



AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY PROGRAM

Indiana University School of Medicine

Buckle Up for Life Underway

After months of planning, the first Buckle Up for Life (BUFL) intervention for Hispanic families took place in Indianapolis. On November 16, 2016, safety presentations developed by BUFL were conducted by Mauricio Joya, Project Manager of Latino Outreach, and Claire Joya, Healthy Families. Held at St. Patrick’s Church, the three age-specific presentations reached 44 adults, 11 teens and 71 children.



Clinic at El Alazan Mexican Restaurant

On November 19, 2016, a follow-up car seat clinic was held at the El Alazan Mexican restaurant.

In spite of the cold and rain, the event was well-attended by families and volunteers from St. Patrick’s church. Sixty-nine inspections were conducted and 56 new car seats were provided by four bilingual and one English speaking certified technicians.

The support of the volunteers was key to the success of the intervention. Members of the church were involved in all aspects of the program including planning, loading car seats, assisting at the presentations and car seat clinic. Six adults assisted at the presentations. Ten adults and fourteen adolescents helped at the clinic.

Contents

- School Zone Dangers 2
- CSS Manufacturer Found Negligent 3
- Erroneous Booster Ban Information 3
- Tech Tidbits 4-5
- Product Updates 6
- Mark Your Calendar 7



Buckle Up for Life is a national program created by Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Toyota. It’s goal is to eliminate health disparities related to motor vehicle injuries and death.

We would like to thank the members of St. Patrick’s Church for the outstanding support they provided; El Alazan Mexican Restaurant for a great clinic location; and BUFL for the opportunity to develop new partnerships and provide much needed resources to Hispanic families in Marion County.

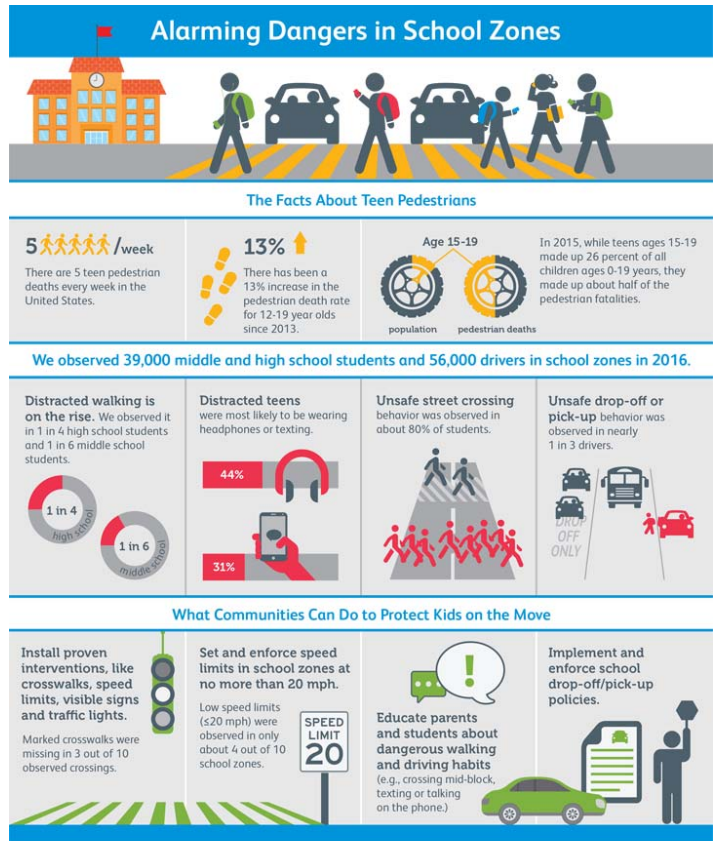
Safe Kids Worldwide Research Looks at Dangers in School Zones

In the Spring of 2016, Safe Kids Worldwide focused on the issue of pedestrian distraction in teens. In recent years, the rate of pedestrian deaths for younger children has dropped, however for the 12 to 19 year olds the pedestrian death rate has increased 13% in the last two years. Safe Kids Worldwide wanted to explore why more deaths are occurring in the 12 to 19 year olds.

