

Why Should I Care About Child Passenger Safety?

Developed by the Virginia Department of Health
Division of Prevention and Health Promotion
Child Passenger Safety Programs

Quiz

What is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 18 in the USA in 2018?

- Unintentional Injury

What cause of injury or death is in the top three for ages birth to 18 in 2018?

- Unintentional Motor Vehicle crash

What do both of the above have in common?

- They are preventable!

Scope of the Issue Virginia

30% of children under age 15 injured or killed in a crash were not restrained in accordance with the law

1,000 years of potential life lost among children 0-14 years of age (2017)

\$7,414,586 = Cost from inpatient hospitalization for children aged 0-14 (2020)

- Children hospitalized = 59

19 MVO related fatalities for children (2020)

Long Term Public Health Outcomes

Physical and rehabilitation consequences

- Mobility Issues/Disability
- Change in activities of daily living
- Traumatic brain injury

Financial consequences

- Costly recovery or ongoing care
- Impaired educational achievement, loss of productivity, resulting in reduced access to income and related health care

Emotional toll of death, injury, and rehabilitation

- Depression
- Post traumatic stress disorder

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

- Benjamin Franklin

How Injuries Occur in Crashes

Crash Forces and Injury

Basic Physics

Stages of a Crash

Dramatic change in speed

Video



Restraining Force

Restraining Force = Weight X Speed

Restraining Force = 10 lb. X 50 mph

Restraining Force = 500 lbs.

What is being done? Code of Virginia

Article 13-Section 46.2-1095

- Child restraints required until the age of 8
- Rear-facing only safety seats must be placed in the back seat
- Children should ride rear-facing until age 2 years
- Safety seats are to be properly used
- Applies to all drivers
- Primary Enforcement



How Safety Seats Work

Keep the child in the vehicle

Protect the head, neck, and spine

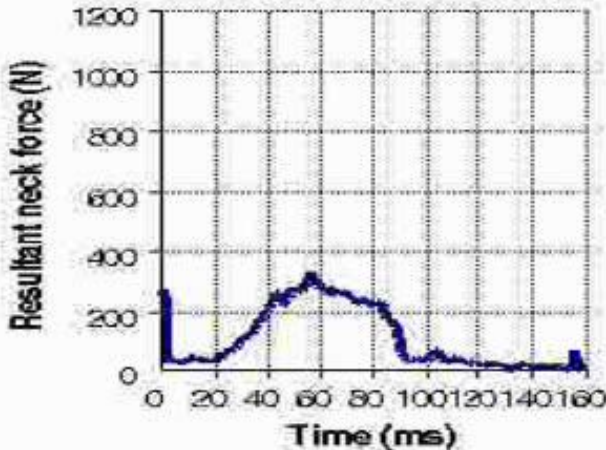
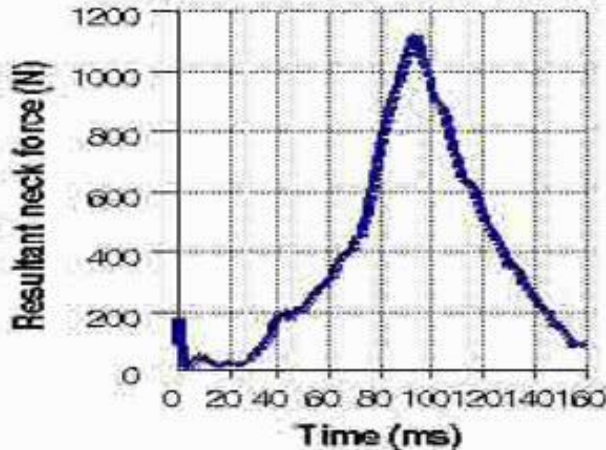
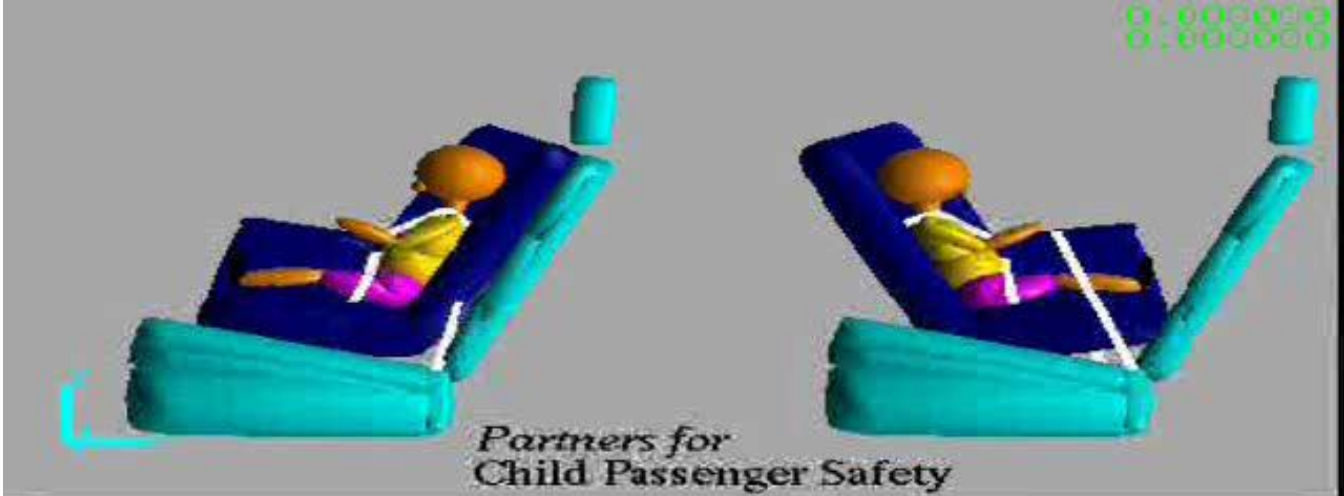
Spread crash forces across the body

