

Title of Intervention: The Effects of a Mandatory Child Restraint Law on Injuries Requiring Hospitalization

Intervention Strategies: Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To reduce traffic injuries in children

Population: General population

Setting: Michigan; community-based

Partners: None mentioned

Intervention Description:

- Environments and Policies: A mandatory child restraint law was enacted in Michigan in 1982.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Not mentioned
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space Not mentioned:
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Law enactment
- Evaluation: Michigan Inpatient Data Base, statistical software, personnel

Evaluation:

- Design: Pre and post
- Methods and Measures: Data was gathered to test the effect of the law. The Michigan Inpatient Data Base provided the data for the analysis.

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: There was a significant decline in hospitalization for all injuries, with a significant decline for head injuries and extremity injuries for children younger than 4 years. In addition, length of stay declined for children hospitalized secondary to motor vehicle crashes.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: This intervention confirms the effectiveness of the child restraint law in Michigan. Current hospital databases may be able to serve as one component for the implementation of comprehensive injury surveillance systems.

Citation(s):

Margolis, L. H., A. C. Wagenaar, et al. (1988). "The effects of a mandatory child restraint law on injuries requiring hospitalization." *Am J Dis Child* 142(10): 1099-103.