



Safety Talking Points

Parent Check List



50% of children hit by cars near schools are hit by parents of other students (*Washington State DOT*).

When Driving:

- ✓ Stop and look for pedestrians crossing when making a right hand turn on a red light.
- ✓ Residential streets are designed for local use. Use major streets as much as possible.
- ✓ Expect the unexpected and be prepared to stop suddenly when children are present.
- ✓ Look for pedestrians when pulling out of driveways and when driving near vending trucks, buses, parks and schools.
- ✓ Your vehicle is a deadly weapon against a human body. Drive alert and watch out.

When Walking or Biking:

- ✓ Children learn from watching what adults do.
- ✓ Do not cross between parked cars.
- ✓ Use signals correctly and walk only on the green “walk” signal.
- ✓ Walk with your child and explain traffic safety rules.
- ✓ Walk alert. See and be seen.

(*California Safe Routes to Schools website www.dhs.ca.gov/routes2school*)

Marin and Cars



While Marin’s population has stayed relatively stable over the past three decades, the number of cars has skyrocketed:

Population Increase from 1970 – 2002 was 208,000 to 250,000
= a 19% increase.

Number of registered vehicles from 1970 – 2002 was 134,000 to 239,000
= a 73 % increase.

Marin County has nearly one car per resident.



79% of daily trips are made by Marin residents driving within Marin.

70% of trips in Marin are made by people driving alone.

Marin trips are up 10% in less than a decade.

21% of morning traffic is school related.

Child Abductions



Marin County is the safest spot for youth in the Bay Area – (*Keeping Youth Safe: A Report on violence prevention in the Bay Area. Prepared by the United Way of the Bay Area 2005.*)



90% of sexual abuse is committed by someone a child knows.
78% of child abductions are committed by family members.



“If your child is ever lost in public, the ability to talk to strangers is actually the single greatest asset he or she could have. For every person you encounter who might hurt your children there are literally millions who will not.” (*Gavin de Becker designer of the MOSAIC threat assessment and author of Protecting the Gift.*)

Some Statistics



Percentage of United States commutes done on foot is 2.9%.
Percentage of U.S. federal transportation funds spent on pedestrian/bicycle facilities is .06%.
Percentage of U.S. trips under a ½ mile that are made in a vehicle is 47%.
Average amount of time spent in a car per day is 68 minutes.
It takes about 5 minutes to walk a ¼ mile or bike a ½ mile.



A pedestrian struck by a car traveling:
40 mph has a 15% chance of survival
30 mph has a 55% chance of survival
20 mph has a 85% chance of survival



SUVs, vans and pickups killed child pedestrians at a slightly higher rate in 1997-2001 than cars and not just because more SUVs are on the road. Children are at risk from larger vehicles because vehicle heights and longer hoods obstruct drivers' views.

Sources: Federal Highway Administration; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Transportation Authority of Marin; National Household Travel Survey; Surface Transportation Policy Project