Background

- 30.4% of 4-7 year-olds unrestrained or in seat belt (DOT HS 813 033. May 2021)
- California Law
  - Children under 8 years must be properly buckled into a child restraint (VEH27360)
  - Permits children 8 years & older to use safety belt if fits properly (VEH 27360.5)
- 2018-2020 Orange County Children <8 years of age
  - 5 fatalities. 866 nonfatal injuries.

Methods

Target Population: Low-income families

- 85% identified as Hispanic/Latino
- Self-Guided, Online, 15-minute, HIPAA-compliant, educational module
- English and Spanish
- Content: age-size-appropriate child occupant protection devices, current CA state law

Neighborhood Distribution Hubs

- Staff training
- Custom QR-code postcards for sites
- Provided booster seat in a bag, educational materials, and liability waiver

Three-Month Follow-up Electronic Survey

Results

- 3 Virtual Training Workshops (6/21-12/21)
- 11 Organization participants (distribution sites)
  - Family resource centers, school districts, law enforcement, and community-based organizations
- 125 booster seats distributed to children 5-11 years of age

Reasons Child Needed a Booster Seat (125 Fitted)

- 10% Outgrew car seat
- 16% Booster seat damaged, in crash, or purchased second-hand
- 6% Booster seat needed for 2nd vehicle
- 68% Child did not have a booster seat (Using vehicle seat belt only)

Three-Month Follow-up Electronic Survey: 100/125 (80%) Respondents

- 99% Children were using the booster seat
- 98% Parents stated the lap/shoulder belt fit better with the booster seat
- 100% Agreed that “children may need to ride in a booster seat until 10-12 years of age”

Conclusions

- Virtual platform
  - Convenient
  - Efficient
  - Cost-saving
  - Access barriers are eliminated
  - Model for bicycle helmets and water safety parent education
- Pandemic Lessons Learned:
  - Online modules for education and post-assessment
  - Successful model
  - Can be used at in-person events
  - Content can be easily updated

Acknowledgments

Clinic in the Park, a fiscally sponsored project of the American Academy of Pediatrics-Orange County Chapter

Key partners: Sandra Murray MD, UCI & AAP-OC; AAP-OC: Jamie McDonald MPH, ED, Emma Course, Coordinator; • Lauren Tabios MPH; Sara Brown PhD, UCI.

American Academy of Pediatrics-Orange County Chapter

- Melinda Hoag Smith Center for Healthy Living, Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

References


Booster Seats in a Bag: A Pandemic Innovation

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