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The Home
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Nearly 90% of Children are Not in Booster Seats

National statistics indicate that about one in 10 kids between the ages of four and eight and less than 4'9" tall are riding in a car booster seat. This number is appalling.

Young children bodies are not big enough to allow a seat belt to properly restrain them in a crash. The belt can actually ride up above the pelvis in a crash and potentially cause terrible internal injuries. A booster seat minimizes these injuries and also allows a child to better see out the windows. The use of booster seats is currently the law in 39 states.

It is recommended that all parents:

- ◆ **Purchase Booster Seats** – Get one for each vehicle you have. Also ensure that if your child is riding in another vehicle that they have one for them.
- ◆ **Selection** – If your vehicle doesn't have head restraints in the back, purchase a booster seat that has a high back that will protect the child's head and neck in a crash.
- ◆ **Proper Seat Belt Usage** – Make certain that the seat belt lies across the top of the thighs and also tight across the chest. Don't allow them to pull the shoulder belt under their arm or put it behind their back as this can cause an injury or death.
- ◆ **Replace Booster Seats** – Like infant & toddler car seats, booster seats need to be replaced every 6 years or after a crash. Don't purchase one at a garage sale or second-hand store as you don't know the age or condition of the booster seat.
- ◆ **Booster Seats In Back Seat** – Never put a booster seat in the front seat of a car. It is much safer in the back in a crash as air bags are designed for children over 12 years. There have been numerous children who have died or had severe injuries being in the front seat in a car crash.
- ◆ **Air Travel** – Just like traveling with a toddler, you should take your booster seat with you while traveling on an airplane. This way your child can be safer while flying and you will have the right booster seat at your destination.

There are many tragic accidents with children in vehicles. It has been shown that proper use of booster seats will dramatically reduce injuries to a young child. Make certain that your children are safeguarded in one of these.

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Louie Delaware, **The Home Safety Guru™**, president and founder of US Safety Pros, LLC is a Certified Child & Home Safety Professional in all aspects of home safety, from childproofing to home safety, radon testing & mitigation along with fire, carbon monoxide and barrier free construction. US Safety Pros has helped safeguard over 700 homes. For more information about Louie Delaware, go to his web site, www.HomeSafetyGuru.com.

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