Are Iowa Children Buckled Up?

Results from Iowa’s 2022 Child Passenger Restraint Survey

- **98.6%** of children were restrained by any means.
- **99.8%** of drivers wore seatbelts.

% Properly Restrained in Accordance with Iowa Law

Among 3,048 children ages 17 and under, **91.9%** were properly restrained.

- 1-year-olds or younger: **96.5%**
- 2 to 5 year olds: **78.6%**
- 6 to 13 year olds: **97.6%**
- 14 to 17 year olds: **98.8%**

Proper Child Passenger Restraint Use by Community Size

- Rural: 91.2% properly restrained
- Town: 93.1% properly restrained
- Small Urban: 93.1% properly restrained
- Urban: 91.2% properly restrained

Key Findings

- Children between the ages 2 to 5 had the highest rate of being improperly restrained (booster or seatbelt only instead of a child safety seat).
- The lowest proper restraint use rates occurred in the smallest communities (1,000-2,499), while communities with a population size of 2,500-9,999 had the lowest restraint rates by any means.
- 2022 had the highest rate of restrained children by any means in the past 5 years.
- Observed driver restraint rates in 2022 were consistent with the previous year (99.8% vs 99.7%).

Implications

The greatest potential impact for efforts to increase restraint are in rural areas and among young children, especially toddlers.

We surveyed 36 communities ranging in a population from 1,400 to 217,000.

Injury Prevention Research Center