



# GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2021

## OCCUPANT PROTECTION

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

For the purposes of this fact sheet, **occupant protection** 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

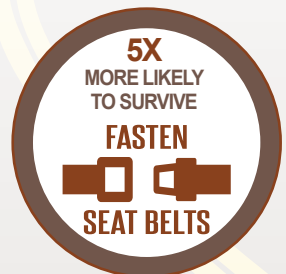
In 2021...

**47%** of passenger vehicle occupant fatalities were **unrestrained**.



**61%** of the pickup truck drivers involved in a fatal crash were **unrestrained**.

**29%** of all children (ages 1-7 years) involved in motor vehicle crashes **transitioned** to a seat belt restraint system **too early**.



**Restrained** occupants were **nearly 5 times** more likely to **survive** a fatal crash.

### SAFETY TIPS

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

### 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"			BOOSTER SEAT WITH SEAT BELT	SEAT BELT



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT



FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT



BOOSTER SEAT WITH SEAT BELT



SEAT BELT



GOVERNOR'S  
OFFICE OF  
HIGHWAY  
SAFETY

## 2021 GEORGIA QUICK FACTS

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Among vehicle occupants involved in motor vehicle crashes, seat belt use is higher for front-seat passengers (**82%**) compared to backseat passengers (**73%**).

If **all** motor vehicle occupants (5+ years) had been **restrained** during 2017-2021, an average of **660 lives** would have been **saved** each 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 444** 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.

### Return on Investment

Child safety seat distribution programs for ages 0-4 years yield a \$2,200 return on investment for a cost of \$55 for each seat provided (*Children Safety Network*).

## GEORGIA LAW

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- According to Georgia law, all drivers, front-seat passengers, and all occupants under 18 years must be properly restrained (seat belt) in every passenger motor vehicle, including pickup trucks, vans, and SUVs.
- 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.
- Drivers who fail to comply with this law may be cited and fined for improper restraint use of adults and/or child passengers.

## RESOURCES

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### 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/child-safety-seat-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/georgia-traffic-safety-facts/>