with this child restraint around your child. • Secure the top anchorage strap provided with this child restraint. • Secure this child restraint with the tether and the vehicle's child restraint anchorage system, if available, or with a vehicle belt. . Must be at least 2 years old. When used without the 5-pt harness as a belt-positioning booster: · Use only with children who weigh between 18 and 49.8 kg (40 and 110 lbs) and whose height is 110 -145 cm (43.3 - 57 in.) AND whose ears are below the top of the child restraint headrest. • Use only the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt system when restraining the child in this booster seat. • Secure this booster seat when unoccupied with the vehicle's child restraint anchorage system, if available, or with the vehicle seat belt. An unsecured booster seat may injure someone if a crash occurs. • Must be at least 4 years old. General Use: Follow all instructions on this child restraint and in the written instructions located on either side of seat. • Do not place this restraint in the front seat of a vehicle that has a frontal Use this restraint only on forward-facing vehicle seats equipped with a vehicle seat belt or a lower universal anchorage system. Do not use this child restraint with vehicle seats that face the rear or side of the vehicle. • Never leave child unattended. • Register your child restraint with the manufacturer.



#### **Booster Seats**

Allow positioning for proper fit of shoulder and lap belt

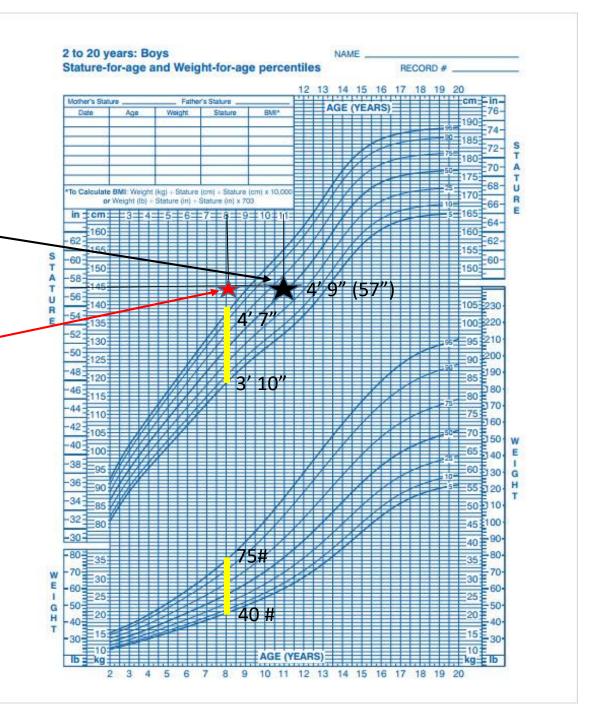




## Booster Seat Guidelines

Age 11: 4' 9" is ~average height for both boys and girls

Age 8: < 5% reach height guideline (average height is 4' 2" at 8 years old for both boys and girls)



#### Other considerations

• AAP recommends that children sit in the back seat until age 13.

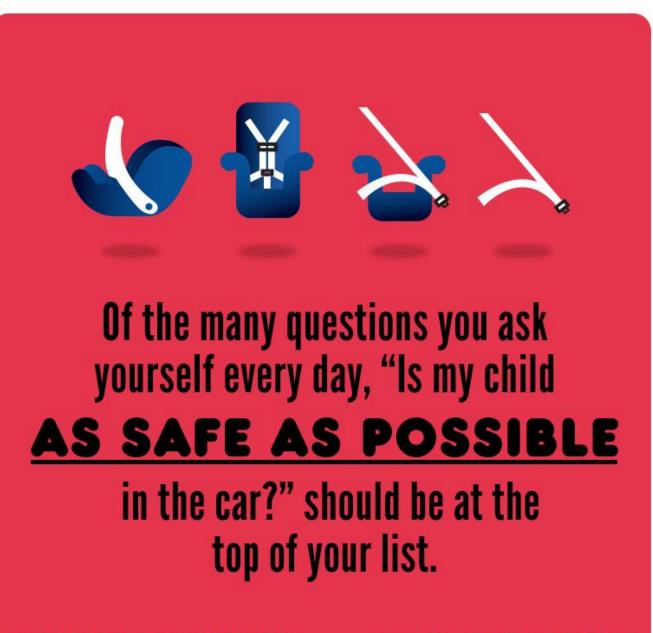
• Do we want unbelted 16-18 years olds in back seats?



- Michigan laws are outdated based on motor vehicle accident research.
- We advise based on the **2011 AAP Policy** statement. Having laws reflecting our safety guidance is key.
- Children are safest staying in the most protective seat for as long as they fit and seats are clearly labeled.
- Cost to families: none. This is an opportunity to use the seat they have for a longer period of time.
- Updating the Michigan statute provides opportunity for education to families on the safest way to transport children (who are <u>in the car for an</u> <u>average of 3-4 trips per day</u>).







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