

Nonfatal Traffic Injuries in Booster-age Child Passengers in Kentucky from 2000-2004

FACT SHEET, November 2007

Did you know ... Among child motor vehicle occupants ages 4-8 who were involved in traffic crashes in Kentucky from 2000 to 2004, those reported by police as having been restrained in a child safety seat¹ were **40% less likely to be hospitalized** than those who were restrained in a lap/shoulder belt or lap belt only. Furthermore, among all 4 to 8 year-old occupants who were hospitalized in crashes, those who were restrained in a child safety seat had, on average:

- **16% lower hospital charges**
- **31% fewer days spent in the hospital, and**
- **18% lower injury severity score**

than the lap/shoulder or lap belt only group².

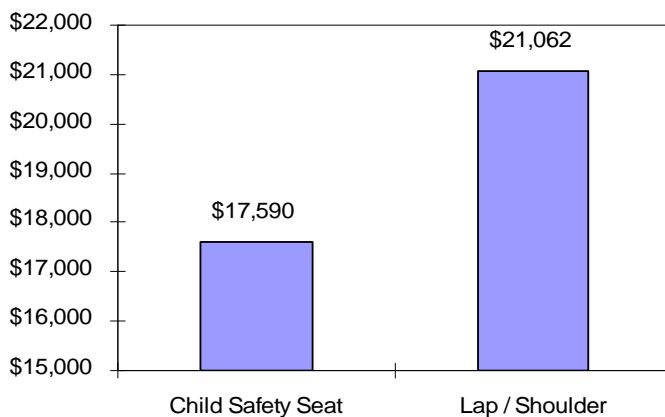


Risk of hospitalization

	Involved in crash	Hospitalized	Rate per 1,000 involved
Child Safety Seat	5,564	17	3.0
Lap/Shoulder	33,988	171	5.0

- The 4 to 8 year-old children who were restrained in a safety seat were 40% less likely to be hospitalized if involved in a crash.
- If all of the booster age children who were restrained in lap/shoulder or lap belts only had been restrained in booster seats in the rear of the vehicle, we estimate that 67 fewer would have been hospitalized.

Average hospital charges for 4 to 8 year old occupants who were hospitalized

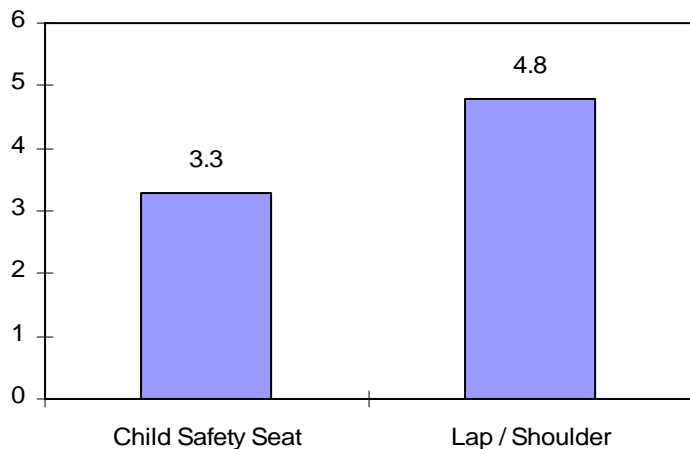


- Average hospital charges for booster-age children who were restrained in child safety seats were nearly \$3,500 (16%) less than for those who were restrained lap/shoulder or lap belts only.
- If all booster age children who were restrained in lap/shoulder or lap belts only had been restrained in booster seats in the rear of the vehicle, we estimate that hospital charges would have been reduced by \$1,772,000.

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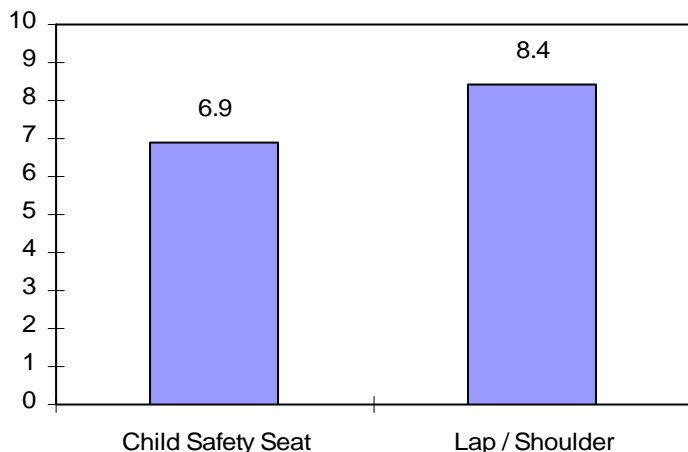
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Average length of stay in the hospital for 4 to 8 year old occupants who were hospitalized



- The average hospital stay for booster-age children who were restrained in child safety seats was 1.5 days (31%) less than for those who were restrained in lap/shoulder or lap belts only.
- If all of the booster age children who were restrained in lap/shoulder or lap belts only had been restrained in booster seats in the rear of the vehicle, we estimate that the total days spent in hospitals would have been reduced by 478 days.

Average injury severity score for 4 to 8 year old occupants who were hospitalized



- The average injury severity score for booster-age children who were restrained in child safety seats was 1.5 points (18%) lower than for those who were restrained in lap/shoulder or lap belts only.

¹ Reporting of child safety seat use on Kentucky crash reports does not distinguish between booster seats and other types of safety seats.

² Children restrained in child safety seats were 4 times more likely to be seated in the rear of the vehicle than those restrained in lap/shoulder or lap belts only, a practice which is also known to improve injury outcomes in traffic crashes.

Booster seat graphic courtesy of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.