Motor vehicle crashes are the second-leading cause of death for children 4 to 10 years old. 340 children this age died in motor vehicle crashes in 2012.

Although seat belts are safer than nothing at all, children who should be in booster seats but wear only seat belts are at risk of severe abdominal, head and spinal injuries in the event of a crash.

Safe Kids Worldwide surveyed 1,000 parents of 4 to 10 year olds. The study found seven in ten parents do not know that a child should be at least 57 inches (4’9”) to ride in a car using a seat belt without a booster seat.

The study revealed 9 out of 10 parents move their child from a booster seat to seat belt before their child is big enough.

One in five parents whose children carpool say they “bend the rules” when driving, letting children ride without seat belts and without the car seat or booster seat they would normally use.

And 61 percent of parents say they notice other carpool drivers bending the rules.

What to Know about Booster Seats

Booster seats protect children who are too big for a car seat but too small for a seat belt.

Seat belts don’t fit children properly until they are at least 57” (4’9”) tall and weigh between 80 and 100 pounds.

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Buckle up every ride, every time, in the right seat.

REMEMBER: A child needs to be at least 57” tall (4’9”) and weigh between 80 and 100 pounds to ride with just a seat belt.

Learn more at www.safekids.org