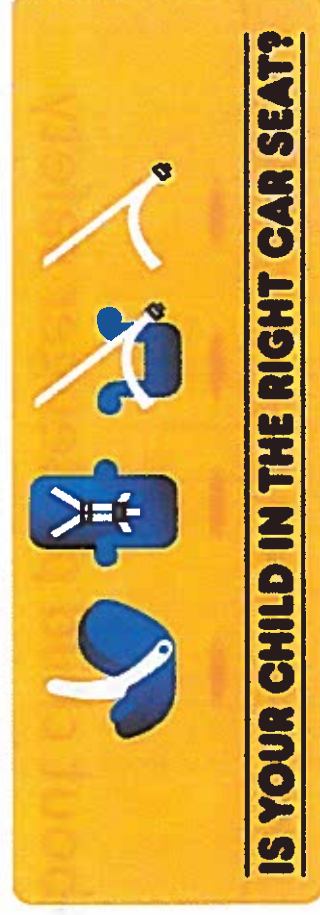


Michigan's Child Passenger Safety Law and National Guidelines

House Bill 4951

Michelle L. Macy, MD, MS

November 8, 2017



Outline

- Why I care about child passenger safety
- Child passenger safety across the first decade
- Laws, guidelines, and the link to behavior

A newborn and a news report



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NTSB Puts Heat On States Without Booster Seat Laws

by ADAM HOCHBERG

[Listen to the Story](#)

A young girl with blonde hair is sitting in a car seat, wearing a white shirt and a red bow. She is smiling and looking towards the camera.

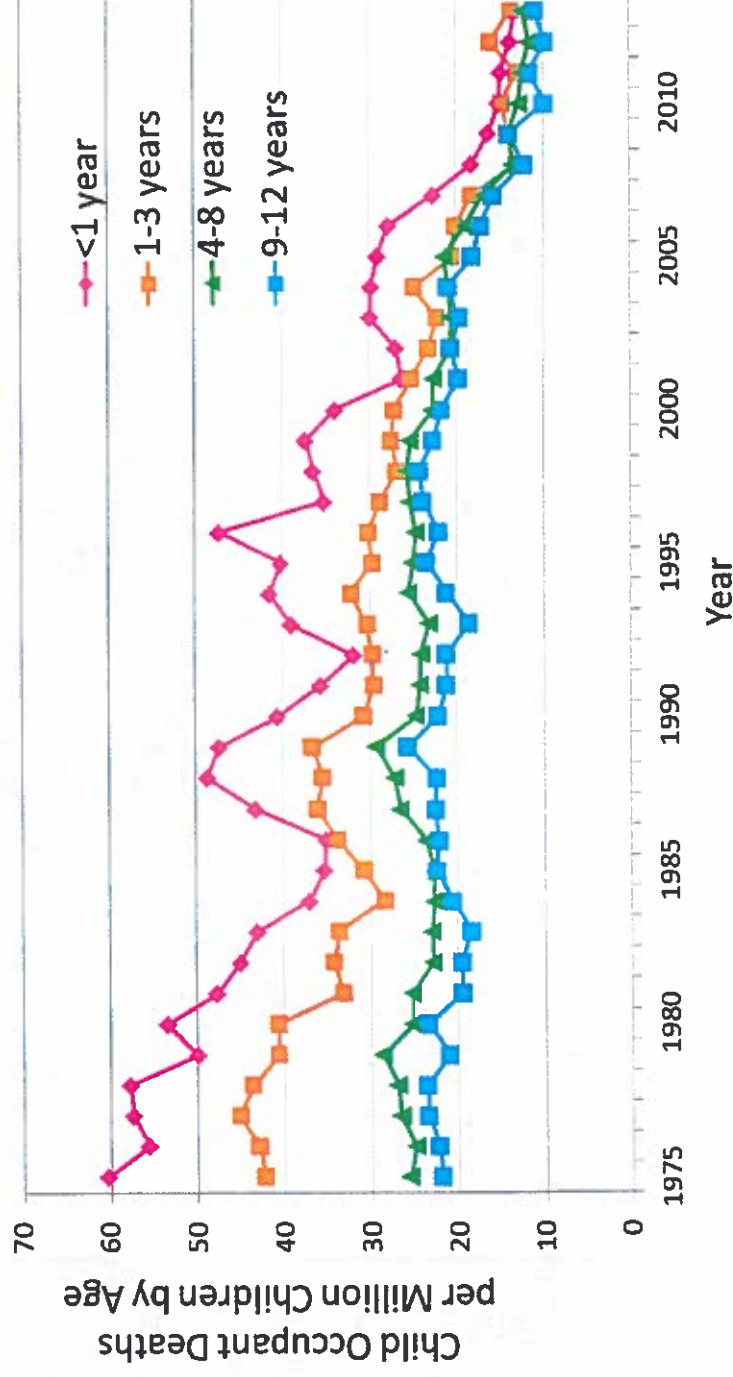
September 30, 2009 [Print](#) [Email](#) [Share](#)

