

# Program Introduction

## OBJECTIVES

- Become acquainted with the purpose, goals, and successful completion requirements of the National CPS Training Certification Program.
- Identify the personal costs of incorrect use and installation of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts.
- Identify national statistics on the use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts.

## WELCOME ...

### ... to the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program!

The National Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Certification Training Program is a partnership between three organizations:

- The **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)** developed the original curriculum in the mid-1990s and regularly updates the content.

NHTSA's mission is to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce traffic crash costs through education, research, safety standards, and enforcement activities.

- The **National Child Passenger Safety Board (NCPSB)** oversees the quality and integrity of the training and certification requirements.
- **Safe Kids Worldwide** is the certifying body responsible for administering all aspects of certification.



*Representatives of the  
National Child Passenger Safety Board (NCPSB)*

## OVERALL PURPOSE OF THIS PROGRAM: WHY ARE WE HERE?

Traffic crashes can happen to anyone at any time. Statistically, you have about a nine percent chance of being involved in a vehicle collision every year. That is about five collisions in a lifetime (NSC Injury Facts, 2012).

While traffic crashes affect people of all ages, it is especially concerning that crashes are the leading cause of death of children in the United States. Just as concerning is that in most cases, child passenger injuries and deaths can be prevented. Many injuries and deaths occur as a result of the high misuse rate of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts.

Education and proper use of air bags, car seats, booster seats, and seat belts helps save lives and can prevent injuries and deaths every day. When used correctly, the risk of hospitalization, injury, and death for children is greatly reduced.

***Nationally certified CPS Technicians make a difference in the lives of families!***

**Imagine if a car seat or booster seat saves the life of a 6-year-old child. Given mortality rates, it could result in 72 productive years for just one person (CDC 2011).**

## TRAINING PROGRAM GOALS

1. Certify you as a CPS Technician.
2. Provide you with the opportunity to apply basic technical skills and knowledge to the correct installation and use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts.
3. Equip you to educate caregivers in the proper selection, installation, and use of car seats and booster seats and to know when to move to seat belts once booster seats are outgrown.
4. Equip you to educate caregivers so they can confidently install and reinstall car seats and booster seats.
5. Enable you to be a resource in your communities.

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*“The National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program was a transformational experience for me, not only from a policy standpoint, but also from an interpersonal perspective. I understand why CPS Technicians are so passionate, because I have been swept up by the same passion.”*

**David L. Strickland**  
NHTSA Administrator

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## TERMS USED IN THIS TRAINING PROGRAM

There are many different names used for what caregivers tend to refer to as car seats such as child safety seats, child restraints, CRs, and baby seats.

Child restraint is the common, and sometimes required, term used by the government and manufacturers in formal and official writings, including labeling and manuals. Child restraints refer to rear-facing car seats, forward-facing car seats, and boosters.

Since our purpose with this program is to help you work directly with caregivers, we have chosen to use the more familiar term that is used on many websites, in public service announcements, and is one of the most common search terms – **car seats**.

We will use:

- **Car seats** as the term when referring to rear-facing and forward-facing seats with harnesses.
- **Booster seats** as the term for referring to restraints that secure a child with the use of a seat belt.



**Rear-facing car seat**



**Forward-facing car seat**



**Booster seat**

## TRAINING PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Attend the entire training program.
- ✓ Participate in class discussions and practice activities.
- ✓ Pass three written quizzes with a total of 42/50 correct.
- ✓ Pass three skills assessments.
- ✓ Participate in the end-of-class checkup event.



*Training program completion requirements*

**NOTE:** In taking the quizzes and skills assessments, you may use all available resources. Your Technician Guide (TG) is your #1 resource. If you do not pass – retests are **NOT** allowed.



### VIDEO • Flashback

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## IMPORTANT-TO-KNOW STATISTICS ON THE USE OF CAR SEATS, BOOSTER SEATS, AND SEAT BELTS

Here are some key statistics you can share with others to support your efforts in child passenger safety. Protecting children when they ride in vehicles is the responsibility of all community members.

- ✓ About 90 people died each day in vehicle crashes (NHTSA, 2010).
- ✓ Vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children in the United States (NHTSA, 2012).
- ✓ Restraint use among young children often depends upon the driver’s seat belt use. When the driver is buckled, children are restrained (car seats/booster seats, seat belts) 95 percent of the time. When the driver is unbuckled, children are restrained 67 percent of the time (National Occupant Protection Use Survey Controlled Intersection Survey, 2011).
- ✓ Child restraints, or car seats, reduce the risk of injury by 71 to 82 percent and reduce the risk of death by 28 percent in comparison to children in seat belts alone. Booster seats reduce the risk of nonfatal injuries by 45 percent among 4 to 8-year-olds (AAA, 2012).

*Drivers who buckle up  
are more likely to  
have child passengers  
who buckle up.*

**IMPORTANT-TO-KNOW FACTS:**

**STATISTICS ON THE USE OF CAR SEATS, BOOSTER SEATS, AND SEAT BELTS (CONTINUED)**

- ☑ Child restraints are often used incorrectly. One study found that 72 percent of nearly 3,500 observed car seats and booster seats were misused in a way that could be expected to increase a child's risk of injury during a crash (NHTSA, 2006).
- ☑ In 2010, it is estimated that 303 children under 5 were saved as a result of restraint use. Over the period 1975 through 2010, an estimated 9,611 lives were saved by child restraints (car seats/booster seats or seat belts) for children under the age of five in passenger vehicles (NHTSA, 2010).

**NOTE:** Refer to the NHTSA website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) and the CPS Board website at [www.cpsboard.org](http://www.cpsboard.org) for the latest statistics and details about effectiveness of correctly using car seats, booster seats, and seat belts and their misuse.

*The best way to protect children in the car is to put them in the right seat at the right time – and use it the right way!*



*Buckle up for safety!*



## Progress Check and Summary

1. What is a leading cause of death for children in the United States?

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2. What is the best way to protect children in the car?

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3. What are the five main goals of this program?

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**NOTE:** There is a glossary of terms on the NCPSB website ([www.cpsboard.org](http://www.cpsboard.org)) that you can refer to as needed after the course.

