

# First United Nations Global Road Safety Week

23 – 29 April 2007



**ROAD SAFETY  
IS NO ACCIDENT**

The above week is an important opportunity for improving safety of children and young people who travel the road every day.

Each year road traffic crashes kill nearly 2 million people and injures or disables 20 – 50 million more people around the world( WHO). In South Africa, the cost of fatalities runs into billions, not to mention the cost of the immeasurable pain and suffering.

Road Accidents are the number one cause of unnatural deaths to children in South Africa. Passenger deaths rank 4<sup>th</sup>. (MRC). Good laws, proper enforcement and education are essential to reduce passenger injuries. Currently the South African law states that all children (children 3 years and older) have to be restrained in a seatbelt or car restraint if available. The current seatbelt legislation is unfortunately not properly enforced and parents and caregivers are unaware or ignorant about the dangers of not restraining children in motor vehicles.

Annually between 200 – 300 children with injuries as passengers are treated at the Trauma Unit of the Red Cross Children's Hospital alone, in Cape Town. Of these children between 84 – 87 % are not restrained in any way. This is an average of 18 children per month that are treated at this hospital for injuries sustained while a passenger.

Currently there is a great need to educate parents and caregivers about the risk when not restraining children in motor vehicles and also the correct way of restraining children.

During this Global Road Safety Week, the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of SA will be embarking on various activities at the Red Cross Children's Hospital and Schools to promote the importance of buckling up of children in motor vehicles

**For more information contact CAPFSA + 27 21 6855208**