The National Transportation Safety Board is scolding the leaders of three states for not passing tougher laws mandating child booster seats

Booster seats are required in 47 states and the District of Columbia, though the NTSB says those laws often could be strengthened. But Arizona, Florida and South Dakota don't require older children to ride in boosters, and the

Trends in Child Passenger Deaths

per Million Children; 1975-2013



Insurance Institute for Highway Safety analysis of Dept. of Transportation Fatality Reporting System.
<http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/t/child-safety/fatalityfacts/child-safety> accessed April 21, 2015

Injuries remain a problem



For every **1** child that dies there are...



25

hospitalizations



925

treated in ER



Many

more treated in
doctors' offices

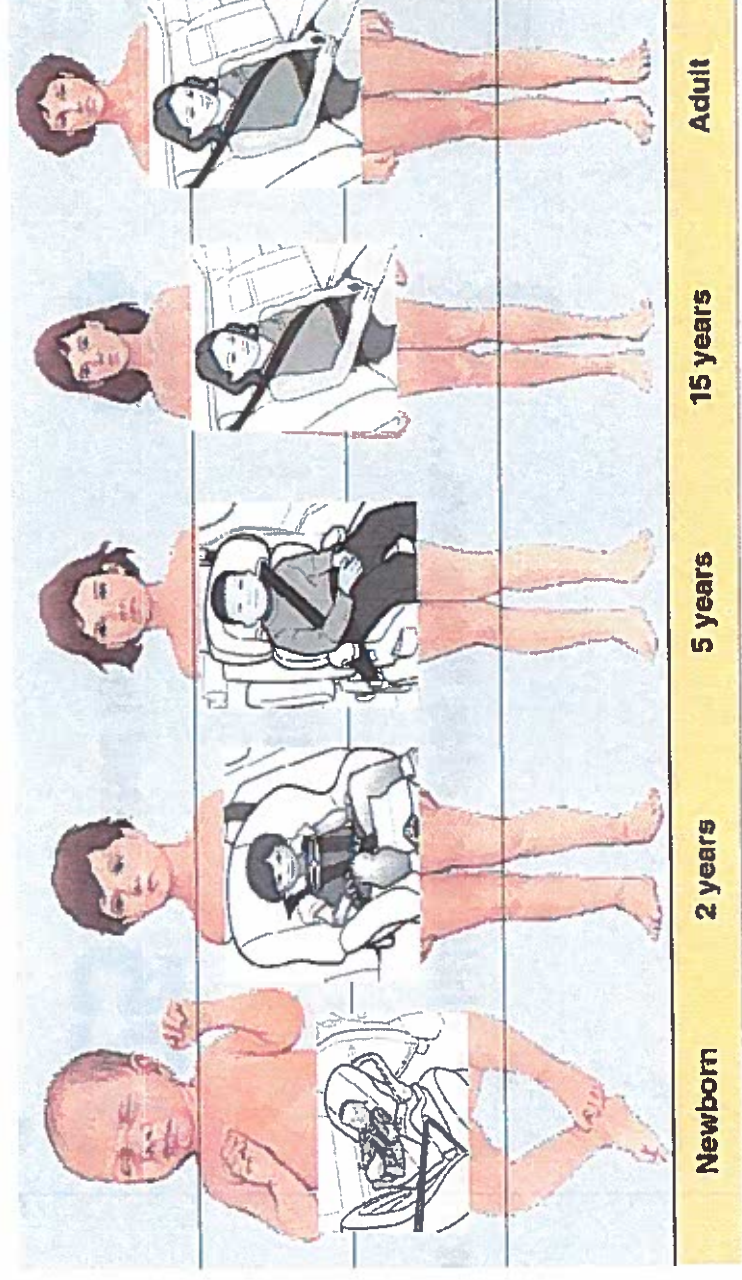





In 2005, injuries that resulted in death, hospitalization or an ER visit cost nearly \$11.5 billion in medical expenses.

