

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Georgia Department of Public Health
Child Occupant Safety Project, Injury Prevention Program



SAFE STATES

*Injury & Violence Prevention
Saves Lives*



Lives Saved

Kathy (pictured above on left) first attended a child passenger safety class in Barrow County in 2007 taught by Zetta Jones from the Georgia Department of Public Health. She learned how to properly secure her child in the car and received a car seat for her son. In April 2009, Kathy decided to take another class with her daughter in preparation for her granddaughter's arrival and her son's transition to a booster seat. The class was led by Zetta and Barrow County Sheriff's Deputy Ed Weaver.

On December 31, 2009, Kathy was driving home from a New Year's Eve church service with her 4-year-old son and 2-month-old granddaughter when a drunk driver crossed the center lane and hit Kathy's vehicle. Both children were secured in child safety seats. The car was totaled, but there were no serious injuries. Coincidentally, the officer who responded to the scene was Deputy Weaver. Kathy credited everyone's safety to the classes and the safety seats.

“ I paid for 5 more deputies to get training. I was so thankful to Barrow County Sheriff's Department and I just wanted to help out. — *Kathy* ”

Child Occupant Safety Project helps keep children safe in motor vehicles

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children in the U.S. and in Georgia.

In Georgia:

- For children ages 0-4 in 2011, 24 were killed, 94 were hospitalized, and 1,935 were treated in the emergency room.
- For children ages 5-9 in 2011, 16 were killed, 147 were hospitalized, and 3,125 were treated in the emergency room.
- Crash deaths among children ages 0-14 in the state are estimated to cost \$82 million each year. (CDC)

In the U.S.:

- More than 650 children ages 0-12 died in motor vehicle crashes in 2011.
- 1 in 3 of these children who died was not buckled up.

Many of these injuries and deaths could have been prevented by age-appropriate use of a car seat or booster seat and by placing children in the backseat of a vehicle. Child safety seats reduce fatal injury by 71% for infants (younger than age 1) and by 54% for toddlers (ages 1-4) in passenger cars. (NHTSA)

PROGRAM

Georgia's Child Occupant Safety Project offers mini-grants to local community partners to provide child safety seats, best practice

education, and services to help parents and caregivers transport children safely. Funding is provided by the CDC, the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Georgia Emergency Medical Services for Children, and local communities.

Through its Teddy Bear Sticker Program, the Child Occupant Safety Project tracks its impact by placing stickers on child safety seats it distributes. When first responders at a crash find a child safety seat with a Teddy Bear Sticker, they report basic information to help the project track the number of children saved from death or serious injury.

The Child Occupant Safety Project also works with hospitals, schools, and child care providers to ensure safe transportation.

IMPACT

- Child safety seat initiatives exist in over 130 of Georgia's 159 counties.
- Since 2007, at least 262 children in Georgia who were involved in crashes were saved from serious injury or death by child safety seats and education provided through the project.
- On average, a \$52 child safety seat yields an estimated cost savings of \$2,200. A \$35 booster seat yields an estimated cost savings of \$2,500. (Children's Safety Network)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
THE PROGRAM FEATURED ABOVE
<http://dph.georgia.gov/child-occupant-safety-project-overview>



20 Lives Saved

To mark its recent 20th anniversary, the Safe States Alliance is highlighting 20 of the *many* lives saved through injury and violence prevention over the last two decades. These examples show the significant impact that injury and violence prevention has on the lives of real people, every day.