



Jackson County Department of Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SAFE KIDS-JACKSON COUNTY to participate in Child Passenger Safety Week 2022 and Seat Check Saturday

Free events held Sept. 18 – 24, 2022, part of statewide promotion of proper car seat and booster seat use

SYLVA, NC— SAFE KIDS-JACKSON COUNTY is participating in Child Passenger Safety Week, Sept. 18 – 24, 2022, and Seat Check Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022. These events encourage North Carolina parents and caregivers to make sure their car seats and booster seats fit their children properly and that the seats are correctly installed in vehicles.

Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians are available at the following location to assist families with their car seats:

- **Saturday, September 24, 2022**
- **9:30 am until 12:30 pm at Smoky Mountain Youth Football Games, Lower Gate**
- **Smoky Mountain High Football Field; 100 Smoky Mountain Drive, Sylva.**

While Child Passenger Safety Week provides a key opportunity to encourage the safe installation and use of car seats and booster seats in September, these safety measures are critical throughout the year. The facts surrounding North Carolina child passenger safety are sobering:

- Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children aged one to 13 years old.
- An average of 60,000 children aged zero to 15 years old were involved in motor vehicle crashes between 2016 and 2020 in North Carolina.
- Among children under the age of 15 who were killed or seriously injured in passenger vehicle crashes, thirty-one percent were unrestrained (North Carolina data from 2016-2020).

“North Carolina has one of the strongest child passenger safety programs in the country with over 3,200 nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians across the state,” said Bevan Kirley, Senior Research Associate at the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center. “These dedicated professionals serve their communities every day and are committed to helping families make sure their kids are riding safely in the car. Child Passenger Safety Week is a celebration of their efforts and a reminder to families to have their car seats checked.”

“During recently held car seat events, local child passenger safety technicians found that 9 out of 10 car seats were installed **incorrectly**. Come out and let us inspect your car seat.” Martha Thomasson, Safe Kids Coordinator



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Visit Buckleupnc.org for North Carolina car seat and seat belt information.

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