



## Top Ten Reasons Why Michigan Needs a Booster Seat Law

1. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for Michigan children ages 14 and under.
2. Safety belts are designed for adults, not children. A booster seat “boosts” a child up to help the adult safety belt fit correctly.
3. Children ages 4-8 using seat belts alone are 4 times more likely to suffer head/brain injury compared to those using child restraints. A booster seat makes them 59% safer than a safety belt alone.
4. As of January 2007, thirty-eight states have laws that require older children to use appropriate child safety seats, including booster seats.
5. Under the current child passenger safety law, Michigan is not eligible to receive over one million dollars in federal funding which could be used to provide education and free booster seats to low-income families.
6. A study conducted by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute in 2004 found that only 8.6% of Michigan children ages 4-8 were appropriately restrained in a booster seat.
7. The biggest barrier to proper booster seat use (as reported by parents in a 2004 statewide telephone survey) is a lack of a state law requiring use.
8. Children can be seriously injured when a safety belt doesn't fit correctly. A child should never place the shoulder belt behind their back or under their arm. The child would not have upper body protection and could suffer broken ribs and injuries to internal organs. The name for this is Seat Belt Syndrome.
9. Booster seats are available at many retail stores and cost as low as \$15.00. That's the price of two adult movie tickets or a large pizza!
10. Children who have outgrown child safety seats with internal harnesses should be properly restrained in a belt-positioning booster seat until they are at least 8 years old, unless they are 4'9" tall.

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