Contact the strongest parts of the body

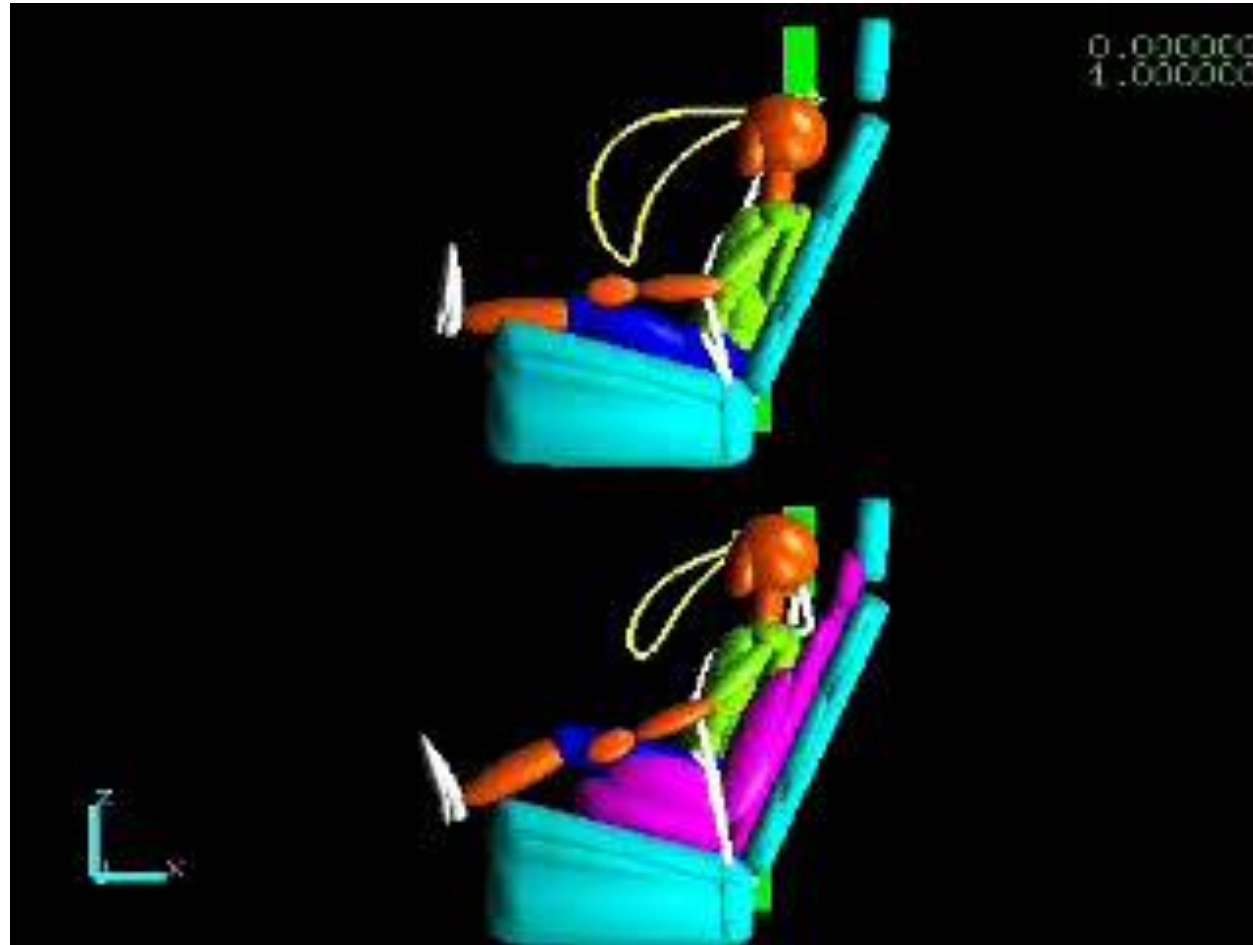
Helps the body to slow down or ride down the crash

Rear or Forward-Facing?

