

Knowledge, Practice and Attitudes of Parents Toward child Car Seat Safety in Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: According to motor vehicle collisions reports, Saudi Arabia experiences about 19 fatalities and 4 injuries per day. There are many different options available for car seat safety (CSS). The best option is to use appropriate safety seats for children of age, which offer significantly more protection than the back seats.

Aim: To assess the knowledge, practice, and attitudes of children's car seat safety among parents in Saudi Arabia.

Methods: This observational cross-sectional study was conducted on April 2022 using an online self-administered questionnaire. Male and female parents with children under seven years old were included in the study. SPSS Version 23 was used for statistical analysis. Descriptive analysis in percentages and frequencies was used to present categorical variables. A significance value, $p < 0.05$, was considered statistically significant.

Results: Three thousand forty-one parents from different regions of Saudi Arabia participated in the study. The age range of parents was 20-50 years old. About one-half of participants (50.6%) always use the car seat for their child, and 15.9% of them sometimes use a car seat; however, 33.5% of parents don't use the car seat for their child. The most common reason for using the car seat was to ensure the protection of their child (99.4%). On the other hand, 1019 parents (33.5%) don't use the car seat for their child for different reasons including; my child's resistance to sitting in the car seat (57.3%), there is not enough space for a car seat inside the vehicle (48.1%), or car seats' prices are high (40.1%). About half (52.6%) of parents believed that a child car seat should be used from birth. The majority of parents (83.9%) agreed that using the car seat for the child helps to focus more on driving. Most of parent did not think that using a seat belt for the child replaces a child seat (73.4%) or their lap is safer than a car seat during accidents (77%). 59.6% of parents were supporters of the fines system for not securing a car seat for children. Age, education, family members, and region were significant factors ($P < 0.001$) affecting the behavior regarding the seat belt, but income was not a significant factor ($P = 0.019$).

Conclusion: This study demonstrated that Saudi parents lack the required knowledge, attitude, and practices toward children's car seat safety. This highlights the necessity for parents to raise their knowledge to keep their children safe when driving.

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