

# CHILD PASSENGERS INVOLVED IN MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FL 2005

## Overview

Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of unintentional injury deaths in Miami-Dade County during 2005 among children under the age of 17 and the second leading cause of unintentional injury hospitalizations.

This fact sheet examines data on all motor vehicle crashes that occurred in 2005 and describes injuries and restraint use among children aged 0-17.

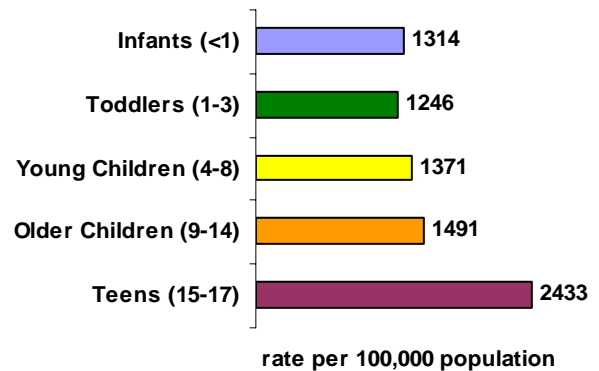
- 9,363 passengers under age 18 were involved in motor vehicle crashes during 2005
- Teens aged 15-17 had the highest crash rate with little differences observed between the four remaining age groups
- 33% of all children involved in motor vehicle crashes were injured. Seven of these children died as a result of their injuries and another 168 suffered incapacitating injuries.
- Older children and teens were more likely to suffer severe injuries (incapacitating and fatal injuries)

## Groups at Risk

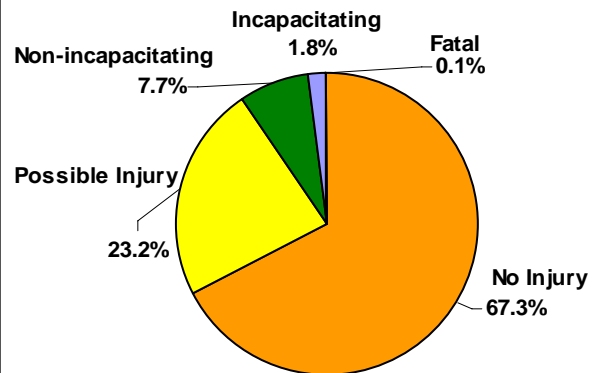
Children less likely to be restrained with a child restraint device/safety belt:

- 92% of all infants involved in crashes were restrained, however restraint use declined with age.
- Once out of a car seat, older children are less likely to use the appropriate restraints such as booster seats and seat belts

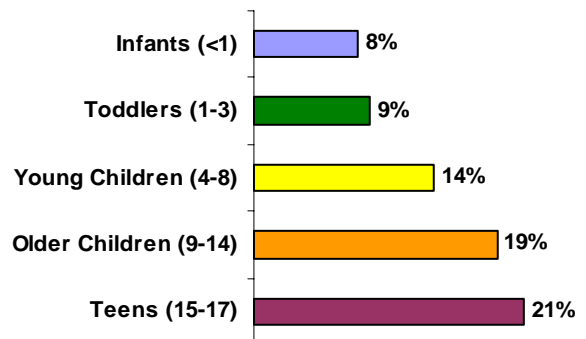
Motor Vehicle Crash Rates Involving Child Passenger by Age Group:  
Miami-Dade County, FL 2005



Percent of Child Passengers Involved in Motor Vehicle Crashes by Injury Severity:  
Miami-Dade County, FL 2005



Percent of Unrestrained Children Involved in Motor Vehicle Crashes by Age Group:  
Miami-Dade County, FL 2005