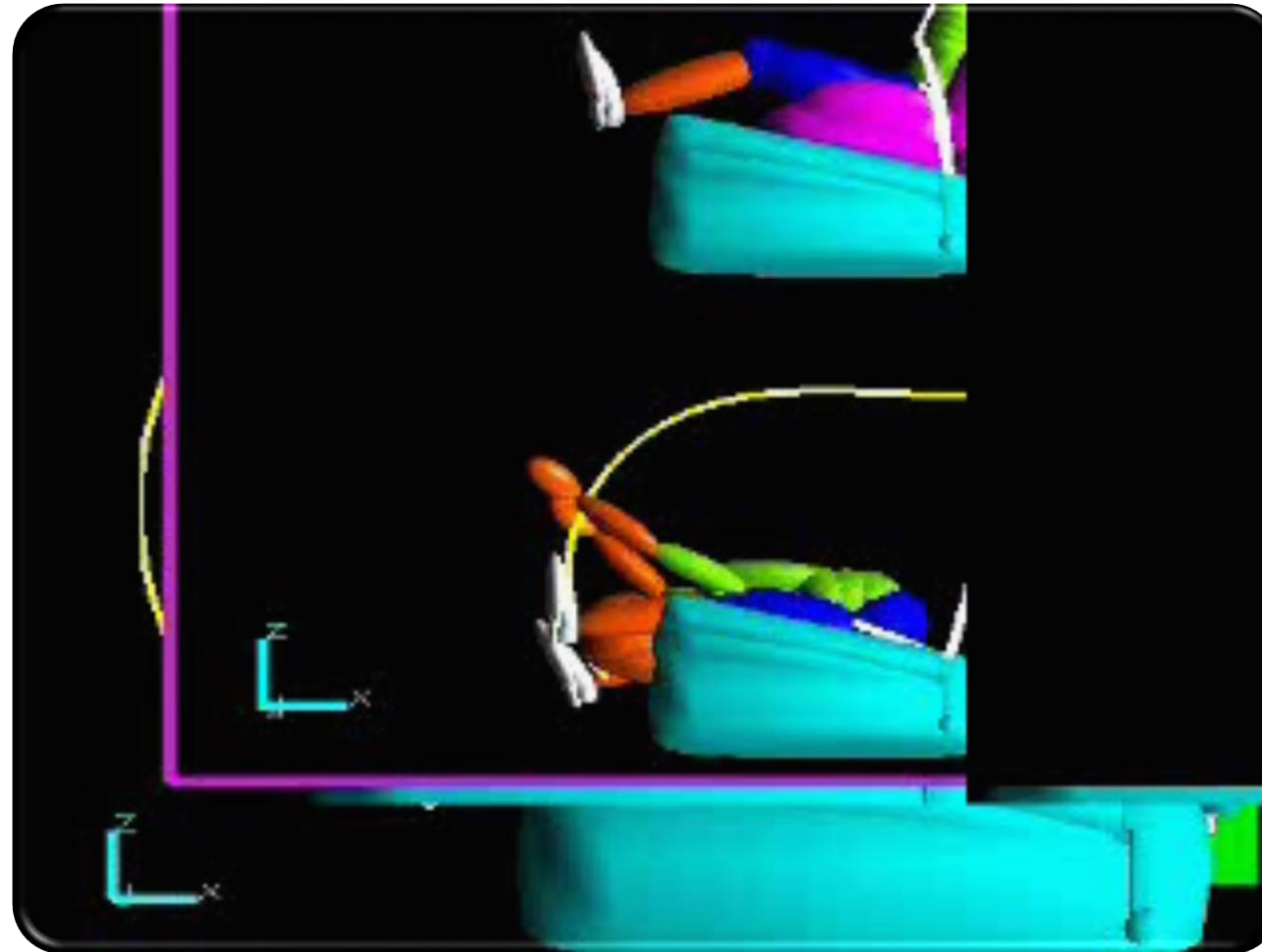
They work to protect the head, neck and spine from injury



Booster Seat Benefit



Lap and Shoulder Belt Benefit



Safety Seat Examples



Rear-Facing



Forward-Facing



Belt Positioning Booster

VDH Child Passenger Safety Program - Resources

Toll free number (800-732-8333) to talk to a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician

Free child passenger safety educational materials

Free child passenger safety awareness training



Virginia Department of Health: Office of Family Health Services
Child Passenger Safety Program

VDH Child Passenger Safety Programs – For Clients

Safety Seat Check Station Program

- Network of sites for interactive education
- All education provided by nationally certified child passenger safety technician
- Services are offered in person or remote
- All services are provided for free and for all clients

Low Income Safety Seat Distribution and Education Program

- Network of site to provide income eligible families with interactive education and free safety seat
- Available safety seats include convertible and booster style

VDH Child Passenger Safety Programs - For Medical Professionals



VDH Child Passenger Safety Programs - For Medical Professionals

Every Ride,

Safe Ride



What can **YOU** do?

Buckle up and encourage others to wear a seat belt

Be a safety net - Keep an eye out for clients with children and share the facts about child passenger safety

- Provide our 1-800 number or email address for questions and information
- Request our free educational materials
- Request a free safety seat check event for your clients

Request additional training

Become a program partner

Become a CPST

Contact Us

ivp@vdh.Virginia.gov

1-800-732-8333

www.safetyseatva.org