

# Texas Safe Riders Program



## Program Overview and Services

### Purpose

Safe Riders is a Texas-wide child passenger safety (CPS) program dedicated to preventing deaths and reducing injuries to children due to motor vehicle crashes.

### History

Safe Riders has been providing CPS leadership in Texas since the passage of Texas' first seat belt law in 1985. It is funded by federal grant funds through the Texas Department of Transportation. Safe Riders is part of the Child Health and Safety Group, Health Promotion Unit, Department of State Health Services.

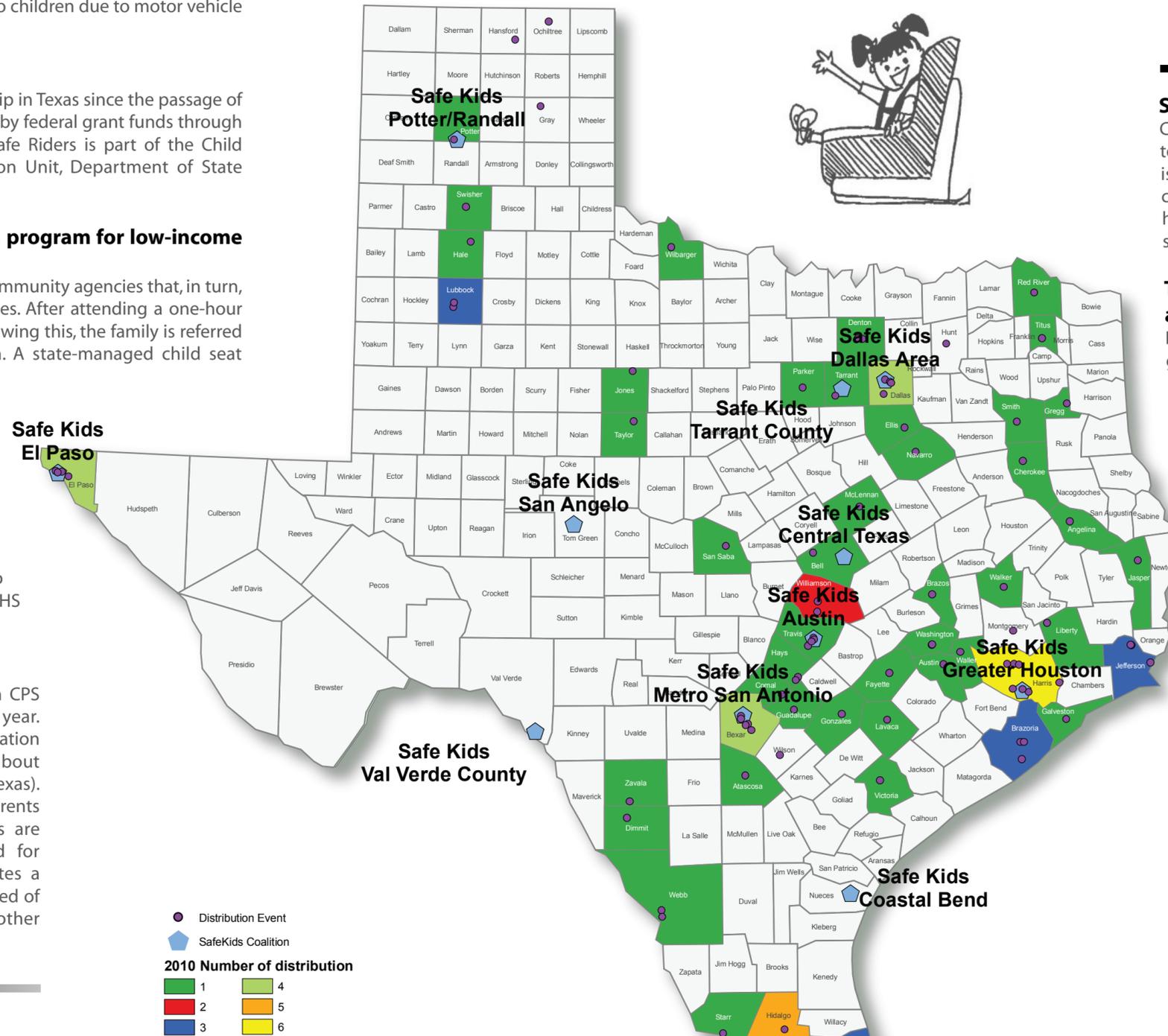
### Safety seat education & distribution program for low-income families.

DSHS Safe Riders manages about 94 local community agencies that, in turn, offer classes and seats to low-income families. After attending a one-hour class, a family receives a new child seat. Following this, the family is referred to a local inspection station or technician. A state-managed child seat distribution program was authorized by the Texas Legislature effective in 1994. From 10,000 to 15,000 seats are distributed each year in conjunction with educational programs. Safe Riders education & distribution program is systematic – clients call Safe Riders toll free at 800-252-8255 and are subsequently referred to a local program where they can obtain a seat. There are also 11 Safe Kids coalitions in major cities that DSHS Safe Riders collaborates with.

### CPS Technician training courses

Safe Riders organizes and teaches in-depth CPS workshops (28 to 32 hours each) each year. Successful students receive national certification as CPS technicians (there are currently about 1200 CPS technicians and instructors in Texas). Technicians offer child seat checkups to parents and caregivers. Refresher training courses are conducted and other support is offered for existing technicians. Safe Riders coordinates a statewide CPS Advisory Committee, composed of traffic safety specialists, grantees, and other community partners.

2010 Child Safety Seat Distribution and Education Program with Safe Kids Coalition Locations



### Safety seat checkups and inspection stations

Checkups offer parents and caregivers the opportunity to have their child's safety seat checked to make sure it is safe and used correctly. In 2007, Safe Riders conducted 25 checkups, 13 inspection stations, and helped 4 other community groups establish inspection stations in Texas.

### Traffic Safety presentations & community awareness workshops

Dozens of presentations to schools and community groups are conducted each year.

### Free Traffic safety educational materials

Over 400,000 traffic-safety educational materials are provided each year to hospitals, health clinics, schools, social service agencies and many others. An on-line order form is available.

### Texans Saved by the Belt

Persons who credit restraints with saving lives or preventing injuries are recognized with a commemorative pin and certificate. Many go on to publicly share their stories at media events. Newsletter with occupant protection news for the public is published. The current issue may be viewed online via Safe Riders' website (listed below).

Safe Riders contact information:  
Telephone 800-252-8255,  
Website [www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders)



Figure 1. Safe Riders Resources Purple circles represent 94 DSHS Safe Riders managed local community agencies that offer classes and seats to low-income families. After attending a one-hour class, a family receives a new child seat. Blue pentagons represent organizations that DSHS collaborates with, but does not manage. Counties with color have DSHS managed programs. Source: DSHS Safe Riders



Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Safe Riders Traffic Safety Program, 2010 Map produced by Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, GIS Staff, December 2010