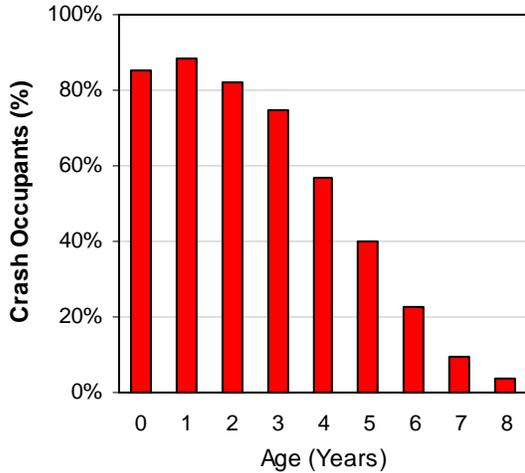


OCCUPANT PROTECTION

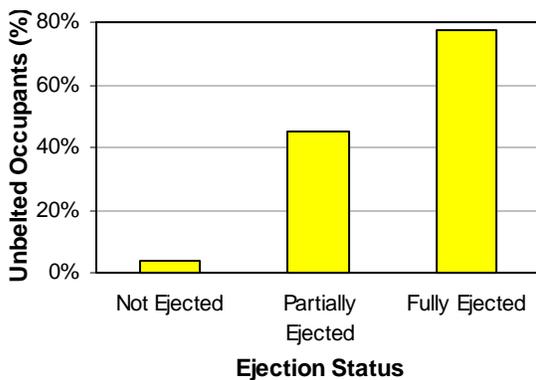


Percent of Children Aged 0-8 Years in Crashes Using Child Safety Seats (Utah 2006)



- The older the child the less likely they were using a child safety seat.
- While 86% of children 0-1 years were in a child safety seat at the time of the crash, only 57% of 4-year-olds, 23% of 6-year-olds, and 4% of 8-year-olds were in a child safety seat.
- The decrease in child safety seat use for children aged 4-8 years is concerning and indicates that children are moving to adult-sized seatbelts too early.

Ejection of Unbelted Crash Occupants (Utah 2006)



- 78% of crash occupants fully ejected from a motor vehicle were unbelted.
- Unbelted occupants were 80 times more likely to be fully ejected than belted occupants.

Child Safety Seat Recommendations:

- Infants should be placed in a rear-facing safety seat until they are at least 20 pounds AND 1 year of age.
- NEVER place a rear-facing child safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger side air bag.
- Children over 1 year of age weighing 20-40 pounds should ride in forward facing child safety seats.
- Older children (approximately 4-8 years of age) should ride in belt-positioning booster seats until they are 80-100 pounds or 4'9" tall and can use an adult-size lap and shoulder belt system.
- The safest place for any child aged 12 and under is in the back seat of the vehicle.

Seatbelt Recommendations:

- Always use both the lap and shoulder belt. When worn properly, the shoulder belt should fit across the collar bone and the lap belt should fit low over the hips.
- Never place the shoulder strap under your arm or behind your back.
- Use belt-positioning booster seats for children who have outgrown their toddler safety seat (at about 4 years of age and 40 pounds). Booster seats help position an adult-size seatbelt for a safer fit on children.

Safety Restraint Laws (Effective May 2008):

- Utah law requires all motor vehicle occupants to wear a seatbelt when traveling in a motor vehicle. This is a secondary enforcement law which means an adult may be issued a citation and subject to a \$45 fine only when the police officer has stopped the vehicle for another reason.
 - The law is a primary enforcement law for drivers and passengers under age 19 years.
 - ⇒ Children age 7 years and under must ride in an approved child safety seat; and
 - ⇒ Children aged 8 to 18 years must ride in an appropriate child restraint or seatbelt.
 - ⇒ There are a few exemptions to the law. Contact the Highway Safety Office for more information.
- This primary enforcement law means a person may be issued a citation and subject to a fine of not more than \$45 if a law enforcement officer notices children are not properly restrained.