

Child car restraint fact sheet

Restraint Use

- Approximately 200 people are killed and 15,000 injured in road crashes in WA each year.
- Seatbelt and child restraint use has been known to be very effective in reducing deaths and serious injuries in a crash. Yet non-use of seatbelts and child restraints remains a major contributor to road trauma.
- For the period 1990-1999, 33% of drivers and passengers killed in road crashes were not wearing seatbelts (Henstridge et al., 2000).

Infant and Child Deaths and Injuries

- In Western Australia over the ten year period from 1993 to 2003, an average of nine child vehicle passengers died each year, 186 were hospitalised and about 200 presented to the Emergency Department of PMH with injuries from vehicle crashes.

Levels of Correct Restraint Use

- A survey of conducted by Kidsafe ACT in 1997 found that 80% of child restraints were fitted in correctly.
- A similar survey by Kidsafe WA found 62% of restraints were fitted incorrectly.
- In 1997 the Health Department of WA conducted an observational survey of child restraint use in 33 sites in both rural and metropolitan WA. The study showed that although 80% were wearing restraints correctly, 20% were not.