SOURCES: Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS); CDC, 2009.

National Health Interview Survey, 2009 data release, CDC, National Center for Health Statistics.

Safety needs - the first decade



			5	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
			pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds

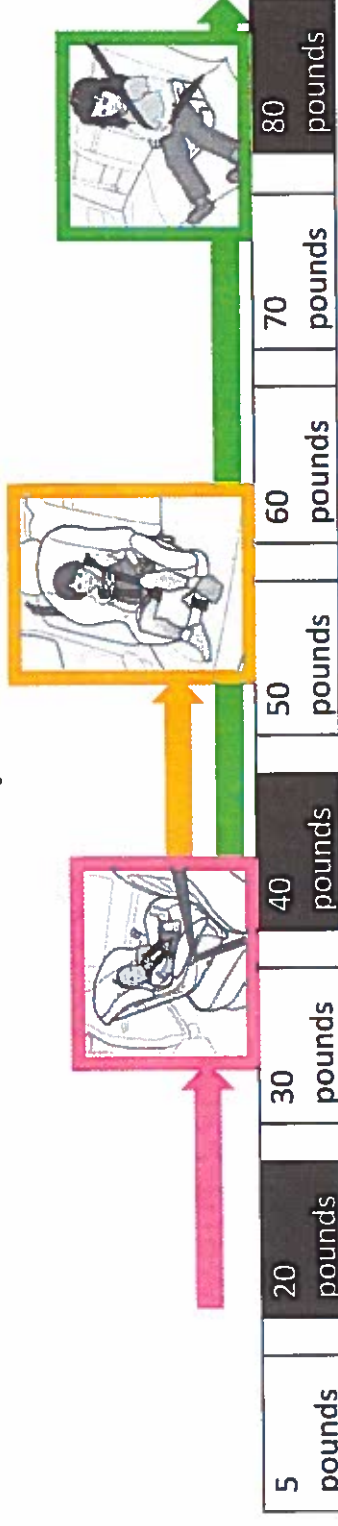
Retired Guidelines – American Academy of Pediatrics 2002

Rear-Facing Car Seat to 1 year and 20 pounds

Forward-Facing Car Seat to 4 years and 40 pounds

Booster Seat to 8 years and 80 pounds

Updated Guidelines – American Academy of Pediatrics 2011



Infant-only or convertible child safety seat used *rear-facing* until 2 years of age or the highest weight or height limit allowed by the seat manufacturer

The safest place in a vehicle for all children is in the rear seat.

Convertible or combination child safety seat used *forward-facing* for as long as possible [children 2 years and older (or those <2 years who have outgrown rear-facing seats)]

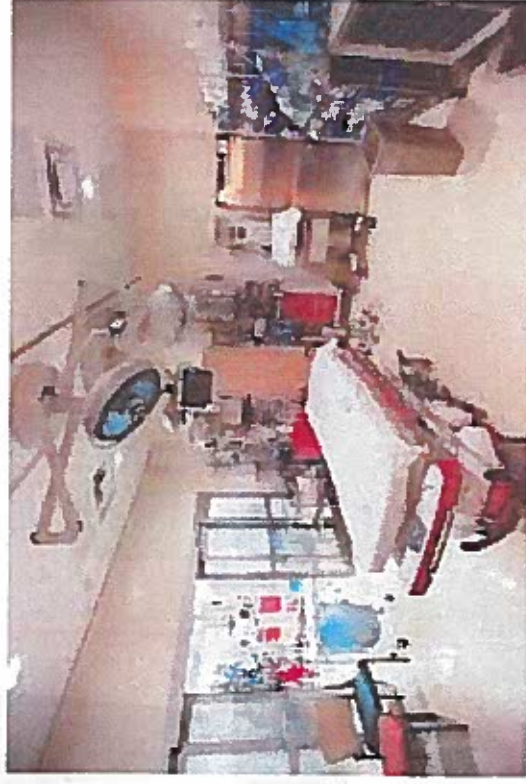
Booster seat for all children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their child safety seat until the vehicle seat belt fits properly

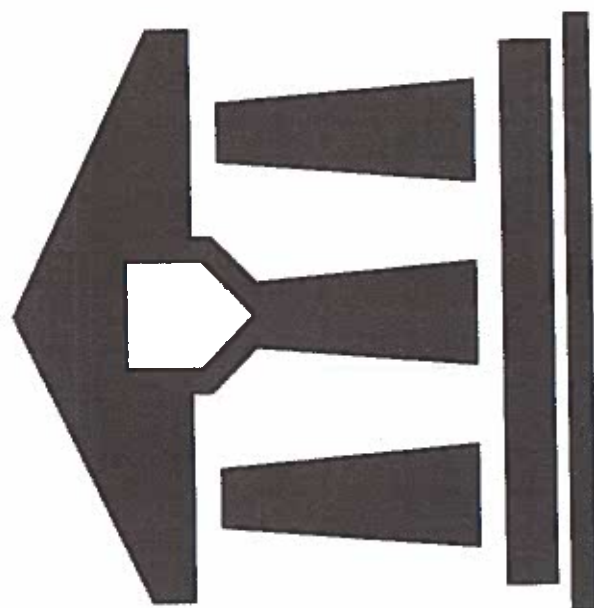
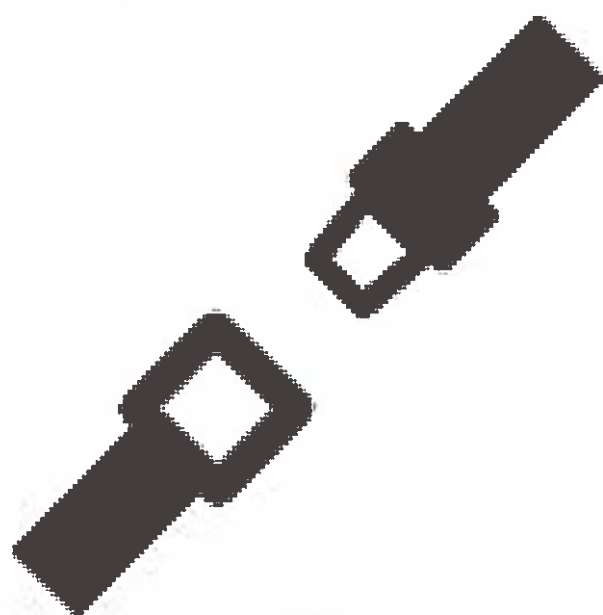
2011 AAP Guidelines for Child Passenger Safety

– Policy Statement originally published online March 21, 2011

Images for child safety seats used with permission from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Center for Injury Research and Prevention

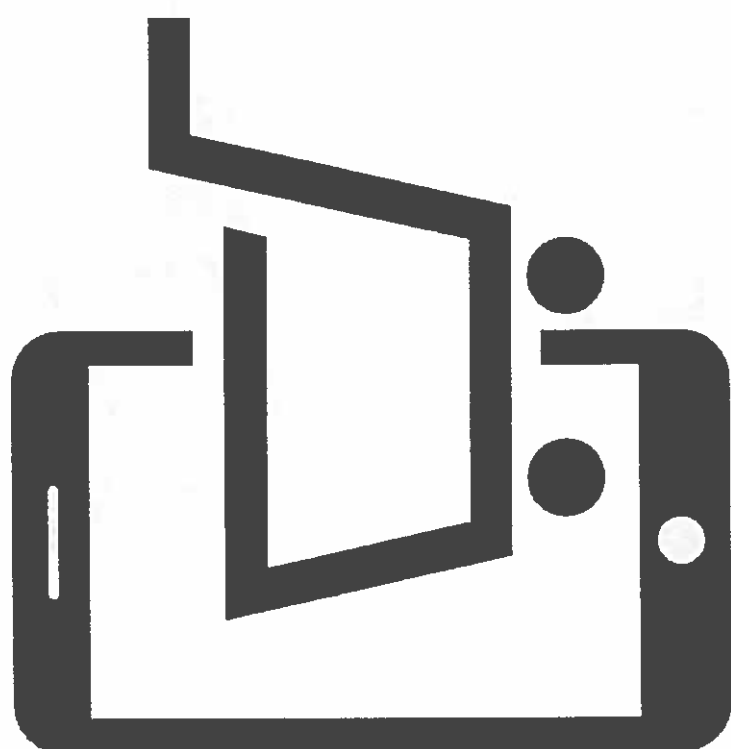
EMERGENCY





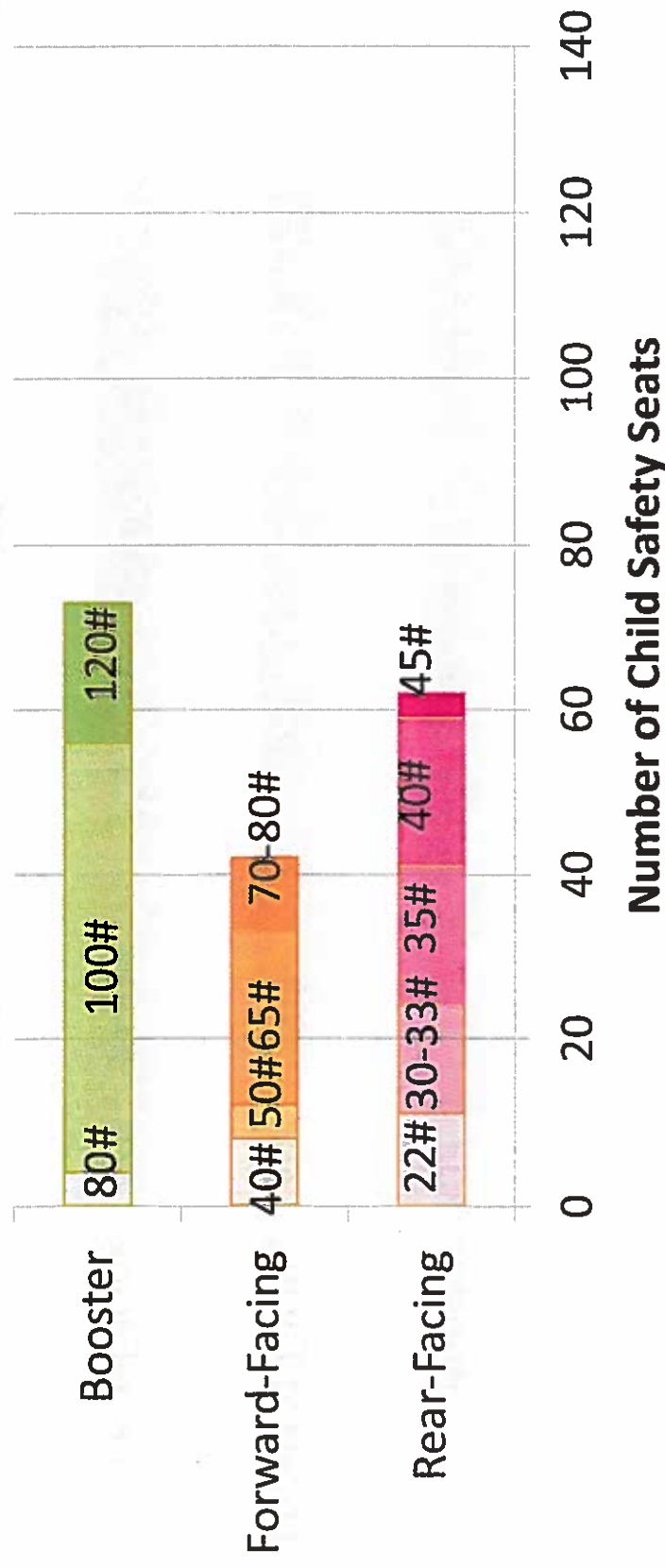
Going beyond the legal requirements

The image is a screenshot of a news article from the Detroit Free Press. At the top, a dark navigation bar contains the following links: HOME, NEWS, SPORTS, AUTOS, BUSINESS, LIFE, ENTERTAINMENT, and OPINION. The article's title, "Child passenger safety hit close to home a few weeks ago, and it became clear to me that updating child passenger safety laws needs to be a national issue," is displayed in a large, bold font. Below the title, the byline reads "(Photo: Kimberly P. Mitchell/Detroit Free Press)". The main text of the article begins with "One morning, my husband and 5-year-old son, Oliver, were in a crash. They were in an SUV, crossing a 55-mph two-way highway to turn into a gas station. They were T-boned on the passenger side, just inches in front of Oliver's feet, by a sedan coming the other way. The side impact airbags went off and the passenger door was crushed, but Oliver was OK. He was using his car seat with a five-point-harness, despite his protests and desire to be treated like a 'big kid' and use a booster seat." To the right of the text is a photograph of a woman with long brown hair, smiling, and a young boy with short brown hair, also smiling. At the bottom of the article, a caption reads "Michelle Macy and her son Oliver. The boy was in a car crash but uninjured because he was in a car seat, not a booster seat. (Photo: Photo courtesy of Michelle Macy)". Below the article content, there is a row of social media sharing icons: Facebook (with a count of 1838), Twitter, LinkedIn (with a count of 1), Email, and Print (with a count of 1). A small bell icon for notifications is located in the bottom right corner.



Weight Limits for Child Safety Seats

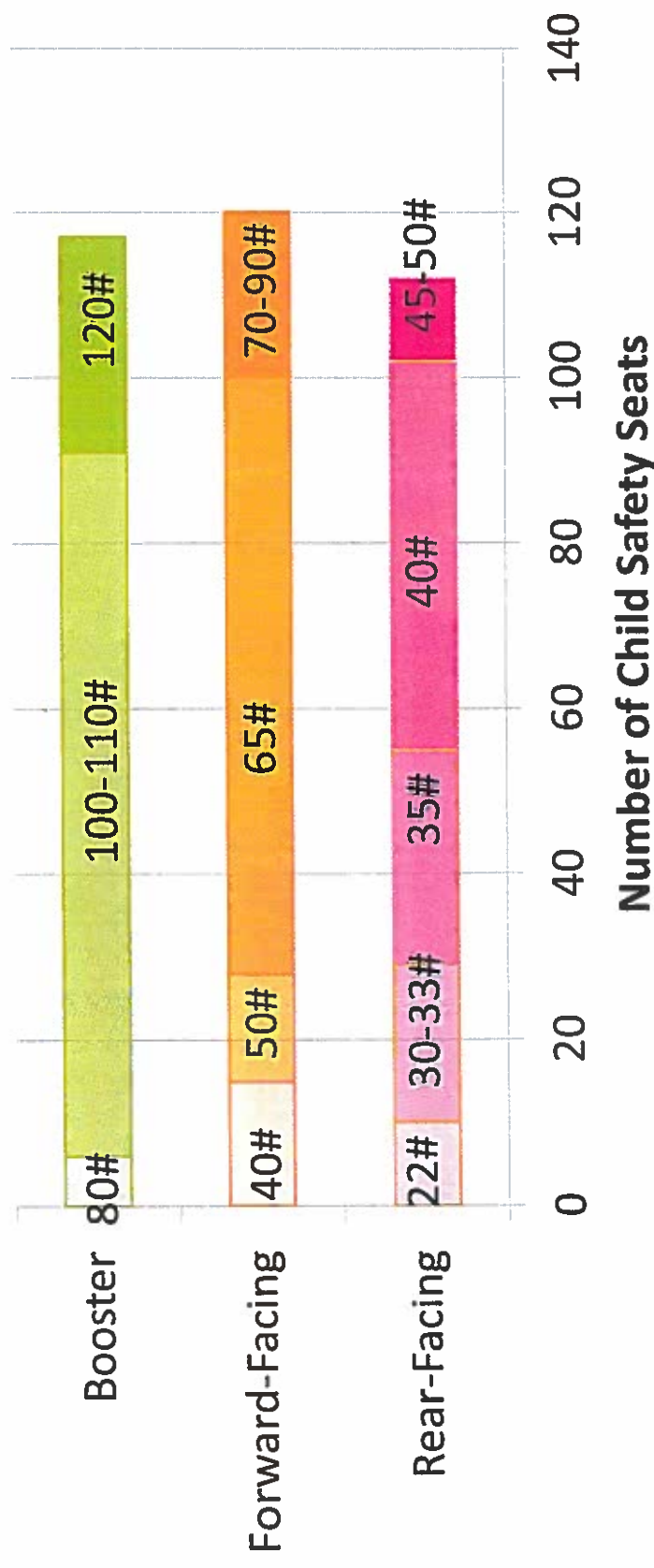
U.S. Market in 2012



Based on information published on the American Academy of Pediatrics website:
<https://www.healthychildren.org/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Car-Safety-Seats-Information-for-Families.aspx>

Weight Limits for Child Safety Seats

U.S. Market in 2016



Based on information published on the American Academy of Pediatrics website:
<https://www.healthychildren.org/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Car-Safety-Seats-Information-for-Families.aspx>

FAQs On Child Safety Seat Legislation

Why do we need to change the statute if we already have one?

- This bill updates the state statute to include height and weight based on the guidelines suggested by the American Academy of Pediatrics, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Center for Disease Control and many other groups to provide consistent safety messages for parents.

Is it difficult to find child safety seats that meet these standards in stores?

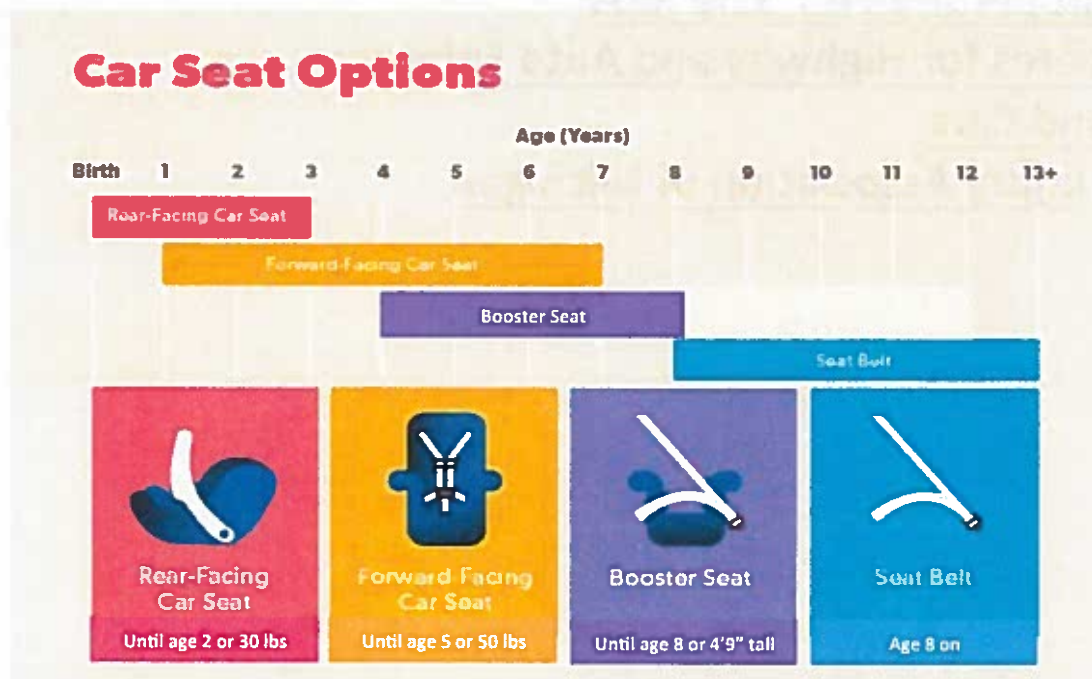
- **No.** All car seats meet these standards and are sold at all price points in Walmart, Meijer, Target, Babies“R”US, etc. There are currently resources available online and across the state through MSP and the Office of Highway Safety Planning that provide car seats for individuals in need.

Will constituents need to buy new/different car seats?

- **No.** This bill simply updates the law and provides recommendations and clarity for parents. Some children may need to stay in their current seats longer to be in the safest position. The amount and type of car seats parents would need to purchase would not change.

Is the law enforcement community in favor of this bill?

- **YES!** Michigan State Police and county level officers have testified in support of this change in state statute.



Support of HB 4951

- Michigan State Police
- General Motors
- Ford
- The Auto Alliance-represents 70% of all car and light truck sales in the United States, including the BMW Group, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Company, Jaguar Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz USA, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota, Volkswagen Group of America and Volvo Car USA.
- Fiat Chrysler Automobile (FCA)- an international automotive group. FCA US designs, engineers, manufactures and sells vehicles under the Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram and FIAT brands, as well as the SRT performance vehicle designation.
- SafeKids Worldwide
- Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
- University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, Department of Pediatrics
- Property Casualty Insurers Association of America
- The Cooperative for Safe Kids
- Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
- Kids and Cars
- Brain Injury Association of Michigan

Car Seat Basics

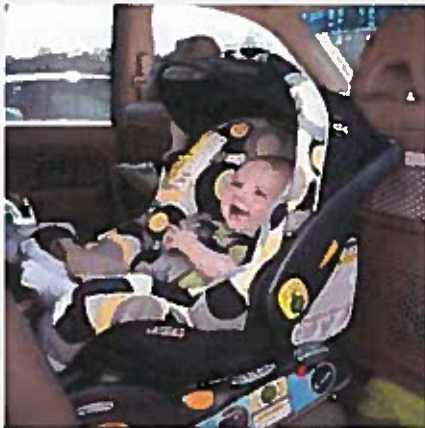
Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for young children, and properly restrained children have a more than 50 percent greater chance of surviving a crash. When driving with children, always use the appropriate car seat or seat belt.

The 4 Steps for Keeping a Child Riding Safely

STEP

1

REAR-FACING



All babies and toddlers should ride in rear-facing car seats until they are 2 years old or until they reach the highest weight or height limit allowed by the car seat.

STEP

2

FORWARD-FACING

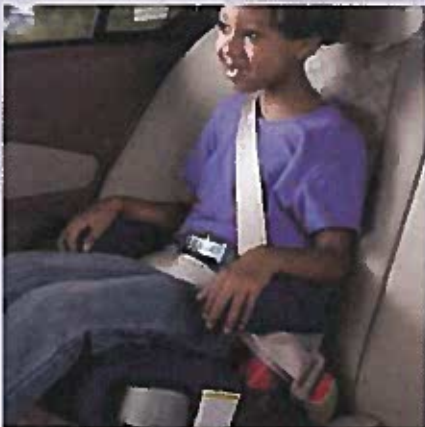


All children 2 years or older, or those who have outgrown the weight or height limit of their rear-facing seat, should ride in a forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible up to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat.

STEP

3

BOOSTER SEATS



All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their seat should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle lap/shoulder belt fits properly, typically when the child reaches 4'9" tall at 8–12 years old.

STEP

4

SEAT BELTS



When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seat belt alone, always use lap and shoulder belts for optimal protection.

ALL CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 13 YEARS OLD SHOULD BE RESTRAINED IN THE REAR SEAT OF VEHICLES.

Source: American Academy of Pediatrics, Policy Statement, April 2011

To learn more or locate a certified child safety technician, visit NHTSA.gov.

Common car seat mistakes and how to avoid them

**More than 70 percent of car seats are not installed properly.
Most common errors are easy to fix with just a few adjustments.**

THE HARNESS STRAPS ARE NOT TIGHT ENOUGH.

- Harness straps should fit snug to the child's body and should pass the "pinch test," meaning you should not be able to pinch any excess strap material.

THE CAR SEAT ISN'T INSTALLED TIGHT ENOUGH.

- Car seats, whether installed with the seat belt or LATCH system, should not move more than one inch from side to side when tested at the point where the car seat attaches to the vehicle.

MOVING CHILDREN TO THE NEXT STEP TOO SOON.

- Children should stay in their car seats until they outgrow the height or weight limit of the seat before moving to the next step, such as rear-facing to forward-facing.

THE CHEST CLIP IS TOO LOW.

- The chest clip should be secured at the child's armpits to ensure straps remain in the correct position.

PUTTING KIDS IN THE FRONT SEAT TOO EARLY.

- Children should ride in the back seat of the vehicle until they reach 13 years old. The force of an air bag may be too intense for children under the age of 13.

TIPS FOR BUYING CAR SEATS

You should never purchase or borrow a used car seat that:

- Has been involved in a crash
- Has been recalled
- Has no date of manufacture and/or model number
- Has expired (typically after six years)
- Is damaged or missing parts

Car seats should not be purchased at garage sales or second-hand stores since the history of the seat is unknown.

MICHIGAN CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAWS

Michigan law requires all children younger than age 4 to ride in a car seat in the rear seat if the vehicle has a rear seat. In addition:

- If all back seats are occupied by children under 4, then a child under 4 may ride in a car seat in the front seat.
- A child in a rear-facing car seat may only ride in the front seat if the air bag is turned off.
- Children must be properly buckled in a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall.
- All passengers under 16 years old must use a seat belt in any seating position. All front seat occupants must use a seat belt regardless of age.

Children should never ride on a lap, in a portable crib, or in any other device not approved for use in the vehicle.



Office of Highway Safety Planning

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(517) 241-2500
Michigan.gov/ohsp

KALAMAZOO NEWS

Proper restraint saves 4 kids from serious injury in 3-car crash

Updated Sep 17;
Posted Sep 17



7

653
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By Malachi Barrett, mbarret1@mlive.com

KALAMAZOO, MI -- Police said injuries would have been much worse if four children weren't properly restrained during a three-vehicle crash on Saturday.

According to a release from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office, police were called to Gull Road near North 28th Street in Richland Township at 3:05 p.m. on Sept. 16. Christina Suarez-Jones, 51, was driving eastbound on Gull Road when she crossed the center line and struck two cars in the westbound lane.

All three drivers sustained non life-threatening injuries, and the crash caused significant damage to all the vehicles. Suarez-Jones was cited for careless driving.

The two westbound vehicles, one of which overturned, contained children aged 17 months, and 2, 4 and 12 years old. All of the children were found to be properly restrained.

"It is reasonable to think there would have been much more serious injuries if they had not been in appropriate restraining devices," the sheriff's office stated in the release.

Police said several citizens stopped to aid the drivers before emergency responders arrived on scene.
