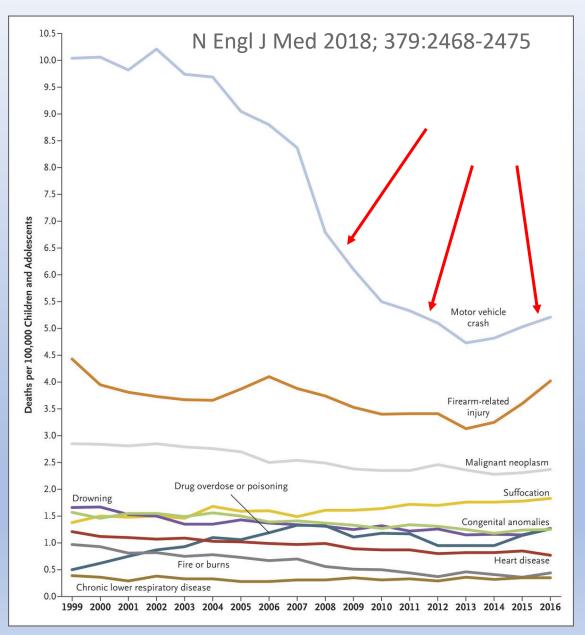
# **Child Passenger Safety**





American Academy of Pediatrics

## 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

Source: AAP State Advocacy Focus: Child Passenger Safety

## Cars are getting safer. Drivers are more distracted









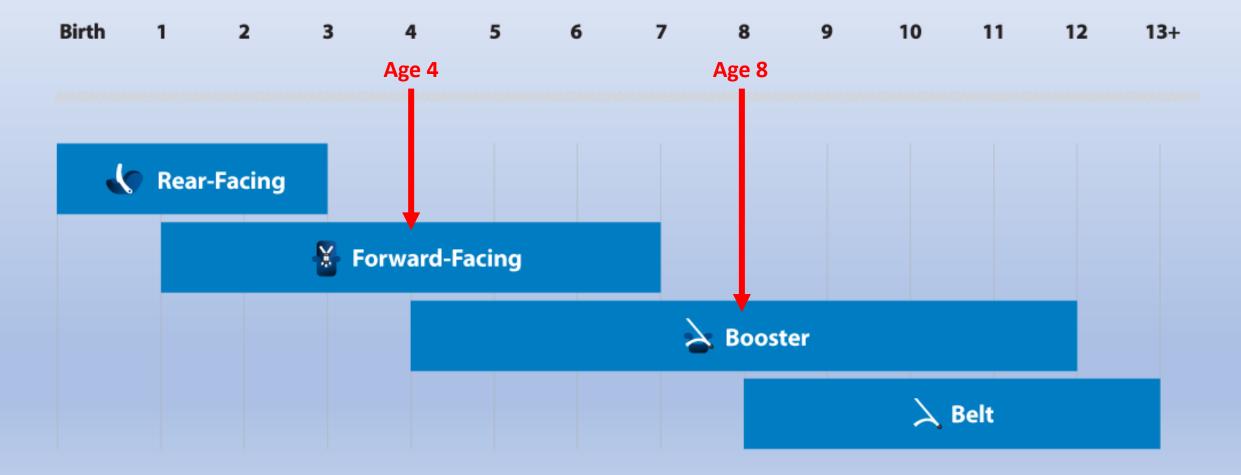




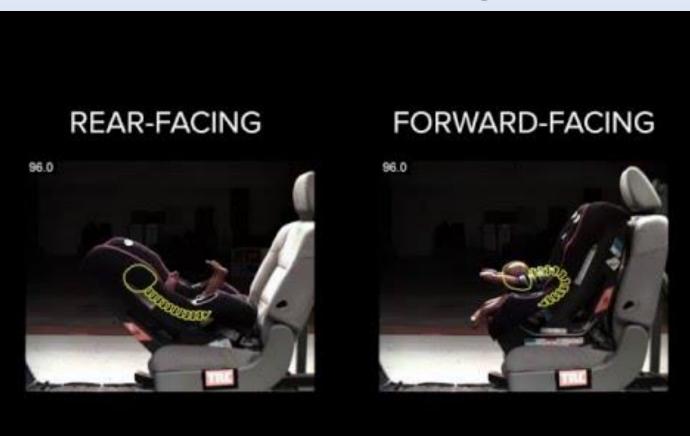
## Child Car Seat Laws in Michigan

| Current Michigan Statute   | American Academy of Pediatrics Policy 2018<br>(HB 4983)   |
|--|---|
|  | Infants and toddlers should ride rear facing as long as possible, until they reach the highest height or weight limit.<br>(or until age 2)                                    |
| Young children should ride in car<br>safety seats until at least<br>age 4.                       | Young children should ride in car safety seats with a five-<br>point harness as long as possible, until they reach the<br>highest height or weight limit<br>(and until age 5) |
| School-aged children should ride<br>in booster seats until a height of<br>4' 9" inches or age 8. | School-aged children should ride in booster seats until the vehicle lap and shoulder belt fits properly (4' 9" tall or 8 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







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

- Michigan laws are outdated based on motor vehicle accident research.
- Children are safest staying in the most protective seats for as long as they fit. Seats are clearly labeled.
- Pediatricians advise based on the 2011 and updated 2018 AAP Policy statements. Having laws align with best practices is key.
- **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.







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