



Facts:

- In high-income countries, child passengers account for 50% of child traffic deaths. However, risk of death and injury to child passengers is reduced by more than half with optimal child restraint use.
- In Australia, 50% of children travelling in cars have errors in restraint use.

Initiative Cycle:

2021-2024

Partners:

The George Institute for Global Health, Australia

KidSafe, Australia

UNSW Sydney, Australia

University of Sydney, Australia

Neuroscience Research Australia, UNSW

Supporters:

*The George Institute for Global Health, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australia
Australian Research Council (ARC)*

Principal Investigators

A/Prof Julie Brown

Background:

- We know that the potential for a child car seat to be used incorrectly is more likely to increase over time.
- We hope to address this by exploring what information parents need to help them use their child's car seats correctly over a long period of time, as their child grows with their car seat.

Aims:

- The overall goal of this three-year project is to resolve outstanding problems that prevent real-world reductions in child passenger injury due to incorrect use of child restraints and inappropriate use of adult belts.
- Specifically, we aim to:
 - » Develop novel effective forms of information delivery to ensure parents have the knowledge, skills, and motivation required to use child restraints correctly
 - » Develop and validate objective criteria for identifying user-friendly child restraint designs
 - » Determine effective forms of information delivery to ensure parents have the knowledge, skills, and motivation required to make accurate decisions about use of adult belts by their children.

Methods:

- This research involves a number of different phases including:
 - » A home visit where we will ask parents to install a child car seat and ask questions about which parts are challenging
 - » Focus groups that explore parent/caregiver experience with child restraints, what tools and technology would be helpful in making decisions around car seat use; and how to assess whether a child is correctly restrained.
 - » A lab visit where we will ask participants to install a convertible car seat (0-4 years) in the forward-facing mode into our car model.

Impact:

- Our previous research estimated that at a population level, a 15% reduction in the prevalence of incorrect restraint use will provide 10% reduction in injury and death in children in crashes.
- This research is essential to ensure effective consumer information to reduce incorrect use of child restraints, resulting in reduced injury risk to children in crashes.

Contact:

For more information about The George Institute's Reducing child injury through correct child restraint contact A/Prof Julie Brown
jbrown@georgeinstitute.org.au

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