



# TZD Coalition holds car seat clinic

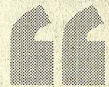
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When child safety seats and safety belts are used correctly, they can reduce the risk of death by up to 70 percent. But finding the right combination can be confusing.

Many people who have young children in car seats are using them incorrectly.

The just-released National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 2015 National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats, showed 37.4 percent of children ages 4-7 in the U.S. were not being properly restrained. Of that number, 25.8 percent were restrained by seatbelts; 11.6 percent were unrestrained; and 13.6 percent of children from age 1-3 were prematurely transitioned to booster seats.

Aitkin County Public Health and the Toward Zero Deaths Coalition are hosting a car seat clinic from 3-6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, at the Aitkin Fire Hall. At this clinic, trained technicians will check car



Eighty percent of child restraints are used incorrectly.”

**NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION**

seats, make sure they have not been recalled, assure they are the correct size and fit for the children, make sure they are installed properly and help parents register their car seats if necessary.

Space is limited at the clinic. To register for this appointment-only clinic, call Amy at the Aitkin Police Department at 218-927-2133.

### CHILD RESTRAINT LAWS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Parents need to know if they should be using an infant-only seat or convertible seat; the facts about booster seats; and how to know when a child is ready for the car's safety belt/shoulder strap.

The American Academy of

Pediatrics recommends that all infants and toddlers ride in a rear-facing car safety seat until they are 2 years old or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer. Minnesota law requires that all children under age 8 must ride in a federally-approved car seat or booster seat unless the child is 4'9" or taller.

A child who is both under age 8 and shorter than 4'9" is required to be fastened in a child safety seat that meets federal safety standards. It is recommended to keep a child in a booster based on

their height rather than their age.

### ABOUT RESTRAINTS

- Car seats that are more than six years old should be replaced.

- A car seat that was used in a vehicle during a crash should not be used again. Unseen damage may make the seat less effective in a second crash and could cause injury to a child.

- A car seat may be "recalled" because of a defect which could injure a child. Manufacturers are required to fix the problem free of charge.

- When purchasing a child-safety seat, be sure to register it with the manufacturer so that you will be notified of any safety recalls.

See Car seats page B3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Naomi Larson, public health nurse and child passenger safety seat technician shows a parent how this child passenger seat works best.

**Don't Skip a Step: Four out of five car seats are used incorrectly.**



Find car seat installation videos, inspection locations and more: [buckleupkids.mn.gov](http://buckleupkids.mn.gov)

