

Press Release

Safe Kids Oklahoma

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www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-oklahoma

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Safe Kids Oklahoma Pushes for Car Safety Statewide Prior to Memorial Day.

BETHANY, Okla. – Safe Kids Oklahoma leads efforts for car seat safety and seat belt awareness, urging parents to participate in car seat check-ups and workshops this week across the state in anticipation for a busy Memorial Day.

“Most parents believe they are taking all the right steps to protect their kids in the car,” Safe Kids Oklahoma coordinator Kim Gray said. “Our workshops provide a great opportunity to work one-on-one with parents who may be confused about the safest way to properly secure their child in a vehicle.”

According to Safe Kids Oklahoma, motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of unintentional death for children ages 0-12. In 2020, 656 children died as occupants of motor vehicle collisions, a rate of 1.26 deaths per 100,000 children.

Safe Kids additionally reports, with correct usage, child safety seats reduce fatal injury in passenger cars by 71%. Booster seats have shown to reduce injury risk by 45% for children aged 4 to 7 compared to safety belts used alone.

Recalling heartbreaking incidents, Oklahoma Highway Patrol Lt. Tom Trooper said, “The hardest thing I’ve ever had to do is find a baby because she wasn’t in a car seat.”

In Trooper’s 37 years of service, he has repeatedly been witness to the fatal results of improper restraint and suggests drivers ensure everyone in their vehicle is buckled up before starting the engine. “For their baby’s sake,” Trooper said.

To contribute to preventing vehicle collision fatalities, Safe Kids Oklahoma urges parents to visit www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-oklahoma and participate in workshops and car seat inspection stations to ensure they are educated on proper car safety procedures.

Safe Kids Oklahoma is led by Bethany Children’s Health Center and commits to protecting the local community’s children from preventable injuries and tragedies. Safe Kids has helped reduce the death rate from unintentional injury by 61% since its foundation in 1988. Supported by partners like The Children’s Center Rehabilitation Hospital, Safe Kids Oklahoma remains dedicated to their mission through multiple evidence-based programs. Learn more about them by visiting www.safekids.org.

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