With the assistance of Safe Kids Coalitions around the US, Safe Kids Worldwide was able to observe street crossing behavior for more than 39,000 middle and high school students walking to and from school. The focus of the observation was to look for unsafe walking behaviors and distraction by mobile devices. Additionally, 56,000 drivers were observed during drop-off/pick up to assess driver distraction and unsafe behaviors. Schools were also surveyed about policies addressing cell phone and headphone use during drop-off and pick-up. Lastly, they explored the impact of two inexpensive ways to increase awareness of risks and decrease unsafe behavior — road stencils for pedestrians and lawn signs for drivers.

The findings are alarming. Safe Kids Worldwide found that:

- 1 in 4 high school students and 1 in 6 middle school students were distracted while walking
- Distracted teens were most likely to be wearing headphones (44%) or texting (31%)
- 80% of students observed displayed unsafe street crossing behavior (crossing in middle of street, not looking both ways, crossing against lights)
- 1 in 3 drivers displayed unsafe drop off or pick up behaviors (double parking, stopping in middle of crosswalk)



For more information visit safekids.org



Safe Kids Worldwide proposed four action items for communities to make their school zones safer:

1. Install crosswalks, speed limits, visible signs and traffic lights
2. Set and enforce speed limits in school zones to no more than 20 mph
3. Educate parents and students about dangerous walking and driving behaviors
4. Implement and enforce school drop-off/pick-up policies

For the complete report visit Safe Kids Worldwide by clicking [here](#). For the infographic click [here](#).

Car Seat Manufacturer Found Negligent

A product liability action filed in Texas against Dorel Juvenile Group was settled in June 2016. The action stemmed from head and severe spinal cord injuries suffered by a 22 month old child riding forward facing in a Dorel combination seat during a crash. The injuries left the child partially paralyzed. Dorel was found negligent in marketing the combination car seat for use with children under the age of two and not adequately informing customers of the risks of forward facing vs. rear-facing.

Dorel retained an expert witness to conduct a collision investigation. After reviewing medical records and the location of the child's injuries, the expert witness concluded that the harness of the car seat was not appropriately over the child's shoulders, which could have caused the child to fold over resulting in the injuries. The type of spinal cord injuries sustained occur mainly in cases where the seat belt is over the abdomen instead of the pelvis.

The jury awarded the family a total of \$34,438,000; \$24,438,000 in compensatory damages and ordered Dorel to pay another \$10,000,000 in punitive damages for gross negligence. Dorel was held 80% responsible for the injuries and the driver of the other vehicle was held 20% responsible.

The following links contain additional information about the case:

<http://www.aboutlawsuits.com/dorel-car-seat-verdict-103599/>

<https://www.marshallnewsmessenger.com/news/2016/jun/16/defense-presents-case-in-car-seat-manufacturer-sui/>

Erroneous Booster Ban Information Spread by Social Media

Due to the far reaching impact of Social Media, outdated information surfaced recently about a ban on backless booster seats for children under the age of 12. Some child passenger safety technicians reading the post on Face Book were concerned and wondered "Why didn't I know about it?" "Will this affect all states and all car seat manufacturers?" "Is NHTSA initiating the ban?" "Is the ban retroactive?" Social media can be an amazing communication tool but in some cases the messages posted need closer scrutiny. When dealing with questionable child passenger safety information, harken back to the days when you were told "Don't believe everything you read." Research the source of the information to confirm its validity. In the case of the booster seat ban, the claims were unfounded. The "ban" isn't actually a ban and doesn't involve the U.S. The rumor originated with potential legislation in the United Kingdom geared toward car seat manufacturers that would require that backless boosters be approved as a Group 3 product for children who weigh at least 22 kg (48.4 lbs.) instead of the current 15 kg (33 lbs.).

