

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#2018-04

CONTACT for this Release:
Krista Dommer, Coordinator
Public Information and Communication
Office Phone: (209) 468-3571
Email: kdommer@sjcphs.org

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES RECEIVES GRANT FOR CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Grant to focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities in crash- related injuries

STOCKTON, CA (November 15, 2018) - The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has awarded an \$85,000 grant to the San Joaquin County Public Health Services Injury Prevention Program to support child passenger safety education and training programs aimed at helping parents and caretakers make sure their children are riding safely. The grant covers the 2019 federal fiscal year, which is from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

Funding from OTS will support a variety of activities to promote occupant safety and decrease injuries and deaths due to improper use of car seats and booster seats, including:

- Conducting car seat and booster seat check-ups at Public Health Services and in the community
- Promoting child passenger safety through education classes at community locations
- Training new Child Passenger Safety Technicians
- Working with diverse community-based organizations to reduce motor vehicle crash- related injuries and fatalities among children of color

According to county data, children of color are disproportionately affected by motor vehicle crash injuries. From 2010-2014, Hispanic children ages 0-7 accounted for 21 of the county's 33 hospitalizations and 611 of the 1,358 emergency department (ED) visits related to motor vehicle collisions; black children in the same age group had an ED visit rate 2.8 times higher than white children.

A nationwide survey conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that two out of three car seats are misused. Car crashes remain the leading cause of death for children, and car seats, used correctly, save lives by reducing the risk of injury or death.

"If you're not sure your car seat is installed correctly, or if you have questions about what kind of seat is right for your child, Public Health Services has bi-lingual NHTSA- certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians who can help," advises Dr. Kismet Baldwin, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer. Car seat check-up appointments can be scheduled by calling 209-468-8914.

"Children are our future and it is important that parents and caretakers keep children safe by using the right car seat, and installing it correctly," OTS Director Rhonda Craft said. "Funding for child passenger safety education and training is critical to ensuring children are as safe as possible in vehicles."

Funding for this child passenger safety program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

#