Produced by the Miami-Dade County Injury Surveillance System

Data source: Florida Traffic Crash Records

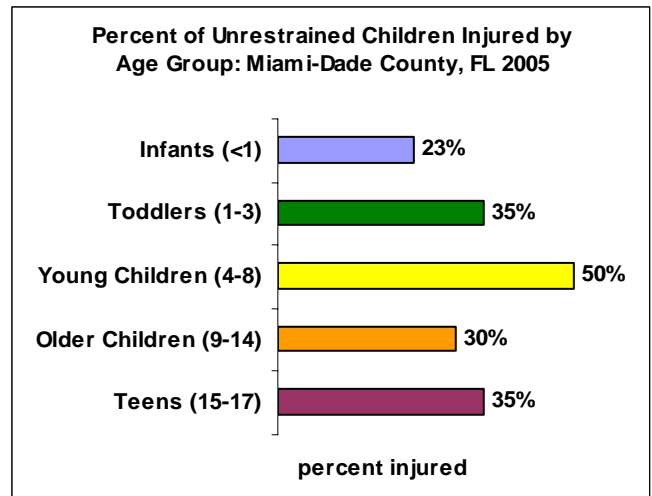
IFCK PHONE: (305) 243-5847 MDCHD PHONE: (305) 470-5649

WEBSITE: <http://dadehealth.org/injury/INJURYIntro.asp>



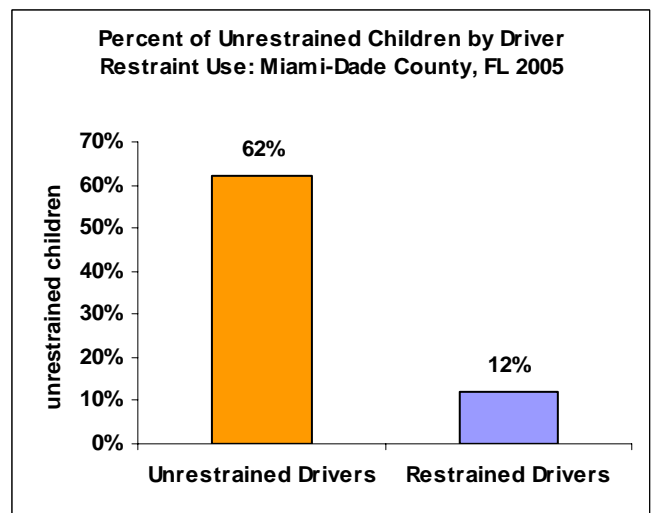
## Risk Factors

- 50% of unrestrained young children 4-8 years old were injured during a motor vehicle crash
- Young children (4-8 years old) can reduce the risk of injury by 59% if they are restrained in a booster seat
- Drivers that did not restrain themselves with a safety belt were more than five times as likely to not restrain child passengers as compared to drivers that used restraints



## Prevention Tips

- Everybody needs a child safety seat, booster seat, or safety belt— every ride
- Not restraining your child is against the law and punishable by a fine
- Each child must be in a car seat sized according to the child’s age, height and weight
- Never hold a child on your lap! You could crush him/her in a crash, or the child may be torn from your arms
- All children under 13 years old should ride properly restrained in the back seat
  - All children less than 1 year of age should be in a rear facing car seat
  - Children more than 1 year AND 20 pounds can use a forward-facing car seat
  - Children more than 40 pounds should use a booster seat with the car’s lap and shoulder belt
  - Once the vehicle’s seat belt fits properly - with the shoulder strap over the shoulder and the lap portion over the hip bones, a child can use the seat belt only. This usually happens around 8-11 years of age or 4 feet 9 inches tall
- Check with a Certified Passenger Safety Technician to help you choose the correct car seat and make sure you are using it properly
- Child Passenger Safety Programs:



[Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Miami](#)

[City of Miami Beach Fire Rescue Child Passenger Safety Program](#)

[Florida Highway Patrol Child Car Seat Program](#)

Miami Dade Fire Rescue Child Car Seat Program

[Seat Check: Get a free child safety seat inspection](#)

Miami Dade Police Department Child Car Seat Program

305-243-3928

305-673-4935

305-470-2260

786-331-4927

866-SEAT-CHECK

305-471-3055



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