

2021-A

Child Passenger Safety Restraint Use

It is the position of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) that the evidence-based child passenger restraint recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Emergency Nurses Association, National Safety Council, Safe Kids Worldwide, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can decrease motor-vehicle occupant deaths and injuries among children 0-14 years of age.

GETAC urges Texas stakeholders to know and promote appropriate passenger safety restraint use for optimal protection, including the restraint of all children younger than 13 in the rear seats of vehicles. All children should be placed in car safety seats for as long as possible until they have reached the highest weight or height limit allowed by the seat's manufacturer. Furthermore, infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing seat until they reach the weight and height limit allowed per the seat manufacturer, typically into their 2nd year. Children who have outgrown the rear-facing limits for their car safety seat should use a forward-facing car safety seat with a harness, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the seat's manufacturer. Children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their car safety seat should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle lap and shoulder seat belts fit properly, typically when they have reached 4 feet- 9 inches in height and are between 8 and 12 years of age. Once children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seatbelt alone, they should always use lap and shoulder seat belts for optimal protection.

GETAC encourages parents and caregivers to have their car seats checked by a [Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician](#).

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