



Highway Safety Report



FAST FACTS

Wyoming crash data from 2019-2023 report that:

- ✓ An average of 3 child passengers (age 14 and younger) are killed as a result of injuries sustained in a traffic crash annually.
- ✓ Just over 46% of child passengers killed in a traffic crash were not restrained.
- ✓ Nearly 29% of child passengers killed in a traffic crash had misused restraints.
- ✓ The majority (61.5%) of child passenger fatalities occurred in the 10 – 14 year old age group; 37.5% of these fatalities were unrestrained and 12.5% had misused restraints.
- ✓ An average of 17 child passengers are suspected to have sustained serious injuries in a traffic crash annually.

CRASH CATEGORIES:

Critical Crashes – fatal and suspected serious injury crashes.

Serious Crashes – suspected minor injury and possible injury crashes.

Damage Crashes – no apparent injury and injury unknown crashes.

Child Passenger Safety

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children, and the latest research from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows that 46% of car seats are misused. Common issues include children being in the wrong type of car seat for their age and size, and car seats being installed improperly – both of which leave children vulnerable to injury in a crash.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration sponsors Child Passenger Safety Week annually in mid-September to remind parents and caregivers that child passengers are best protected in a crash when they are buckled correctly in the right seats for their ages and sizes. Car seats and booster seats have height and weight limits, and children should stay in each seat until they outgrow those limits. NHTSA encourages parents and caregivers to shift the question from *When can I move my child to the next seat?* to *How long can I safely keep my child in this seat?* It is also important for all children under 13 to ride in the back seat as air bags are designed for adult passengers in the front seat.



Nationally in 2022, three children 14 and younger were killed every day in traffic crashes and another 429 were injured. Of the child passengers killed in crashes in 2022, more than a third (39%) were unrestrained. Keeping a child in the right seat for their age and size can make all the difference in a crash. Car seats have been shown to reduce fatal injury by 71% for infants under 1 year old and by 54% for toddlers 1 to 4 years old in passenger cars. In 2022, the number of children killed in passenger vehicle crashes was highest in the 4 to 7 and 8 to 12 age groups. As children grow, don’t forget to make sure your older children are just as protected as your little ones, and that all children stay in their harnessed car seats and booster seats until they reach the maximum weight or height limits. Once a child is ready to use a seat belt, parents and caregivers should ensure that it fits correctly – that the seat belt lies across the upper thighs and is snug across the shoulder and chest, away from the face and neck – and that they wear it correctly every time they ride in the car.

In Wyoming, during the most recent five-year period (2019-2023), 6,218 traffic crashes involved a child passenger 14 and younger, which accounts for around 9% of all traffic crashes. These crashes included 249 critical crashes (10.6%

BY THE NUMBERS

WYDOT Crash Data October 1, 2024 vs. (October 1, 2023)

Fatalities: 70 (110)

Serious Injuries: 308 (354)

**Alcohol-Involved
Fatalities: 13 (26)**

**Bicycle-Involved
Fatalities: 1 (1)**

**CMV-Involved
Fatalities: 8 (31)**

**Drug-Involved
Fatalities: 7 (24)**

**Motorcycle-Involved
Fatalities: 18 (13)**

**Pedestrian-Involved
Fatalities: 4 (10)**

**Speed-Related
Fatalities: 32 (52)**

Data current as of 10/10/2024

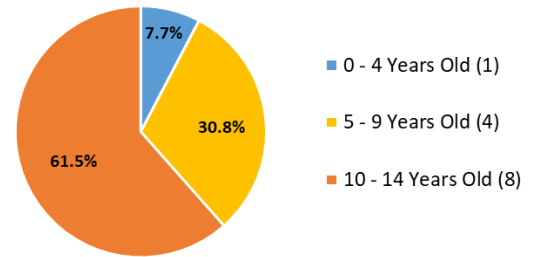


**5300 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
www.dot.state.wy.us**

of all critical crashes), 1,374 serious crashes (13.4% of all serious crashes), and 4,595 damage crashes (8.1% of all damage crashes) resulting in 13 fatal injuries to children, 86 suspected serious injuries to children, 455 suspected minor injuries to children, and 388 possible injuries to children.

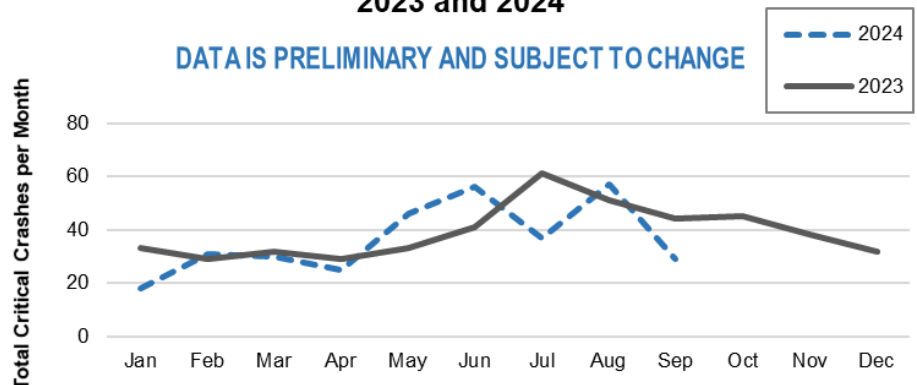
Just over 46% of the child passengers killed in traffic crashes were not restrained. Nearly 29% of child passenger fatalities had misused restraints. The majority of child passenger fatalities (61.5%) occurred in the 10 - 14 year old age group. Of the children in this age group, 37.5% (3) were unrestrained and 12.5% (1) had misused a shoulder and lap belt restraint.

Age Group for Child Passenger Fatalities (2019-2023)



Parents and caregivers turn to experts for many things, and child passenger safety should not be an exception. Across the country there are certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians who can help parents and caregivers pick the right car seat, learn how to install it correctly, and know how to use it the right way on *every trip*, whether it's just down the street or across the country. These experts are often associated with a local law enforcement agency or hospital. In addition, NHTSA offers [free resources](#) available for parents and caregivers to learn about the different car seat types, read research-based recommendations, and find and compare car seats.

Monthly Critical Crash Comparison: 2023 and 2024



Total as of 10/10/2024

WYDOT Completed Safety Treatment Locations (Active) as of October 10, 2024

District	Count	Annual Lifecycle Cost	Average Benefit to Cost	Annual Critical Crash Reduction
1	292	\$ 120,634.00	246.46	14.05
2	308	\$ 269,839.00	162.40	5.86
3	645	\$ 291,229.00	86.11	11.23
4	524	\$ 95,379.00	255.95	8.17
5	65	\$ 24,365.00	358.16	0.98
State	1,834	\$ 801,446.00	182.62	40.29