

Group wants mandatory back-up cameras for cars

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Video Gallery [Group wants back-up cameras installed on cars](#) 1:48



Hundreds of small children are killed or injured each year in the U.S. when a car backs up over them, often at home. (Source: KNTV/CNN)

WASHINGTON (KNTV/NBC) - An advocacy group is calling for mandatory backup cameras for new cars to save children's lives, but some do not believe that is the best solution.

Hundreds of small children are killed or injured each year in the U.S. when a car backs up over them, often at home.

Emergency room physician Dr. Kevin Whitelaw treats victims every year.

"We've seen kids with no injuries, we screen them and send them home; we've seen kids who had torso or chest or head run over and died from those injuries," Whitelaw said.

KidsAndCars.org asked seven California hospitals to collect information about back-over injuries and fatalities from January 2005 to June 2007. The data reveals 46 kids were killed and 100 injured.

To help prevent these accidents, the group wants rearview cameras to be required in all new American-made cars, but some in the auto industry say it will cost too much.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Association has been considering a mandate since December 2010, since all cars have a blind spot in the rear. Toddlers as far as 10 feet away can be virtually invisible.

Still, Whitelaw worries rear-view cameras would give drivers a false sense of security.

"I'd be concerned that people would glance in rearview camera, not see a child and then back up," Whitelaw said. "What they should be doing is just being aware of the children that are in the vicinity of the car."

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<http://www.walb.com/story/16451539/group-wants-mandatory-back-up-cameras-for-cars>