IS YOUR CHILD SAFE ON THE ROAD?
Results from Iowa’s 2021 Child Passenger Restraint Survey

- We observed children in 36 communities across the state ranging in size from rural (1,000-2,499) to urban (>50,000).
- 96.5% of child passengers were restrained by any means.
- 89.8% of child passengers were properly restrained in accordance with Iowa law.

The Percentage of Child Passenger Proper Restraint Use by Community Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Size</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Urban</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Findings & Implications:

- From 2020 to 2021, the child passenger restrained rate in Iowa increased 2.5% (from 94% to 96.5%).
- The child properly restrained rate was slightly lower in rural communities (89.6%) than in urban communities (89.9%).
- As age increased, children were less likely to be restrained (100% of child passengers under age 5 were restrained while 88% of child passengers ages 14 to 17 were restrained).
- 89.8% of all child passengers were properly restrained, which was a 3.2% decrease from 93% properly restrained in 2020.
- Efforts to improve road safety should target increasing proper restraint use in rural areas and among older children and educating both parents and children on proper restraint use.

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Child Passengers Across All Age Groups Had Increased Restraint Use

- Under age 1, from 2009-2019: 1.6%
- Aged 1-5, from 2006-2019: 17.1%
- Aged 6-11, from 2006-2019: 14.9%
- Aged 12-17, from 2010-2019: 14.4%

Trends In Drivers Seatbelt Use & Child Passenger Restraint Use

- A total of 44,996 child passengers from age 0 to 17 years were observed among 36 sites from 2005-2019.
- 89.5% of child passengers were properly restrained in accordance with Iowa law.
- Around 9.1% of drivers were unbelted, and 8.2% of children were completely unrestrained.
- Unbelted drivers were 11 times more likely to have an unrestrained child passenger compared with belted drivers.
- Unbelted teenage drivers were 33 times more likely to have an unrestrained child passenger.

The Percentage of Child Passenger Restraint Use with Unbelted Drivers, 2005 – 2019

- Child passenger unrestrained (51.8%)
- Child passenger restrained (48.2%)

Trends In Child Passenger Restraint Use By Rurality & Age

- Child passengers were 18% less likely to be unrestrained as age increased.
- Restraint use was highest among the youngest child passengers.
- Adolescents 12-17 years of age had the lowest restraint use (85.5%).
- Urban areas had consistently higher child restraint use (90.4%) compared to rural areas (85.4%).

The Percentage of Child Passenger Proper Restraint Use by Different Age Groups

References: