



PEDIATRIC TRAUMA UPDATE

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CLICK IT OR TICKET



Seat belts are the most effective safety feature available in vehicles today; but nearly

one in five Americans still fail to regularly wear their seat belts when driving or riding in a motor vehicle. The effectiveness is indisputable. In 2006

alone, seat belts saved an estimated 15,383 lives. An additional 5,441 lives could have been saved if seat belts were worn at the time of the crash.

Click It or Ticket is a nationwide enforcement campaign to increase seat belt use and reduce highway fatalities. Since 1996, the national seat belt use rate has increased from 68% to 82%. This campaign encourages ALL motor-

ists to always buckle up—every time, day AND night.

If getting a ticket doesn't persuade them to click it, the advice of medical personnel often will. Make it your mantra to tell every patient to "Buckle Up" when they leave the hospital. You could save a life!

Pediatric Trauma Cases June 2008

Number of Admissions	28
Number of ED visits	32
Average Injury Severity Score	10
Number of Trauma Alerts	11
Number of Trauma Activations	7

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Hopefully we all realize the importance of buckling up for our adult patients, but please don't forget about the younger variety. In the United States during 2005, 1,451 children ages 14 years and younger died as occupants in motor vehicle crashes, and approximately 203,000 were injured. That's an average of 4 deaths and 556 injuries each day! (NHTSA 2006b) Parents and caregivers alike are often confused related to what child restraint should be used and or where the child is the safest in the car. Please take a moment to review so you have the most up to date information and feel free to contact Kristel if you would like more!

INFANTS

Age/Weight: Birth to 1 year old AND 20 pounds

Type of Seat: Infant only or rear facing convertible car seat

Seat Position: Rear facing

Always Make Sure:

- Children less than 1 year old AND 20 pounds are rear facing!
- Harness straps are at or below shoulder level.

WARNING: Do not place child in front seat, especially with air bag.

TODDLER

Age/Weight: Over 1 year old AND 20 to 40 pounds

Type of Seat: Convertible or forward facing only car seat

Seat Position: Forward facing

Always Make Sure:

- Harness straps are at or above shoulders.
- Warning:** Do not place child in front seat, especially with air bag.



YOUNG CHILDREN

Age/Weight: Over 40 pounds

Type to Seat: Belt positioning booster seat

Seat Position: Forward facing

Always Make Sure:

- Booster seats MUST be used with both lap and shoulder seat belts.
- To Graduate to an Adult Belt: A child must be able to sit with their back/buttocks against the seat and with their knees bent at the edge of the seat. The belt system must be snug across the center of the child's chest and across their lap at the hips

WARNING: All children age 12 and under should ride in back seat.

Special Points of Interest

- Questions or concerns related to Pediatric Trauma Care? Contact Kristel Wetjen @ 6-1299 or page 5239. kristel-wetjen@uiowa.edu
- Want to "talk trauma"? Remember you can always send an e-mail to Trauma Talk using Microsoft Outlook e-mail.