



NASS Special Study on Child Occupant Protection

INNOVATING FAMILY-FOCUSED AUTO SAFETY

A Track Record of Success and Value

Because more children today are riding in age-appropriate restraints, fewer are injured in motor vehicle crashes. Children also no longer die due to air bag deployment. These advances in child passenger safety came from rigorous child occupant-focused research. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), through its Partners for Child Passenger Safety (PCPS) crash surveillance system, played a leadership role in these successes. PCPS helped save thousands of children's lives by informing new product development, test protocols and regulation, education, policy and medical practice. After proving its validity and usefulness, PCPS ended data collection Dec. 31, 2007.

CHOP, Industry and NHTSA See a Critical Need

Despite these advances, motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death and acquired disability for children in this country. The landscape continues to evolve as the auto industry faces a critical juncture. Innovation must continue to flourish. In order to drive the future of family-focused vehicle safety, government experts, researchers, safety advocates and industry members must have credible, high-quality data. CHOP and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recognize this need and are collaborating in a series of feasibility and pilot studies. Funded by committed partners from the auto industry, the goal of these studies is to develop the specifications for a sustainable system that would leverage the existing federal transportation safety infrastructure, the National Automotive Sampling System (NASS).

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The proposed NASS Special Study on Child Occupant Protection (NASS-COP) would use NHTSA's NASS infrastructure to identify children in crashes and apply rigorous child-focused data collection methodology to obtain in-depth crash information for children. NASS-COP will serve as the platform upon which government, industry and the auto safety research and advocacy community can partner to improve motor vehicle safety for children and youth. The data will facilitate innovations in family-focused vehicle safety that could include:

- better vehicle design that incorporates the unique safety needs of children and youth
- improved child restraints and booster seats that better protect children of different sizes and weights
- guidance that drivers need to maximize the safety of children and youth in vehicles

A Call to Action

Please join The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and other transportation safety advocates as they seek public support, supplementing private investment, to ensure that this life-saving, child-focused data will be available. A novel, public-private initiative, NASS-COP will enable promising innovations in automobile design and child passenger safety products that will make our nation's roadways safer for all children.

For more information on NASS-COP, please contact Suzanne Hill at hillsu@email.chop.edu.

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