



GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2019

OCCUPANT PROTECTION

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Occupant protection for this fact sheet includes **seat belts, car seats, and booster seats** for passenger vehicle occupants – drivers and passengers. Passenger vehicles are defined as passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles (SUVs). Georgia law requires children **under 8 years of age** to be **properly restrained** in an approved car seat or booster seat in the **back seat** of a vehicle.

THE NUMBERS

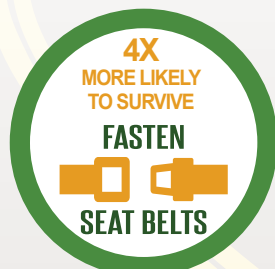
In 2019...

43% of passenger vehicle occupant fatalities were **unrestrained**.



Pickup trucks have the **highest** number of **unrestrained** fatalities among drivers.

21% of all children (ages 1-7 years) involved in motor vehicle crashes **transitioned** to a seat belt restraint system **too early**.



Restrained occupants were **4 times** more likely to **survive** a fatal crash.

SAFETY TIPS

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store/Secure all objects in case of a sudden stop. "Look Before You Lock" to prevent infant and child heatstroke among children left unattended in cars. Skip the use of non-approved / after-market vehicle products.
Seat Belts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buckle up. Every trip, every time. Caregivers should model restraint usage. Be aware of the dangers of out-of-position seating (laying down, propped up on vehicle parts like door panels).
Car Seats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select a car seat based on your child's age and size and use it every time. Always use a tether, if available, when installing forward-facing car seats. Confirm proper installation by a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible. Keep your child in the back seat at least through 12 years of age.

PROPER CHILD RESTRAINT (12 years and younger)

Recommended child passenger restraint system based on the child's height and weight specifications:

	Under 1 year	1-3 years	4-7 years	8-12 years
Less than 20 lbs.	REAR-FACING CAR SEAT			
21-40 lbs.	REAR-FACING CAR SEAT	REAR-FACING CAR SEAT		
Over 40 lbs. Under 4'9"		FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT		BOOSTER SEAT WITH SEAT BELT
Over 4'9"				SEAT BELT



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT



FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT



BOOSTER SEAT WITH SEAT BELT



SEAT BELT



2019 GEORGIA QUICK FACTS

Among those involved in motor vehicle crashes, seat belt use is greater for front-seat passengers (**84%**) compared to backseat passengers (**77%**).

If **all** motor vehicle occupants (5+ years) had been **properly restrained** during 2015-2019, an average of **675 lives** would have been **saved** per year.

Properly restrained children were **more likely to survive** a fatal crash compared to unrestrained children.

Child Passenger Safety Mini Grant Program

Through Georgia's Mini-Grant program, **more than 390** children involved in Georgia crashes were **saved** from serious or fatal injuries by the car seats, booster seats, and education provided by the program since 2007.

Children Safety Network

Child safety seat distribution programs for ages 0-4 years yield an estimated cost savings of \$2,200 for a cost of only \$55 per seat provided.

GEORGIA LAW

- According to Georgia law, the following passenger vehicle occupants in every motor vehicle (not limited to pickup trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles) must be restrained by a seat belt:

All drivers

All occupants under 18 years

Front-seat adult passengers

- Children under eight years of age in a motor vehicle must be properly restrained in a child passenger restraint system in the backseat.
- Georgia's seat belt law is a primary law that allows police officers to pull over a motorist if any occupants within the vehicle required to wear a seat belt or appropriate child restraining system are not restrained.
- The driver's failure to comply with this law may result in a citation and fine for improper restraint use of adults and/or children passengers.

RESOURCES

Child Occupant Safety Project

The Child Occupant Safety Project provides child safety seats and education on proper installation and use primarily through the Mini Grant Program. The Mini Grant Program works with local community partners to provide best practice education and services to help parents and caregivers transport children safely.

<https://dph.georgia.gov/health-topics/injury-prevention-program/child-occupant-safety-project>

Child Safety Seat Inspection ("fitting") Stations

Child safety seat inspection stations are located throughout Georgia to educate parents and caregivers on the proper usage and installation of safety seats by a certified technician free of charge. <https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/fitting-locations>

Safe Kids Georgia

Safe Kids Georgia promotes changes in attitudes, behaviors, laws, and the environment to prevent unintentional child injuries, including traffic injuries. <https://safekidsgeorgia.org/>



For more information and resources related to occupant protection:
<https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/campaigns/child-passenger-safety/>