

Child Passenger Safety



Too often we read about children who have died in vehicle crashes. The sad fact is that most of these deaths could have been prevented.

In 2001, 1,579 children 14 and under nationwide died in car crashes. Officials estimate that half of these children could have been saved had they been placed in car seats or wore seat belts. In 2002, 227,000 children 14 and under nationwide were injured in vehicle crashes.

As of June 1, 2007, Washington state law requires that children up to their 8th birthday, unless they are 4' 9" tall (57 inches), be in an appropriate car seat. Current law also requires that children under 13 years old ride in the back seat where it is practical to do so. Click [here](#) for a video on the state's booster seat law.

Washington's comprehensive car seat law has been in place since July 1, 2002. Despite this, too many parents do not put their children in car seats. Not having children in car seats can result in a \$124 ticket from a law enforcement officer. More importantly, children can be seriously injured or killed in vehicle crashes while not secure in a car seat.

Washington state has one of the nation's highest car seat usage rates, but roughly 90 percent of car seats are installed incorrectly. Medic One's certified car seat technicians are available to help answer your questions.

We work with the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club and [Skagit County Community Action](#) to get seats into the hands of parents who need them. For those receiving WIC benefits in Skagit County, we ask that you attend a one-hour class where we demonstrate how to properly and safely install your child's seat. After the class, parents will be asked to install their own seats. Technicians will be on hand to give pointers and to ensure seats are installed properly. Classes take place monthly at Skagit County Community Action, 330 Pacific Place, in Mount Vernon. Call (360) 416-7585 to make an appointment. Class sizes are limited. Cost is \$10. Although every attempt is made to help all in need, our numbers of seats are limited and are available only on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For those who have an emergency need, please contact us. We are glad to help. For an appointment to learn how to install and use your child safety seat, send an e-mail to billc@skagit.com, or call 360-428-3236.