

Car Seat Check Up

Child Motor Vehicle Restraint System use in Children with Special Needs

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Background

- Motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) are the leading cause of death in North American children.
- Improper use of child safety-seats (CSS), and premature use of seat belts result in an elevated risk of injuries in the event of a MVA.
- We know very little about how children with disabilities, are being restrained while travelling in motor vehicles.

Canadian National Safety Mark



- Car seats used in Canada are mandated to bear the National Safety Mark
- There are limited, commercially available Child Safety Seats that bear the National Safety Mark that meet the needs of our children with special needs.

Proposed study

- One year-long study investigating the CSS practices of New Brunswick families whose children have special needs.
- Occupational Therapist will correct any installation or fit errors if possible, and provide education and recommendations to families as appropriate.
- Equipment upgrades and referrals offered if necessary.

Objectives

- Gather data to determine how New Brunswick children with special needs are being transported in motor-vehicles.
- Provide evidence that new comprehensive guidelines are needed.
- Initiate production of community safety resources
- Contribute to sparse literature.

Family challenges

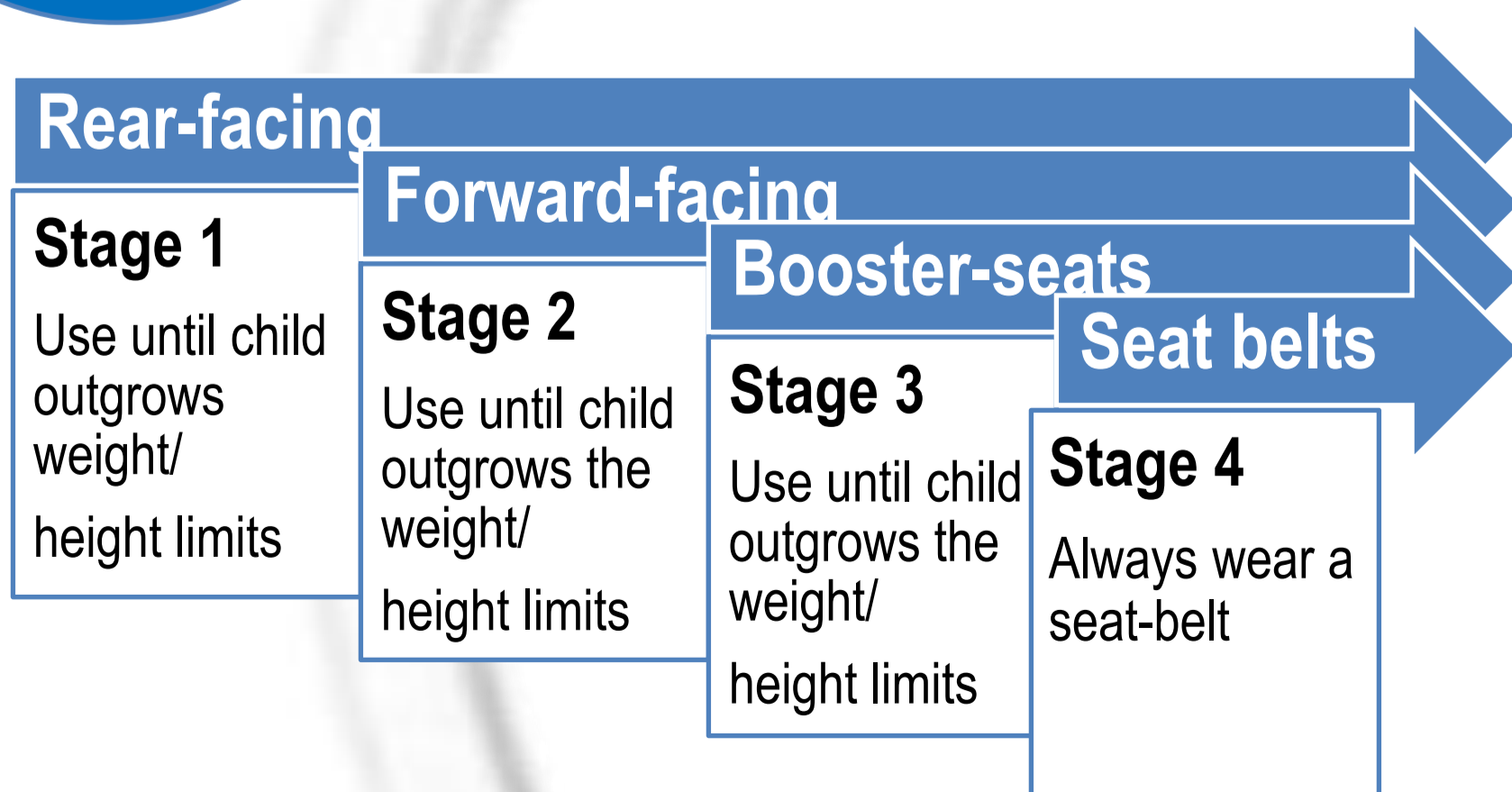
- Canadian families must choose between purchasing a CSS designed for typically developing children, which has the National Safety Mark, or importing a CSS into Canada. Under CMVSS 213.3
- Outdated guidelines from Transport Canada are not helpful in determining best practise for families.



Methodology

- Inclusion criteria: Infant/child en between ages 0-21 travelling in a personal vehicle to receive outpatient services from the Stan Cassidy Centre Paediatric Neuromotor team.
- Descriptive statistics (means and frequency counts) will be analyzed from the Child Restraint Inspection form and stratified by demographics information collected.

Transport Canada



Clinical challenges



- Canadian clinicians need to prescribe CSS which do not bear the National Safety Mark.
- Clinicians have very little resources to help guide clinical practise for CSS prescription.
- Families have no valid guidelines to help make safe decisions re: CSS use

Anticipated Impact

- Contribution to sparse literature.
- Enhanced child safety.
- Knowledge mobilization
- Call for action for policy makers and CSS manufacturers.

(adapted from Transport Canada.ca)