California Department of Public Health
Vehicle Occupant Safety Program (VOSP)

Fall 2018 • e-Newsletter for California’s Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Community

This quarterly e-Newsletter provides a summary of CPS laws and programmatic support for the California community of local health departments, instructors, technicians, and advocates.

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CPS Parent Brochure
Printed copies of the CPS Parent Brochure (printed back-to-back in English and Spanish) are available. Please contact Claudia Angel for copies.

CPS Week 2018
✓ Child Passenger Safety Week: September 23-29, 2018
✓ National Seat Check Saturday: September 29, 2018


NHTSA wants to record all of the CPS media outreach as well as CPS check-up events and numbers of seats provided for CPS Week 2018. If you have not already received the materials to register your activities, please contact Kate Bernacki.
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Updated Child Passenger Transportation Policy

On Aug. 30, 2018, the AAP published an update to its 2011 child passenger safety policy statement and technical report. The most significant change is modified language around how long children should remain rear-facing. Instead of recommending rear facing to at least age 2, the updated policy statement recommends children remain rear facing until they reach the weight or height limit allowed by their seat. Most current car safety seats will accommodate children rear facing to age 2 or more.

Policy Statement
Child passenger safety has dramatically evolved over the past decade; however, motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for children 4 years and older. This policy statement provides four evidence-based recommendations for best practices in the choice of a child restraint system to optimize safety in passenger vehicles for children from birth through adolescence: (1) rear-facing car safety seats as long as possible; (2) forward-facing car safety seats from the time they outgrow rear-facing seats for most children through at least 4 years of age; (3) belt-positioning booster seats from the time they outgrow forward-facing seats for most children through at least 8 years of age; and (4) lap and shoulder seat belts for all who have outgrown booster seats. In addition, a fifth evidence-based recommendation is for all children younger than 13 years to ride in the rear seats of vehicles. It is important to note that every transition is associated with some decrease in protection; therefore, parents should be encouraged to delay these transitions for as long as possible.

Technical Report
The AAP continues to recommend the inclusion of child passenger safety anticipatory guidance at every health supervision visit. This technical report provides a summary of the evidence in support of five recommendations for best practices to optimize safety in passenger vehicles for children from birth through adolescence that all pediatricians should know and promote in their routine practice.

California CPS Technician Training System
VOSP introduced the statewide CPS Technician Training System in 2002, which includes promoting new and renewing CPS Technicians and Instructors through the coordination of CPS Technician trainings and various CPS Continuing Education Unit (CEU) opportunities. If you are seeking stipends for Instructors to put on a CPS Technician, Special Needs, Renewal or Update course, please contact Claudia Angel to initiate the process.
California Technicians and Instructors

Over the past decade, California has grown in total number of Technicians and Instructors. In 2008, there were 1,080 technicians and 107 instructors, and in 2018, we have seen a doubling of technicians to 2,497, and a slow growing number of instructors up to 143. Please see the map (below) for the number of Technicians and Instructors in yours county and neighboring counties. Please keep up the good work to encourage more technicians! And as you can see, California can certainly use more Instructors. If you are a Technician and interested, find an Instructor who can help mentor you, and/or contact VOSP and we can help you get the process started!

National Comparisons

California’s CPS Technician recertification rate is 52 percent compared to the national average of 58 percent. However, California is one of 4 states that has over 2,000 certified CPS Technicians, and at 2,497, we have the second largest number behind North Carolina at 3,022. As you might expect it is very difficult to reach our 2,497 technicians throughout California to insure they have the ability to recertify. However, to assist with this task VOSP, with funding from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), supports Instructors with stipends to teach CPS Technician, Special Needs, Renewal and Update courses.

We are here to support you!

Please contact VOSP staff if you have any CPS Technician Training requests or questions, need CPS educational materials, or want to be on the list for future VOSP e-Newsletters.

Kate Bernacki, M.P.H.  Claudia Angel
(916) 552-9855   (916) 552-9804

If you have any CPS programmatic questions, please contact Whitney Braziel, the Office of Traffic Safety Occupant Protection and CPS State Coordinator, at (916) 509-3015.

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California Child Passenger Safety
Technicians/Instructors per Region August 2018

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- Safe Kids Certification CPS Technician Database, August 2018