



## Use of child safety seats:

Many people think they have installed their child safety seat correctly and believe they are using it properly. However, National SAFE KIDS Campaign Car Seat Check Ups prove differently. As many as 85 percent of child safety seats are found to be improperly installed and/or used when vehicles are stopped and checked. A child can suffer injuries or death in a motor vehicle crash if the child safety seat is not properly installed or used.

Some of the most common mistakes in installing or using child safety seats include the following:

- safety belt not holding the seat in tightly and/or not in locked mode
- harness straps not snug and/or routed correctly
- harness retainer clip not at armpit level
- locking clip not used correctly
- car seat recalled and not repaired (includes booster seats)
- infants placed rear-facing in front of an active air bag
- children turned forward-facing before reaching 1 year of age and 20 pounds



Parents and caregivers should carefully read their vehicle owner's manual and the instructions that come with the child safety seat to ensure proper installation and use of the seat. Some child safety seats are not compatible with certain vehicles - try the child's safety seat in your vehicle before you purchase it. Also, place your child in the child safety seat before purchase, to ensure proper fit.