

Booster Seats in a Bag: A Pandemic Innovation

Phyllis Agran, MD, MPH^(1,2) • Erin Malone, MPH⁽²⁾ • Al Valdez, PhD^(1,2)

Clinic in the Park, a fiscally sponsored project of AAP-OC



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.
- No Child Unrestrained: Reaching the Hard to Reach with Booster Seats
- Pre-COVID-19 in-person events
 - Low-income communities
 - No child properly restrained
 - Expanded definition of selection, direction, location, installation, harnessing, **and proper restraint use all the time in all vehicles in which the child travels**

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
- 3-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)

3-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

(Poster Presentation. Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine. Portland, OR. October 12, 2022.)

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