

Title of Intervention: Infant Car Seat Loaner Programs

Intervention Strategies: Environments and Policies, Individual Education, Provider Education

Purpose of the Intervention: To increase car seat use

Population: Mother and infant pairs

Setting: Shawnee Mission Medical Center and pediatrician offices, suburban Kansas City; health care facility-based

Partners: None mentioned

Intervention Description:

- **Environments and Policies:** Mothers in the intervention group were offered a loaner restraint seat at the time of discharge from the hospital after delivering their infants. Mothers in the control group received a physician's order for a mock-up demonstration on how to use child restraint seats and a physician's order that their infants be discharged in a car seat.
- **Individual Education:** When mothers in the intervention group were released from the hospital, a staff person demonstrated how to put the infant into the restraint seat, how to carry the infant in the seat out to the car and how to fasten the restraint seat in the automobile with the seat belt. They also received a mock-up demonstration of the correct method of fastening the baby into the car seat and the car seat into the automobile seat and written handouts of how to use a car seat with an infant. At the 1 month well child visit, pediatricians gave mothers in the control group a mock up and handouts of a "pep talk" on child passenger safety.
- **Provider Education:** The obstetrics staff attended one in-service education class where a brief lecture was given on the importance of infant restraint seat usage, followed by an informational question and answer period. A demonstration on proper placement into a car seat, using an infant who belonged to a member of the nursing staff, was also conducted. Pediatricians were alerted by placing a yellow sticker on the patient's chart to provide educational materials on infant car safety.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- **Staff/Volunteers:** Not mentioned
- **Training:** In-service education class for obstetrics staff
- **Technology:** Not mentioned
- **Space:** Room for training session
- **Budget:** Not mentioned
- **Intervention:** Loaner car seats, staff, handouts, chart reminder stickers
- **Evaluation:** Observers

Evaluation:

- **Design:** Randomized controlled
- **Methods and Measures:** At discharge, an unobtrusive observer noted the exact placement of each of the infants in their respective family cars and recorded whether a restraint seat was used and whether it was used correctly.

Outcomes:

- **Short Term Impact:** Not measured
- **Long Term Impact:** On the first ride home, intervention mothers demonstrated significantly greater correct use of the loaner restraint seat than the control mothers. The difference was no longer significant at four- to six-week follow-up.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Not mentioned

Citation(s):

Christophersen, E., Sullivan MA (1982). "Increasing the protection of newborn infants in cars." *Pediatrics* 70(1): 21-5.

Christophersen, E. R., D. Sosland-Edelman, et al. (1985). "Evaluation of two comprehensive infant car seat loaner programs with 1-year follow-up." *Pediatrics* 76(1): 36-42.