

## Pregnancy and Child Passenger Safety

Early on, *SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A. worked with the L.A. OB/GYN Society in developing our brochure in English and Spanish, *Protect Your Baby Now...And Later*. The research literature and comments from women illustrate that counseling on correct safety belt use still is not heard routinely during pregnancy. *The American Journal of Surgery*, June, 2020, carried "Analysis of restraint use in pregnant versus non-pregnant populations involved in motor vehicle collisions," by Angela Collins et al., which offered details about how proper use of a safety belt can play a role in preserving fetal and maternal life.

In summary, 7% of pregnancies experience trauma, mainly car crashes, injuring 92,500 women a year. Based on data from NASS-CDS\* cases, fetal death occurs for 29% of belted vs. 50% of unbelted pregnant women in crashes. Reviews of cases of women in passenger vehicles from 2011-15 showed 30.6% of the pregnant unrestrained. Among drivers, of which 47.5% of the pregnant were in the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester, the pregnant were three times more likely to be unbelted. Moreover, age and seating location also were predictive: younger women and rear-seated women were less likely to buckle up. Controlling for those factors, the non-pregnant were almost six times more likely to be buckled up. The finding that younger women and those in the back seat were most likely to be unbuckled may be affected because 21 state buckle-up laws omit coverage for adults in the back seat.

Reviewing various studies, including a detailed assessment of knowledge, behavior, and education of pregnant women in a county health program in Alabama, revealed consistently that women did not recall being informed, leading to concern about fetal injury if they buckled up. The study by G. McGwin Jr. et al\*\* showed that if a woman believed the belt would protect both fetus and mother, there was almost 20% higher level of "always" use. A third were unsure about efficacy for the fetus, and 10.7% expected fetal injury from the belt, showing how important it is to educate. Reference to a study by Albert Chang, MD, PhD et al. in 1987 indicated even minimal health education on this can affect behavior.

SBS USA recently received feedback about our "Traveling Through Childhood Safely," a virtual education program for those seeking safety seats through distribution programs, that pregnant participants were especially pleased with the section on buckling up during pregnancy. This is a critical issue. And as the Ascar et al. study, reported in the July, 2018 *SBS News*, noted, when women were asked, using pictograms, to label how they wore their belts, only 3.5% of North American women indicated both parts correctly placed. Concern about belt fit and abdominal overlap of the steering wheel for pregnant women was reported by Kathy Klinich et al. in our March, 1999 newsletter report on the International SAE Conference. A pregnant crash dummy was initiated in the early 1990s.

A report on how to approach pregnant trauma patients was published in *American Family Physician*, 2014. Of the one in 12 pregnant women encountering trauma, 48% were in a vehicle. "Proper seat belt use should be a major prenatal counseling issue," state physician-authors Neil Murphy and Jefferey Quinlan, in "Trauma in Pregnancy: Assessment, Management, and Prevention." SBS USA heartily agrees.

\*National Automotive Sampling System-Crashworthiness Data System

\*\*"Knowledge, Beliefs, and Practices Concerning Seat Belt Use During Pregnancy, in *Journal of Trauma*, 3/2004

## Calendar

### VIRTUAL CONFERENCES:

**\*11/17-18:** Safer California

To pre-register for the conference:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Br0ruxnsQOCFhj78gNj9FA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Br0ruxnsQOCFhj78gNj9FA)

**\*4/26-28/2021:**

Virtual Lifesavers Conference  
<https://lifesaversconference.org/>

## Thank You

**\$1500** Anonymous

**\$500** Automobile Club of  
Southern California

**\$200** National Safety Council  
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## What Can We Do About Internet Ads?

Recently, a health educator found a safety seat that she wanted for her son on a Website that promised a discounted price. But when she checked her credit card file, the receipt was gibberish, and suddenly, the Website disappeared. This is just one way that families are being cheated on the Internet.

Last month, a CPST in Mendocino County was called by a parent seeking to qualify for a safety seat from a distribution program. When the CPST asked about the child's current seat, the parent could not find the name, a "birthdate" label, or information in either English or Spanish. When the parent sent photos of the seat, the CPST realized it was a counterfeit. A friend purchased the seat at a garage sale and gifted it to the caller. Previously, SBS USA has reported about the total collapse of a similar counterfeit in a crash test.

Next come the fake tools to "install" in parental vehicles. A recent reminder was the ad for metal components sold on eBay that purport to enable tethering by installing a \$28 metal bar attached around the "legs" of the head restraint in the back seat! And when one explores the product, eBay suggests several similar products, all a hoax on the users and a threat to the occupants of the vehicle.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Consumers Union can be told about what you find, and SBS USA always welcomes reports to pursue. Share our flyers to warn your clients about these risks. (#680, 460, 461 in English and Spanish)

## Virtual Trainings

*SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A. is offering the following virtual trainings, approved by California Office of Traffic Safety:

### Traveling Safely through Childhood: (for parents):

A 2-hour preparation for safety seat distribution programs (used with Don't Risk Your Child's Life IX). Available in English and Spanish.

**Traveling Safely through  
Childhood:** A 3-hour training for social workers who transport children.

### School Bus Safety Update

**Research on Risks to Pregnant  
Women in Motor Vehicle  
Crashes**

**The Child Passenger Safety  
and California Law Webinar  
for Law Enforcement Roll Call  
Review**

**Safely Transporting Children  
with Special Needs:** 3-CEU  
webinar for health care and  
social service programs and  
Child Passenger Safety  
Technicians (CPSTs)

**Basic CPS Webinar for Nurses:**  
1 hour; 1 CE if partner offers  
such support.

Contact SBS USA and let us know if you would like to schedule any of these programs in your agency or community – 800/745-SAFE or e-mail [stombrello@carseat.org](mailto:stombrello@carseat.org).

