



# SAFETY TALKING POINTS



## PARENT CHECK LIST

### When Driving:

- ✓ When making a right-hand turn on a red light, stop and look for pedestrians crossing or bicyclists proceeding on your right.
- ✓ Residential streets are designed for local use. Use major streets as much as possible.
- ✓ Expect the unexpected. 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:

- ✓ Walk or bike with your child, explain traffic safety rules and obey the rules.
- ✓ Children learn by observing what adults do. If you fail to stop at stop signs, your children will too.
- ✓ Do not cross between parked cars.
- ✓ Use signals correctly and walk only on the green “walk” signal.
- ✓ Walk alert. Bike alert. See and be seen.

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## 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 Marin’s daily trips are made by 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.



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### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>. Source: Violent victimization rates by age, 1973–2003  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/tables/vagetab.htm>, 2004

<sup>2</sup>. Source: Finklehor & Ormrod, 2000

<sup>3</sup>. (*Keeping Youth Safe: A Report on violence prevention in the Bay Area. Prepared by the United Way of the Bay Area 2005.*)

<sup>4</sup>. (*Gavin de Becker designer of the MOSAIC threat assessment and author of Protecting the Gift.*)

<sup>5</sup>. Federal Highway Administration; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; National Household Travel Survey; Surface Transportation Policy Project

<sup>6</sup>. British Medical Association 2003.

## CHILD ABDUCTION<sup>1</sup>

- Kidnapping makes up less than 2% of all violent crimes against youth.
- There are three types of kidnappings against children: family, acquaintance, and stranger.
- The Office of Juvenile Justice has found very few (4%) of all kidnappings occur in the vicinity of a school.
- 90% of sexual abuse is committed by someone a child knows.
- 78% of child abductions are committed by family members.
- Marin County is the safest spot for youth in the Bay Area <sup>2</sup>
- “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.” <sup>3</sup>

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## SOME STATISTICS<sup>4</sup>

- 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 ½ mile that are made in a motor vehicle (non-public transit) is 47%.
- Average amount of time spent in a car per day is 68 minutes.
- It takes about 5 minutes to walk ¼ mile or bike ½ mile, biking at a slow rate, 10 mph (Cyclists typically go 15 mph or more).
- 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,
- Children are at risk from larger vehicles because the vehicle heights and longer hoods obstruct drivers’ views.
- In countries such as the Netherlands and Denmark which have seen an increase in the levels of cycling, there has been a corresponding decrease in casualty rates per mile as the roads have become safer.