Proper use of child restraints can reduce the risk of death in passenger cars by 71% for infants and by 54% for toddlers between 1-4 years old.

- In a 2016 report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration it was cited that 59% of car seats were improperly used in vehicles.
- Car accidents are the leading cause of death in children 1 to 13 years old in the United States.
- In 2016, 29% of the Missouri children killed or seriously injured in a car crash were not secured in a safety seat or seat belt.
- Missouri’s law currently requires children less than 1 year old to be rear facing in cars and has no rear seat requirement for older children. This is outdated from current American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines and places children at unneeded risk.
- In recent studies, over a third of 17- to 19-month-olds were not following these guidelines. A fifth of children were forward-facing at 12 months of age.
- Be sure to check the car seat expiration date. Car seats do need to be replaced after years of use, UV exposure and extreme temperatures.

Current AAP guidelines include:
- Children should be rear facing until the age of 2 years old, and they reach the maximum size allowance for their rear-facing car seat.
- Smaller children should be in a five point forward facing harness until they reach the maximum size allowance for their car seat.
- Older children should be in a booster seat until they are taller than 4’9”.
- No child should ride in the front seat until the age of 13 years old.

ACTION IS NEEDED IN MISSOURI
Update Missouri law to be consistent with AAP recommendations.
Let’s keep toddlers rear facing until age 2!