

Study: Are Rear-Facing Car Seats Safe In Rear-End Crashes?

Front and side impacts have been extensively researched, but rear-impacts are rarely studied

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	IT'S ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS THAT PARENTS MAKE, BUT IT CAN ALSO BE ONE OF THE MOST CONFUSING — BUYING THE RIGHT CAR SEAT. NEXT IN HEALTH NEWS, A NEW STUDY THAT'S PROVIDING ANSWERS TO KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE.
ANCHOR LEAD	<p>THEY ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 25 PERCENT OF ALL ACCIDENTS², YET REAR-IMPACT CRASHES ARE RARELY TALKED ABOUT WHEN IT COMES TO CAR SEAT SAFETY.</p> <p>YOU MIGHT ASSUME THAT FACING THE DIRECTION OF A COLLISION WOULD CAUSE A CHILD TO BE MORE AT RISK, BUT A NEW STUDY SHOWS THAT'S NOT THE CASE.</p> <p>BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS ON HOW RESEARCHERS ARE EASING PARENT'S FEARS ABOUT KEEPING THEIR KIDS SAFE.</p>
<p>(PACKAGE START) ----- CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center :00 - :03 Shot of family getting into car Photo of totaled car</p> <p>CG: Chris Burlile Dad</p> <p>Shots of car seat in car</p> <p>Shots of Chris putting baby in car seat</p>	<p>(Nats - Car Door Closing) :02</p> <p>WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A ROUTINE ERRAND FOR CHRIS AND AIMEE BURLILE (burr-LIE-el) TURNED OUT TO BE ANYTHING BUT. :05</p> <p><i>"We did about a full 360 and then about the time we hit the grass embankment and we ended up rolling down the hill."</i> :06</p> <p>IN THE BACKSEAT, THEIR 12 WEEK OLD DAUGHTER AMELIA. PROTECTED BY HER REAR-FACING CAR SEAT, SUFFERED ONLY A SCRATCH.</p> <p>ROLLOVERS ARE A RARE AND OFTEN DANGEROUS SITUATION - BUT THERE ARE OTHER MORE COMMON CRASH SCENARIOS THAT RESEARCHERS ARE BEGINNING TO INVESTIGATE. :14</p> <p>(Nats - Buckle snapping) :01</p>

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<p>CG: Julie Mansfield Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>Shots of Mansfield putting dummy in car seat</p> <p>Julie Mansfield (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of Mansfield reviewing results Shot of Chris putting up carrier handle Shot of anti-rebound bar car seat Photos of the car seats tested during the study Shot of rear-end collision</p> <p>Julie Mansfield (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of Julie putting a dummy into car seat</p> <p>Shot of Chris carrying car seat out of house</p> <p>Chris Burlile (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of mom picking baby up out of car seat</p> <p>(PACKAGE END) ----- ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p>EXPERTS KNOW THAT REAR-FACING CAR SEATS PROTECT CHILDREN IN BOTH FRONT AND SIDE IMPACTS, BUT REAR-IMPACTS ARE RARELY STUDIED. :07</p> <p><i>“That's good because, it's because children really aren't getting hurt that often in rear impact scenarios. But it's a question that comes up a lot with parents.” :08</i></p> <p>SO JULIE MANSFIELD AND HER TEAM AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER CONDUCTED AN EXPERIMENT TO DETERMINE JUST HOW EFFECTIVE CAR SEATS ARE IN REAR-END COLLISIONS. :09</p> <p><i>“What we found aligns really well with what we know from crash data in the real world, and that was that these rear-facing car seats protected very well in this crash condition.” :07</i></p> <p>RESEARCHERS INVESTIGATED THE EFFECTS OF REAR-FACING SEATS WITH VARIOUS SAFETY FEATURES, INCLUDING CARRY HANDLE POSITIONS AND ANTI-REBOUND BARS. THEY FOUND THAT ALL WERE EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING INJURIES IN THE REAR IMPACT SCENARIO STUDIED. :12</p> <p><i>“Hopefully this data can help show them that despite their child facing the direction of impact in this scenario, these seats still have the ability to keep their child very safe.” :09</i></p> <p>MANSFIELD SAYS PARENTS SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDED HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND AGE GUIDELINES WHEN CHOOSING THE SAFEST SEAT FOR THEIR CHILD — SOMETHING CHRIS IS THANKFUL THEY FOLLOWED. :08</p> <p><i>“I'm really glad we did because it, you know that thing that we never thought would happen actually did happen.” :04</i></p> <p>AT OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING :03</p> <hr/> <p>EXPERTS SAY THAT WHEN INSTALLED PROPERLY, REAR-FACING CAR SEATS INTERACT NATURALLY WITH YOUR VEHICLE, GENTLY ABSORBING REAR-IMPACTS TO CONTROL THE MOTION OF YOUR CHILD AND KEEP THEM SAFE.</p>
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SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p> <p> Suggested post:</p>	<p>Experts know that rear-facing car seats protect children in front and side-impact crashes, but what about when the crash comes from behind? A new study by @OSUWexMed investigated just how effective car seats are in rear-end collisions. http://bit.ly/2I2jHSq</p> <hr/> <p>Rear impact crashes are rarely talked about in terms of car-seat safety despite the fact that they account for more than 25-percent of all accidents. How a new study from The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center is making sure that your kids are safe, even in a worst case scenario. http://bit.ly/2I2jHSq</p>
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EXTRA BITES

<p>CG: Julie Mansfield Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>CG: Chris Burlile Dad</p>	<p>Mansfield says the research findings match up with real world crash data: <i>“What we found aligns really well with what we know from crash data in the real world, and that was that these rear-facing car seats protected very well in this crash condition. We did look at some different features of the different seats, but they all performed really well.”</i></p> <p>Mansfield says parents shouldn’t be worried about their child facing the direction of a collision: <i>“Even though the child is facing the direction of the impact, it doesn’t necessarily mean that this rear-facing car seat isn’t going to do its job. It still has lots of different features and mechanisms to absorb that crash energy and protect the child.”</i></p> <p>Mansfield says rear-facing car seats are important for newborns and young children: <i>“The rear-facing seat is able to support the child’s head, neck, and spine and keep those really vulnerable body regions very well protected. Those regions are especially vulnerable in the newborns and the younger children whose spine and vertebrae haven’t fused and haven’t developed yet.”</i></p> <hr/> <p>Burlile says a rear-facing car seat worked to protect Amelia: <i>“She was strapped down pretty tight. So there wasn’t a lot of separation from her from the seat and then coming back and impacting with her head against the pad. And then we got really lucky because as it rolled where we kept her in so tight, even when she came down on the sides and the back because it was so padded she was getting padding every time that she came around.”</i></p> <p>Burlile says he and Aimee educated themselves to properly use</p>
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**CG: Chris Burlile
Dad**

the car seat:
“We went through the little course, five or ten minutes to show us how to properly install it. You know they gave their recommendations on how to make sure that it was better secured and things like that.”

References

¹Children Traffic Safety Facts 2016, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, February 2018. Online: <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812491>

²Traffic Safety Facts: Crash Stats, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, December 2017. Online: <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812401>

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