

SEAT BELTS and CAR SEATS



PROPER FIT:

- Shoulder belt lies snugly across the shoulder and chest, not crossing the neck or face
- The lap belt lies snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach

BUTLER COUNTY STATS AND FACTS:

84 Percent

Butler County has an 84% seat belt usage rate*

*front seat

71 People/Families

Lost loved ones who were unbelted at the time of the crash in the last 5 years

72 Percent

Of child passenger safety seats are improperly installed according to NHTSA

Over \$80 Million

The cost to taxpayers for the 71 fatal crashes that were not properly belted

What are the seat belt law and fines in Ohio?

What are proper restraints?

One of the safest choices drivers and passengers can make is to buckle up. Understand the potentially **fatal** consequences of not wearing a seat belt and learn what you can do to make sure you and your family are properly restrained every time.

In addition to preventing drivers and passengers from being ejected during a crash, proper restraints reduce the risk of collision with the steering wheel, dashboard, windshield, or **other passengers**.

Adults – seat belts

Seat belts are the best defense against impaired, aggressive, and distracted drivers. Being buckled up during a crash helps keep you safe and secure inside your vehicle. The top things you should know:

- Buckling up is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself in a crash
- Air bags are designed to work **with** seat belts, not replace them
- Follow guidelines for proper use – **never** put the shoulder belt behind your back or under your arm
- Fit matters – adjust the seat, use adjusters or extenders, if necessary

Lap and shoulder belts prevent ejection from the vehicle and keep people from colliding with the vehicle interior during a crash. They are also designed to manage forces on the body.

Additional Resources:

[Unbelted Rear-Seat Passengers -- Why Should You Care as a Driver?](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Seat Belt Use in Ohio](#)

[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\) Seat Belts](#)

[IIHS -- Why Seat Belts Matter](#)

[CDC Adult Seat Belt Use](#)

[NHTSA Traffic Safety Use of Seat Belts Trends](#)

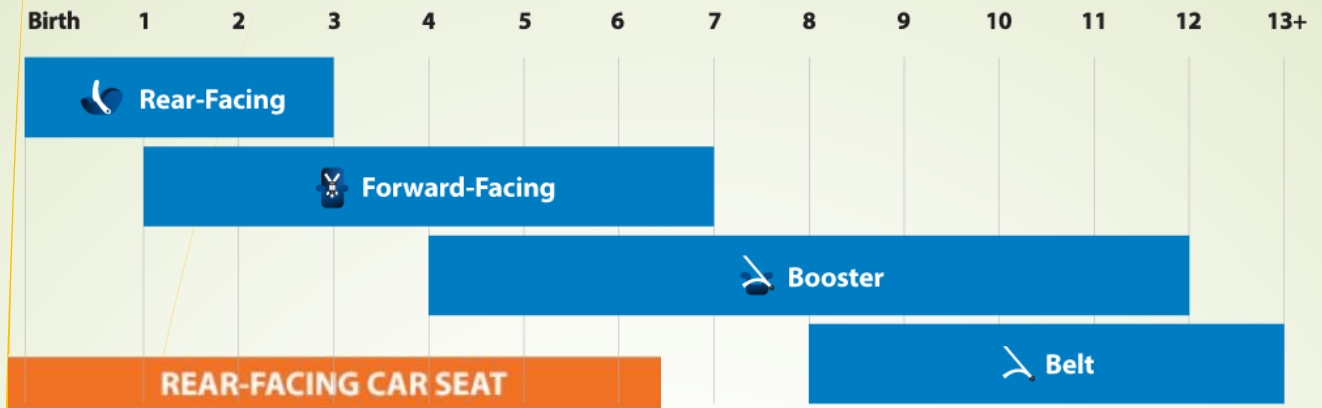


SEAT BELTS and CAR SEATS

What are proper restraints?

Child Passenger Safety

Motor vehicle injuries are a leading cause of death among children in the U.S. But many of these deaths can be prevented. Always buckling children in age- and size-appropriate car seats, booster seats, and seat belts reduces serious and fatal injuries by up to 80%.



Birth until age 2-4

Buckle children in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat. Keep children rear-facing as long as possible.

FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT



After outgrowing rear-facing seat until at least age 5

When children outgrow their rear-facing car seat, they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat.

BOOSTER SEAT



After outgrowing forward-facing seat and until seat belts fit properly

Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat, they should be buckled in a booster seat until seat belts fit properly. Proper seat belt fit usually occurs when children are 4 feet 9 inches tall and age 9-12.

SEAT BELT



Once seat belts fit properly without a booster seat

Children no longer need to use a booster seat once seat belts fit them properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck).

[Video: Car Seat Safety -- Selection and Fit](#)

[Buckle Up for Life - Car Seat 101](#)

[Cincinnati Children's Comprehensive Children's Injury Center \(CCIC\) Child Passenger Safety](#)

Additional Resources:

[AAA Videos on Car Seats](#)

[CDC How to Avoid the Most Common Mistakes with Car Seats](#)

[NHTSA Car Seats and Booster Seats - Type, Fit, Installation Help](#)

[Find a Certified Car Seat Technician \(FREE inspection\)](#)

[Best of Child Passenger Safety & Car seat videos \(YouTube\)](#)

[National Child Passenger Safety Board](#)

[Parents Central \(NHTSA\)](#)

[IHS -- Driving with kids: a guide for parents and caregivers](#)



SEAT BELTS and CAR SEATS

What are proper restraints?

Seat Belt Safety for Tweens

The time to transition your child out of a booster seat and into a seat belt usually comes when the child is between 8 and 12 years old. Keep your children in booster seats until they outgrow the size limits of the booster seats or are big enough to fit properly in seat belts.



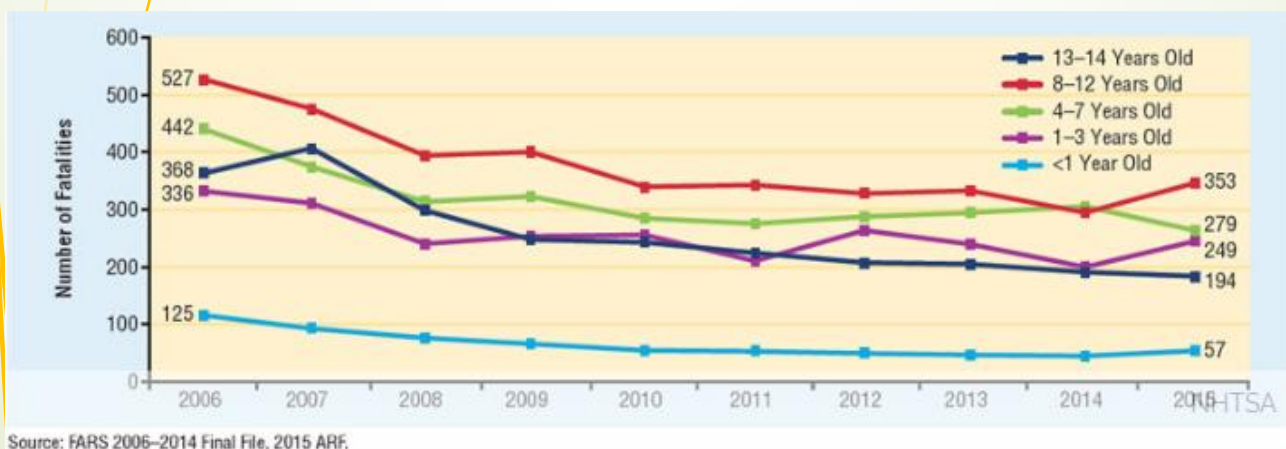
Fitting a Child Correctly In a Seat Belt:

For your child to properly fit in a seat belt, he or she must be tall enough to sit without slouching and be able to:

- Keep his/her back against the vehicle
- Keep his/her knees naturally bent over the edge of the vehicle seat
- Keep his/her feet flat on the floor

You're the #1 Influence: Make Sure Your Tween is Properly Buckled Up the Whole Ride, Every Time

Seat Belt Safety Starts with Good Role Models



How Big of a Danger is it?

