

# Child Passenger Safety in the Air and Automobiles

Lorrie Walker, Safe Kids  
*National Transportation Safety  
Board Symposium*  
December 9, 2010



# Children in Aircraft

---

- We want kids in their own CRs for a number of reasons:
  - CR used for ride to and from airport AND while at destination
  - Secure in turbulence
  - Comfortable on plane in familiar seat
  - Better behavior on the plane



# Common Child Restraint Errors in Vehicles

- Selection
- Direction
- Location
- Installation
- Harness

# Effective Interventions

---

- Reaching new parents at child birth classes
- Discharge policies at hospitals- still a wish
- Using child play groups; Mom's groups
- Parents have to be aware that something is wrong before they pay attention



# 2009 Safe Kids Inspection Station Numbers

---

Recorded average in quarterly reports

- 514 Station Locations
- 34,520 Hours of Service
- 2,847 Technicians
- 54,440 car seats checked





**Mobile Fitting (Inspection) Station**  
Vans travel to rural and urban areas where no fixed stations exist.



# Barriers to Proper CR Use:

## *Take a Minute Concept*

- Distracted parents
  - Cell phone use at inspection
  - Unused instructions
- Wrong priorities
  - In a rush to get to gymboree, just want installation not education
  - Hyperthermia- 49 fatalities in 2010 with children left unattended in cars or entering an unattended vehicle to play



# Safe Kids: Occupant Protection for Children in Vehicles

- Looks at kids of all ages
  - Infants, toddlers in car seats
  - Preschool, school age in booster seats
  - Seat belts or boosters for other ages
    - Cub Scout Patch Program kids 7-10
    - Safest Generation includes mechanisms to teach kids 11-12
    - Countdown2Drive targets information to parents and teens ages 13-14



# Future Directions

---

- More inspection stations
- Continuing education for techs
- Continuing education for public, fitting station managers
- Continued effort to make vehicles and CRs more intuitive for consumers
- Better national data to measure success

