

## Truths about child passenger safety

- Children are never safer riding in the arms or lap of an adult.
- The back seat is the safest place for a child of any age to ride.
- Less than 1/2 of 1% of all crashes involve fire or water submersion. Car seats and seatbelts keep passengers unhurt and alert enough escape.
- Children between 4 and 8 years of age (approximately 40 to 80 pounds) are safest when secure in a booster seat with a shoulder/lap safety belt.
- Car seats work!

For more information about seatbelt laws contact:

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**Munster  
Police  
Department**


## Indiana's Seatbelt Laws



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## Why Do We Have a Seatbelt Law?

- Of the 32,598 passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2002, 59 percent were not wearing a safety belt.
- Seventy-three percent of the passenger vehicle occupants who were involved in a fatal crash in 2002 and were restrained survived; of those who were not restrained, only 42 percent survived.
- In Indiana in 2002,  240 Hoosiers were killed in motor vehicle crashes in which they were unrestrained. That represents 49 percent of the 490 total adult crash fatalities that year.
- In Indiana, 61 percent of 16 to 20 year old passenger vehicle occupants killed or seriously injured in a motor vehicle fatality were not restrained.

## Indiana's Seatbelt Law

Indiana law requires that each front seat occupant of a passenger motor vehicle must be properly restrained when the vehicle is moving (I.C. 9-19-10).



Indiana law requires children under 4 years of age to be properly transported in a child safety seat that meets federal safety standards and children ages 4-12 to be in a child safety seat or vehicle seat belt (I.C. 9-19-11).

Beginning July 1, 2005, children will be required to ride properly restrained in a child restraint, which can include a booster seat, until they reach their 8th birthday. Children at least 8 years old until their 16th birthday are required to ride properly restrained in a child restraint system or seat belt in all seating positions in all vehicles.

## How To Wear A Seatbelt



### Children:

- Should stay in a child safety seat until the child outgrows the seat.
- Wear the lap belt low and snug.
- Wear the shoulder belt snug across the chest.
- Use a booster seat for a better fit.

### Adults:

- Wear the lap belt low and snug.
- Wear the shoulder belt snug across the chest.
- Keep the back of the seat in an upright position.