For car safety, tweens is the time a younger person is between needing to use seat belt positioners and becoming a driver. Typically that range can be age **9 or 10 to 15**.

- **48.3% of kids that were killed in traffic crashes were between the ages of 8 and 15** in 2015
- 39% of children killed in fatal crashes in 2015 were not buckled
- 37% of 8-15 year-olds were in the front seat when killed in a crash

Additional Resources:

[NHTSA Modeling Safe Driving](#)

[National Child Passenger Safety Board -- Seat Belt Safety for Tweens](#)

[Safe Ride4Kids Tweens Seat Belt Safety](#)

[Dori Saves Lives -- Tweens Seat Belt Safety](#)

[NHTSA Getting Your Tween to Buckle Up](#)



SEAT BELTS and CAR SEATS

Need to take a remedial driving course for a 2-point credit on your license or to get your license renewed?
Safety Council of Southwestern Ohio offers classes.
[Click here for a list of upcoming dates.](#)

Butler County Statistics on Seat Belt Use

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Seat Belt Use in Ohio

Additional Resources:

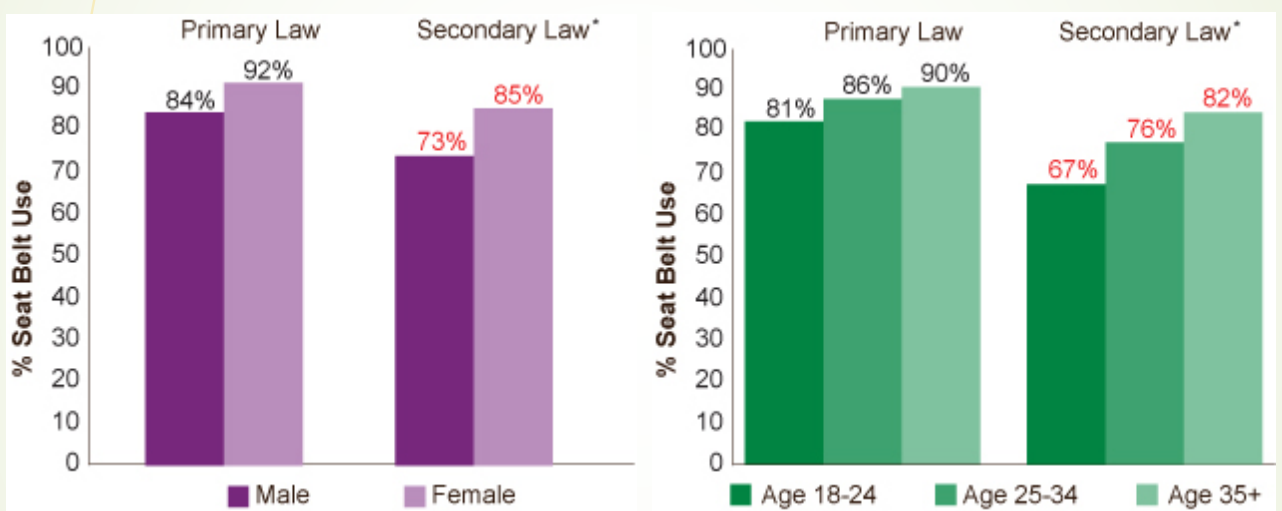
[Seat Belt Safety for Pregnant Women](#)

[Seat Belt Laws -- Governor's Highway Safety Association \(GHSA\)](#)

[The Ultimate List of Driving Statistics for 2020](#)

[Top 10 Reasons To Wear A Seat Belt](#)

[Second Chance \(video\)](#)



Other Butler County Statistics:

[Butler County Statistics on Impaired Driving](#)

[Butler County Statistics on Distracted Driving](#)

[Butler County Statistics on Teen/Youth/New Drivers](#)

[Butler County Statistics on Mature Drivers](#)

[Butler County Statistics on Other Road Users](#)

Other Butler County Safe Communities' pages:

[Impaired Driving](#)

[Distracted Driving](#)

[Teen and New Drivers](#)

[Mature Drivers](#)

[Pedestrians & Other Road Users](#)

[Other Safety Focus Areas](#)

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