APRIL BROOKS EMBARKS ON NEW ADVENTURE

The Automotive Safety Program wishes April Brooks success in her new position with EmployIndy, a workforce development program. The contributions April made to the Automotive Safety Program will extend beyond the six years she devoted to child passenger safety. As Indiana's State Child Passenger Safety Coordinator, she supported nearly 1,000 Indiana CPSTs and statewide trainings and events. She was responsible for the implementation of an observational survey app, which was the foundation for the check-up form mobile app being used by a number of child safety seat inspection stations. April also initiated a car seat recycling project, which can serve as a model for other Indiana programs. Thank you and good luck, April!



Tech Tidbits!

Child Passenger Safety: 2016 Resource Guide

If you're interested in finding contact information for injury prevention organizations or lists of publications, check out the *Child Passenger Safety: Resource Guide* from the Children's Safety Network.

<https://www.childrendefinesafety.org/sites/childrendefinesafety.org/files/ChildPassengerSafetyResourceGuide2016.pdf>

Diono Update on Ford Inflatable Seat Belt Use

In Spring 2016, Diono collaborated with Ford Motor Company to determine the safety of Diono car seats with Ford's inflatable seat belts. Based on crash test results, the Diono engineering department approved use of all Diono convertible and booster seats currently sold in the market with Ford Motor Company's inflatable seat belts. This is retroactive for Radian convertible seats and Monterey booster models.

NOTE: this only applies to Ford inflatable seat belts.

https://us.diono.com/update-on-ford-inflatable-seat-belt-use-with-diono-products/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_term=Inflatable+Seat+Belts&utm_campaign=Diono+News

U.S. House Bill Proposes Funding for Seat Belts on School Buses

U.S. House Representative Steve Cohen, Tennessee, introduced the Bring Enhanced Liability in Transportation for Students Act (BELT) recently. HB6461 proposes to allocate federal funds to states and local school districts so that all newly purchased large school buses are equipped with 3-point seat belts. It would also penalize states that do not pass school bus illegal passing and driver background laws. Recipients of the funding would be required to report to the federal government on the effectiveness of the seat belts, including student usage and the impact on school bus seating capacity.

<http://stnonline.com/news/latest-news//item/8184-u-s-house-bill-would-fund-school-bus-3-point-seat-belts>

Tech Tidbits! (cont'd)

Improvements in LATCH Vehicle Anchors

The latest ease of use ratings from IIHS show that automakers have acted upon recommendations to improve lower anchors and tether anchors. In previous ratings of 102 vehicles, the majority were poor or marginal. As reported in the September 1, 2016 issue of IIHS's Status Reports, 170 current models were evaluated and approximately half were rated as good or acceptable. For the first time, three vehicles earned a top rating of good+. Improvements make it easier for consumers to locate and access lower anchors and tether hardware. In addition, there are more options available to install a car seat in the center of the second row.

<http://www.iihs.org/iihs/news/desktopnews/ratings-for-child-seat-installation-hardware-improve-after-1-year>



New label added near tether anchor in the 2016 Toyota Sienna for easier identification

Belt Fit Improved in Majority of Boosters

The latest IIHS booster seat evaluations designated 48 out of 53 new models BEST BETs, which means they are likely to provide good belt fit for a 4 to 8 year-old in almost any car, minivan or SUV. This is quite an improvement since the Institute first began rating boosters in 2008. At that time only a fourth of the boosters earned the BEST BET rating. The IIHS booster rating program measures seat belt fit with boosters and does not involve dynamic crash tests. Of the new seats, the Cosco Easy Elite and Highback 2-in-1 DX are rated Not Recommended due to poor lap belt fit. Status Report, Vol. 51, No. 9/November 17, 2016

