

Motor Vehicle-Related Injury Prevention: Use of Child Safety Seats, Laws Mandating Use

Task Force Finding

Intervention Definition

Child safety seat laws require children traveling in motor vehicles to be restrained in federally approved child restraint devices (e.g., infant or child safety seats) appropriate for the child's age and size. The state laws, which vary widely, also specify the children to whom the law applies by age, height, weight, or a combination of these factors.

Task Force Finding (June 1998)*

Child safety seat laws are strongly recommended based on their effectiveness in reducing fatal and nonfatal injuries and increasing child safety seat use throughout the United States. No harms or other potential benefits were reported and no qualifying economic information was identified from the literature.

*From the following publication:

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce injuries to motor vehicle occupants: increasing child safety seat use, increasing safety belt use, and reducing alcohol-impaired driving. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;21(4S):16–22.

Publications

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. [Motor-vehicle occupant injury: strategies for increasing use of child safety seats, increasing use of safety belts, and reducing alcohol-impaired driving](#) [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5007a1.htm]. *MMWR*. Recommendations and Reports 2001;50(RR07):1-13.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce injuries to motor vehicle occupants: increasing child safety seat use, increasing safety belt use, and reducing alcohol-impaired driving. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;21(4S):16–22.

Zaza S, Sleet DA, Thompson RS, et al. Reviews of evidence regarding interventions to increase use of child safety seats. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;21(4S): 31-47.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Motor vehicle occupant injuries. In: Zaza S, Briss PA, Harris KW, eds. *The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What Works to Promote Health?* Atlanta (GA): Oxford University Press;2005:329-84 (Out of Print).

Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions on this page are those of the Community Preventive Services Task Force and do not necessarily represent those of CDC. Task Force evidence-based recommendations are not mandates for compliance or spending. Instead, they provide information and options for decision makers and stakeholders to consider when determining which programs, services, and policies best meet the needs, preferences, available resources, and constraints of their constituents.

Document last updated September 23, 2013