



## **VIRGINIA CRASHES SEAT BELT RESTRAINTS**

- The 1995 Virginia Traffic Crash Facts, a report by Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles showed most crash fatalities in 1995 occurred to passengers who were not using any type of safety restraints (seat belts, child safety seats or air bags).
- In 1995, there were 750 crash fatalities in Virginia. The majority of those killed (471 fatalities, or 66.1%) were passengers who did not use any type of safety restraints.
- Forty-two percent of those who were killed while not using any safety restraints were children age 16 or under.

## **NATIONAL CHILD SAFETY BELT FACTS**

- Children ages 4 and under account for nearly 40 percent of all childhood motor vehicle occupant deaths and nearly 30 percent of injuries.
- More than 330,000 children ages 14 and under are injured in motor vehicle-crashes each year. Nearly 85 percent, or 280,000 children, are passengers in motor vehicles.
- From 1982 through 1994, it is estimated that 2,655 lives were saved by child restraint use. More than 300 children ages 4 and under had their lives saved as a result of child restraint use alone.
- All 50 states, the District of Columbia and all U.S. Territories have child occupant protection laws in effect.
- Only 11 states have primary enforcement laws. States with primary enforcement laws have higher usage rates and lower fatality and injury rates.

For more information on seat belt laws and usage, contact the George Mason University's Center for the Advancement of Public Health at (703) 993-3697 or your local police department.