**You can help SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. save children's lives with your membership or donation.**

|                        |                          |                 |                           |                     |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
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I can help with \_\_\_\_\_

\* E-mail address is required to receive passwords for access to Recall List and CPS Tech Update.

All memberships/subscriptions include *SafetyBeltSafe News*, which qualifies for 1 Continuing Education Unit per year for re-certifying Technicians and Instructors with subscriber code. \$200 or more includes *Safe Ride News*.

\_\_ Check here if you are a Certified Technician or Instructor and want information about CEUs for subscribers.

**Check below** if you want to receive the following special subscriptions:

\$50 minimum: \_\_ Recall Update Service by e-mail \_\_ Recall Update Service by regular mail (if necessary)

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*SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is a 501(c)(3) corporation*

Please mail this form to: *SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A., Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003*

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## New Seats:

**Baby Trend** released the Trooper 3-in-1, a convertible for children 4-40 lbs. rear facing and 23-65 lbs. forward facing. The webbing lower connector strap with connector hooks may be used to 55 lbs. The two bottom harness slots are designated for rear facing only; middle slot, for either direction; and the top two slots, for forward facing only.

The seat offers two hip strap slots (plus a third slot for hip strap shortening), two buckle-strap slots (plus a third slot for buckle strap shortening), and three loops on the harness straps to shorten the harness for the smallest infants. The angle of the seat is adjusted with a flip foot on the bottom of the seat. The infant insert is optional for rear-facing babies from 4-18 lbs. The harness covers may not be used in low-birth-weight harness routing but *must* be used for all other modes. Head pillow use is optional. Pool noodles or towels may be used in the vehicle seat bight to increase recline.

To increase incline elevation, the instructions recommend placing one or more pool noodles or rolled towels at the BACK of seat rear facing.

The new **Chicco** KeyFit 35, made for children 4-35 lbs., has an anti-rebound bar on the base and, as on other Chicco bases, push-on connectors on individual straps with a central tightening strap. The carrier has a no-rethread harness with five positions. The included newborn positioner insert for 4-11 lb. infants is recommended. A head rest insert is optional.

The **Clek** Liingo, with three harness slots and one buckle strap slot, is a baseless version of the Liing rear-facing-only safety seat. It has a removable lower connector bin attached to the rear of the carrier which houses push-on lower connectors on a webbing strap that installs through belt slots and over the child, 4-35 lbs. To use with a Liing base, remove the bin. For infants 4-11 lbs., there is a must-use newborn support system.

**Graco Babyjogger** CityGO 2 is for children 4-35 lbs. It features a no-rethread harness, European belt routing for baseless installation, and a RAPIDLOCK belt-tensioning arm on the base to lock the belt and serve as an anti-rebound bar. The lower connectors are push-on connectors on webbing. The base has 4 recline positions.

The **Graco** Turbo booster Stretch, for children 40-100 lbs., is a highback belt-positioning booster with both an adjustable, 5-position backrest and 4-position headrest. The booster features push-on lower connectors for positioning. Backless, the seat fits 40-110 lb. children.

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*Sign up from October 1<sup>st</sup>  
for 2021 membership!*

***SafetyBeltSafe* News**

**September 2020**

## **Coming Up: 5-Step Test Event Marks National Seat Check Saturday!**

Hawaiian Gardens in Los Angeles County is the spot for a community 5-Step Test Event for resident families to determine if their youngsters should be using boosters and to receive information about the best way to buckle up all ages.

Working with Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies with the city Public Safety Center, coordinated by Linda Suniga, SBS USA team members will ensure that socially distant testing is done appropriately. The information packet will cover recommendations for all ages.

SBS USA team members will alert adults if incorrect use is visible but will not offer full checkups. The lead-up to the event will be a virtual roll call training for the officers assisting in the event.

Holding a safety seat checkup is not advisable under COVID-19 circumstances, but SBS USA offers Safe Ride Helplines in English and Spanish; materials in up to 11 different languages; and both consultation for professionals and community volunteers and access to various educational programs virtually. Nela Marroquin of East Valley Community Health Clinic in Pomona, CA, reports that the parents attending her virtual classes for those using the safety seat distribution program really like the "Traveling Safely Through Childhood" educational component, pointing out that rarely has anyone mentioned how they should wear their safety belts while pregnant or offered details about how to use a safety seat.

The 5-Step Test Event, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. for registered families only, will feature teaching families with kids ages 5-12 how to check for fit. Teams will have gift boosters for those who need them, thanks to California Office of Traffic Safety and Pomona Police Department.

The approach for the event was developed at five programs in Monrovia and Pasadena, hosted by Foothill Unity and Neighborhood Survants. Those agencies pre-screen clients for need for Back-to-School resources and added on access to the SBS USA service. For Foothill Unity, 48 boosters were distributed to 43 families from 15 Los Angeles County cities; for Neighborhood Survants, 53 boosters were gifts to 40 families from eight cities, an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, and 11 zip codes in Los Angeles City in Los Angeles County and two cities in San Bernardino County.

The team, including volunteers from Pasadena Police Department and Olive View Medical Center, instructed parents to weigh the kids and conduct the 5-Step Test, offering a booster for those who failed. The events went smoothly and safely. These are preludes to the Hawaiian Gardens event which underscores how important it is to address the needs of post-harness-safety-seat users and to build a base for changing social norms in the community.