



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Public Health

[Suzanne LeDoyen](#), Public Health Educator, 919-250-3989

[Dara Demj](#), Communications Director, 919-856-7547

Communications After Hours

919-737-WAKE

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FREE CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS PART OF NATIONWIDE EFFORT TO SAVE KIDS' LIVES

Wake County Human Services, in partnership with Safe Kids Wake County, announced that free car seat inspections by Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and education will be available to the community as a part of National Child Passenger Safety Week that takes place September 13-19. Technicians will teach parents and caregivers how to choose the right car seats for their children, as well as how to install the seats correctly.

"There's danger on the road every time you leave your home," said Suzanne LeDoyen, Wake County's Buckle Up Coordinator. "The best way to protect your child is to have them in the right seat for the child's age and size and to use that seat correctly. All parents want their kids to be safe, and our seat check events will give them that peace of mind."

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children. Ledoyen reminds parents that: "Children depend on you to keep them safe. Even if kids are in the right seat, sometimes they're not buckled in properly." In 2013, 126,000 children under the age of 13 were injured as passengers in car crashes.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), National Child Passenger Safety Weeks goal is to make sure all parents and caregivers are correctly using the right restraint (rear-facing car seat, forward-facing car seat, booster seat or seat belt) for their children's ages and sizes. NHTSA recommends keeping children rear-facing as long as possible up to the top height or weight allowed by their particular seats. It's the best way to keep kids safe in cars. Once a child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, he/she is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness. After outgrowing the car seats, children should be placed in booster seats until they're big enough to use seat belts safely. The safest place for kids under 13 is in the back seat of the car.

Seat Checks/Educational Information will be provided by Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians from Human Services, Safe Kids Wake County and Knightdale Fire and

Rescue at the following locations:

Monday, September 14, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wake County Human Services Public Health Center Lobby
10 Sunnybrook Road, Raleigh NC

Wednesday, September 16, 2 – 4 p.m.

Target Parking Lot, Knightdale, NC
1000 Shoppes at Midway Drive, Knightdale NC

Thursday, September 17, 2 – 4 p.m.

Wake County Human Services Public Health Center
10 Sunnybrook Road, Raleigh

For more information on car seat and child car safety, as well as how to find other car seat check events, go to safercar.gov/parents or call 919-250-3989.

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