

Guide older children to be safe passengers

Car crashes are the number one cause of unintentional death and injuries to children. Children between the ages of 8 and 14 need clear, consistent messages about how to stay safe in a car as they become more independent.

Why are 8-14 year olds at risk?

- Many are still too small to fit in seat belts safely and should use a booster seat.
- They are much less likely to ride safely than younger children due to peer pressure.
- Children of this age are more likely to be riding in the front seat, where the risk of injury is greater.
- Older children often ride with new drivers such as siblings and friends.



Resources

Resources and information:

chw.org/carseats

crossroadsteendriving.org

Email: carseatwi@chw.org

Phone: (855) 224-3692



What parents can do

- Make sure that everyone in the car buckles up every trip, no matter how short. It is the law.
- Make sure that each child sits in their own seat with a seat belt or a booster seat, if needed.
- Put children younger than 13 in the back seat since they should never sit in front of an airbag.
- Set rules for who your child may ride with. Wisconsin law limits the passengers of new teen drivers.
- Let your children know what to do if they do not feel safe riding with someone. Tell them to call you and you will pick them up.

What older children can do

- Always buckle up, even if others do not.
- Sit in the back seat if they are under age 13, even if the driver tells them they can sit in the front seat.
- Say something if they see something unsafe or feel unsafe.
- Know that it is okay to say, "I am not going to ride without a seat belt, it is not safe."
- Call an adult if they need help or a safe ride home.

Proper fit is the key to safety.

