

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

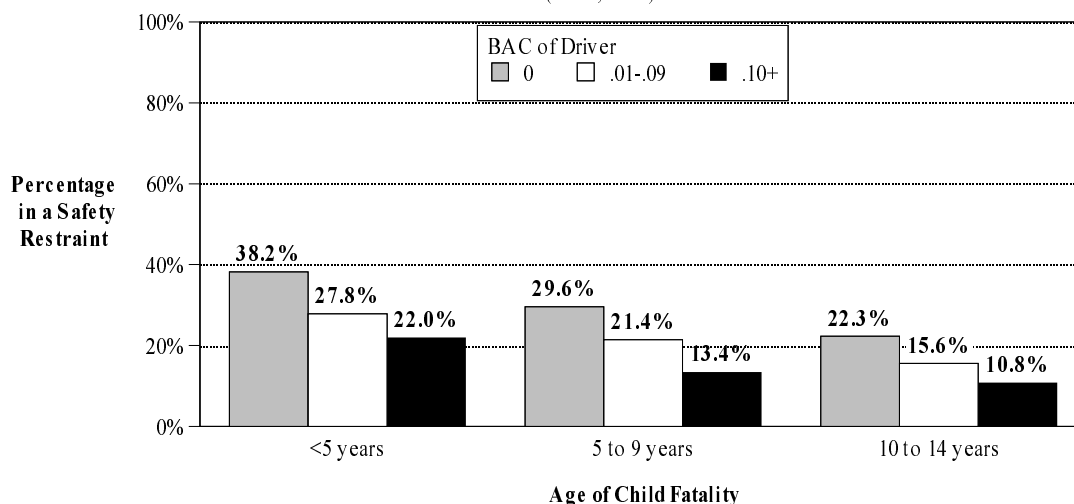
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***An Analysis of Automobile Fatalities Indicates That
Drinking Drivers Are Less Likely to Use Safety Restraints on Young Passengers***

Less than one-fifth (18%) of child passengers who died while being transported by a drinking driver were restrained in the fatal crash, according to an analysis of data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In all age groups, child passenger restraint use decreased as the blood alcohol concentration of the child's driver increased. Older children were least likely to have been restrained (see figure below). In addition to strategies to deter individuals from drinking and driving with children in the vehicle, the authors also recommend "stricter enforcement of child safety seat laws . . . and the passage of primary seat belt laws that cover all children in all seating positions in the vehicle" (p. 2252).

**Restraint Use Among Child Passenger Fatalities,
by Child's Age and BAC of Driver, United States, 1985-1996**

(n=18,018*)



*Does not include 1,599 children for whom restraint use was unknown and 151 children for whom driver information was unknown.

NOTES: The Fatality Analysis Reporting System data contains information only on crashes that occur on public roadways and not those that occur on private roads or off-road areas. The estimate of restraint use is based on police crash reports.

SOURCE: Quinlan, Kyran P.; Brewer, Robert D.; Sleet, David A. and Dellinger, Ann M., "Characteristics of Child Passenger Deaths and Injuries Involving Drinking Drivers," *Journal of American Medical Association*, 283(17):2249-2252, May 3, 2000. For more information, contact Kyran Quinlan at kaq0@cdc.gov.

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