



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Child Passenger Safety Week reminds parents and caregivers to keep kids safe

Resources to help children travel safely by properly using car seats and restraints are available in conjunction with Child Passenger Safety Week, Sept. 17-23. This safety campaign focuses on educating the public on correct installation and use of car seats throughout the year.

The Kansas Motor Carriers Association recently donated 22 car seats to the Kansas Highway Patrol that will be distributed across the state and given to parents or caregivers in need. In addition, a National Seat Check is taking place on Saturday, Sept. 30. The Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office urges those transporting children to visit <https://ktsro.org/child-passenger-safety#station> to contact the car seat check station nearest to them for an appointment.

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's latest research, 46% of car seats are misused. In Kansas in 2022, 16 children (ages 18 and under) died as a result of being unbelted. Common issues are children being in the wrong type of car seat for their age and size, and car seats being installed improperly, both of which leave children vulnerable to injury in a crash.

"Most parents are trying to do their best for their kids," said KTSRO Director Tenille Kimberlin, "so they may be surprised to find out their kids aren't as safe as possible in their vehicle. We want caregivers to know that it's worth finding out for sure."

Tips for parents and caregivers transporting children:

- **Talk to an Expert** – Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians educate parents and caregivers about the right seats for a child's age and size and how to install the seats correctly. Visit [www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats#install-inspection](http://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats#install-inspection) to see if there is a technician available in your area.

- **A Mindset Shift** –Children are often moved to the next seat or position before they're ready. Review this NHTSA chart for seat recommendations - <https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/documents/carseat-recommendations-for-children-by-age-size.pdf> Once the child is ready to use a seat belt, make sure it fits correctly and that they wear it properly. The safest place for all kids under 13 is properly restrained in the back seat.
- **Bigger Isn't Safer** – A large vehicle will not keep a child safe in a crash if he or she is not properly restrained. In 2021, more than a third (37%) of the children killed while riding in light pickup trucks were unrestrained, followed closely by SUVs (36%), passenger cars (36%), and vans (34%).
- **Find Out More** – The KTSRO offers free, online resources regarding safely transporting child passengers - visit [www.ktsro.org/child-passenger-safety](http://www.ktsro.org/child-passenger-safety).