<http://www.iihs.org/iihs/ratings/child-boosters>



Extended load leg on Cybex car seat

Benefits of Load Legs

Crash tests conducted by Consumer Reports evaluated load legs on four rear-facing only car seats. Load legs or foot props originated in Europe and extend from the bottom of the car seat to the floor. As more European car seats are introduced into the U.S. market place, there could be an increase in the number of seats with load legs. Currently, there are four rear-facing only seats with load legs available in the U.S.; the Cybex Alton 2, the Cybex Alton Q, the GB Asana 35 DLX, and the Nuna Pipa. Consumer Reports crash tested all four seats and rated them Best for crash protection. The tests found that head-injury risk was approximately 46% less than the average head risk in seats without load legs. Consumer Reports

also rated all four seats very good or excellent in terms of ease-of-use. When installing the seats, however, a large hump in the floor could prevent the load leg from being fully extended.

<http://www.consumerreports.org/infant-car-seats/load-leg-gives-car-seats-an-additional-margin-of-safety-in-a-crash>

Product Updates

Updated and new car seats, which will be on the market in 2017, were on display at the 2016 ABC Kids Expo held early November in Las Vegas. Some product highlights are described below:

- The Maxi-Cosi Pria 85 chest clip has undergone a major change. The new Clip Click chest clip will have a magnetic closure, which children can snap shut themselves. Opening it is more complicated and might make it more difficult for children to undue.
- The Uppa Baby Mesa's new car seat cover will be made of a naturally fire retardant wool blend that is soft and machine washable.
- Cybex will be expanding its brand with the Sirona convertible car seat.
- Diono will be expanding its brand with the Radius rear-facing only car seat with deep recline.
- The height of the Kiddy Cruiserfix Pro highback booster is going to 62" or the equivalent of 5'3".
- All 2017 models of the Graco SnugRide SnugLock 35 will have front harness adjusters.
- Britax is now shipping ClickTight Boulevards and Advocates with the anti-rebound bar in the box.
- The Graco/Baby Jogger Sequel convertible car seat is available now as a Walmart exclusive. The seat can be used rear facing 4-40 lbs. and forward facing 22-65 lbs. MSRP: \$159



Clip Click chest clip

Historic 90% seat belt use in U.S.!

http://www.nhtsa.gov/About-NHTSA/Press-Releases/nhtsa_belt_use_record_90_percent_11212016

Mark Your Calendar

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TECHNICIAN TRAININGS

April 20-21/24-25, 2017 **MARION COUNTY**

Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health

Registration Fee: \$85

Contact: Michelle Chappelow, mchappel@IUHealth.org

May 11-12/15-16, 2017 **MARION COUNTY**

Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health

Registration Fee: \$85

Contact: Michelle Chappelow, mchappel@IUHealth.org

WEBINARS:

Register for all at: <http://cert.safekids.org/resources-faqs/forms/recertification>

Lead Instructors: Before, During and After

Not eligible for CPS CEUs but eligible for Community Education requirement

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. ET

Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Goodbaby

International, Evenflo, GB, Urbini, and CYBEX

Thursday, January 19, 2017 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. ET

Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Fall 2016

Thursday, February 16, 2017 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Effective Communication with Adult Learners

Not eligible for CPS CEUs but eligible for Community Education requirement

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. ET

CONFERENCES

2017 Lifesavers Conference

March 26-28, 2017

Charlotte Convention Center — Charlotte, NC

National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities

www.lifesaversconference.org

Indiana Injury Prevention Conference

June 22-23, 2017

University Tower/Hine Hall — Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Marsha French, mwheatcr@iu.edu

www.preventinjury.org

Click [here](#) for registration

Safe Kids Worldwide Injury Prevention Conference (PREVCON)

July 26-29, 2017

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront — Baltimore, MD

Childhood Injury Prevention Convention

www.prevcon.org

13th Annual Kidz In Motion (KIM) Conference

August 30 — September 2, 2017

Omni Interlocken Hotel — Broomfield, CO

National Conference Dedicated to

Child Passenger Safety Professionals

www.kidzinmotion.org

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO PROVIDING INFORMATION, NEWS AND OPINIONS ON AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY

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