

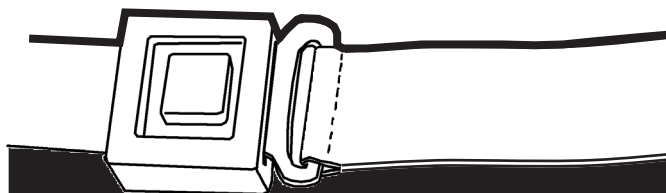
Passenger Safety

Children are easily injured in car crashes for two reasons:

- Their bones are developing.
- The size and shape of their bodies make injuries more likely.

There are two important things to remember:

- Use a safety belt and be sure it fits right. Safety belts save thousands of lives each year.
- Sit in the back seat.



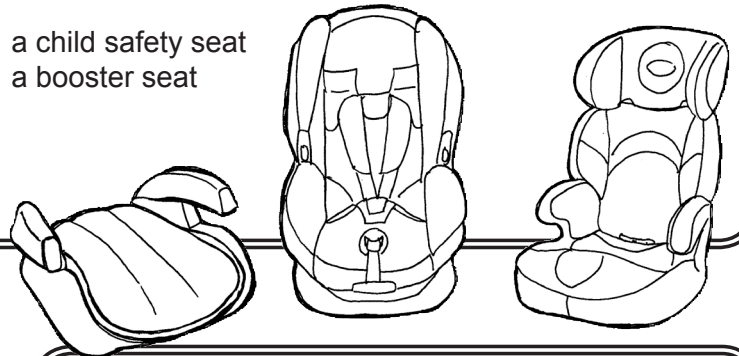
Michigan Safety Belt Laws

- **From birth until eight years old:** Children must be properly restrained in an approved child safety seat or booster seat in either the front or rear seat unless they are 4'9" tall.
- **From age eight or 4'9" tall until age sixteen:** Children must wear a safety belt whether sitting in the front or rear seat.
- **All people of all ages:** When sitting in the front seat, everyone must wear a safety belt.

Safety Belts for Everyone!

People over 4'9" tall can use the safety belts as they are installed in cars and trucks. For other children, use:

- a child safety seat
- a booster seat



A Booster Seat or Safety Belt?

Until children are 4'9" tall they are required by law to use booster seats. An adult safety belt does not properly fit a child under 4'9" tall. In a crash, a safety belt that doesn't fit right can be deadly. Booster seats make the lap and shoulder belts fit properly. The belts protect a child's stomach, chest, and neck in a crash. Booster seats also allow a child's legs to bend normally.

For more information on booster seats, visit AAA at www.aaa.com and read the article "Safety Seats and Older Kids."



Air Bag Alert



The Facts

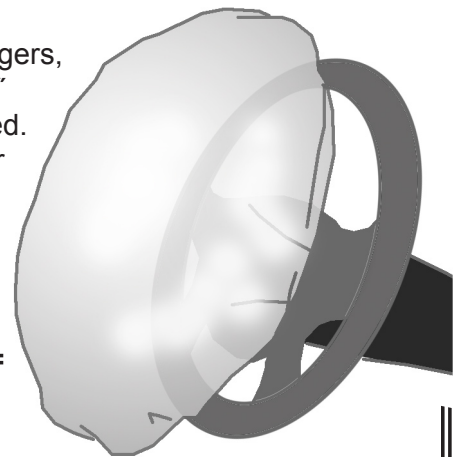
Air bags protect people when in head-on crashes. This kind of crash causes more than half of all passenger deaths. Air bags have reduced the risk of death in these types of crashes by 30 percent.

However, air bags pose a danger for young children. An air bag comes out of the dashboard as fast as 200 miles per hour. This force can hurt people sitting too close to it. Air bags can be fatal when children ride in the front seat, especially if their safety belts don't fit right.



Air Bag Safety Tips

- Do NOT put infants in a rear-facing safety seat in the front seat. The seat is too close to the air bag. If there is no back seat and no way to turn off the air bag, move the front seat as far back as possible and use a front-facing infant safety seat.
- The safest place for a child to ride is in the back seat, buckled up in a safety seat suitable for his or her age and size. Children are up to 29 percent safer riding in the back seat than the front seat, whether the car or truck has an air bag or not.
- If a child must ride in the front seat because there isn't a back seat or all the places are taken in the back seat by other children, move the seat as far back as possible and turn the air bag off.
- Drivers and all adult passengers, especially people under 5'5" tall, should be properly belted. Move front seats back as far as possible.



Want More Information?

Phone these groups or visit their websites for information on vehicular safety:

- Toll-free Department of Transportation Auto Safety Hotline: 1-888-327-4236
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: www.nhtsa.gov or 1-888-327-423
– Check out the article, "Transportation Safety Tips for Children."
- Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning: www.michigan.gov/ohsp or 517-336-6477
- Safe Kids Michigan: www.michigansafekids.org
- If you live in another state, find out what laws it has. Begin by visiting the governmental website for your state. If you travel in other states, research their laws, too.

