Among 3,088 children ages birth to 17, 94.9% were properly restrained in accordance with Iowa law. 99.0% of 1-year-olds or younger were properly restrained. 92.5% of 2 to 5 year olds were properly restrained. 96.5% of 6 to 13 year olds were properly restrained. 92.3% of teens (ages 14-17) were using a seat belt. We surveyed 36 communities ranging in size from about 1,400 to 217,000 people each.
5.3% of toddlers (ages 2-5) were not properly* restrained

*were in seat belt only

This is a decrease from 2018 (6.2%).

Key Findings

- 2019 saw the highest number of unrestrained children aged 5 years and younger within the past 4 years.
- Unrestrained children were more likely to live in rural areas.
- Slight decreases in restraint use were observed in all age groups compared to 2018, with a larger decrease among teens, but overall rates still remained higher than the past 5-year average.

Of children not restrained, 47.1% rode in the front seat.

This survey was conducted by the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center with funding from the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau.