

Are Iowa Children Buckled Up?

Results from Iowa's 2023 Child Passenger Restraint Survey



91.7%

of children were restrained by any means.

93.3%

of drivers wore seatbelts.

% Properly Restrained in Accordance with Iowa Law

Among 3,034 children ages 17 and under

84.5%

were properly restrained in accordance with Iowa law.

100%

1-year-olds or younger

A child 1 year or younger and weighing <20 lbs must be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system.

76.2%

2 to 5 year olds

A child from age 2 to 5 years old must be secured in a child restraint system.

88.9%

6 to 13 year olds

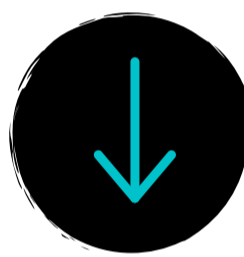
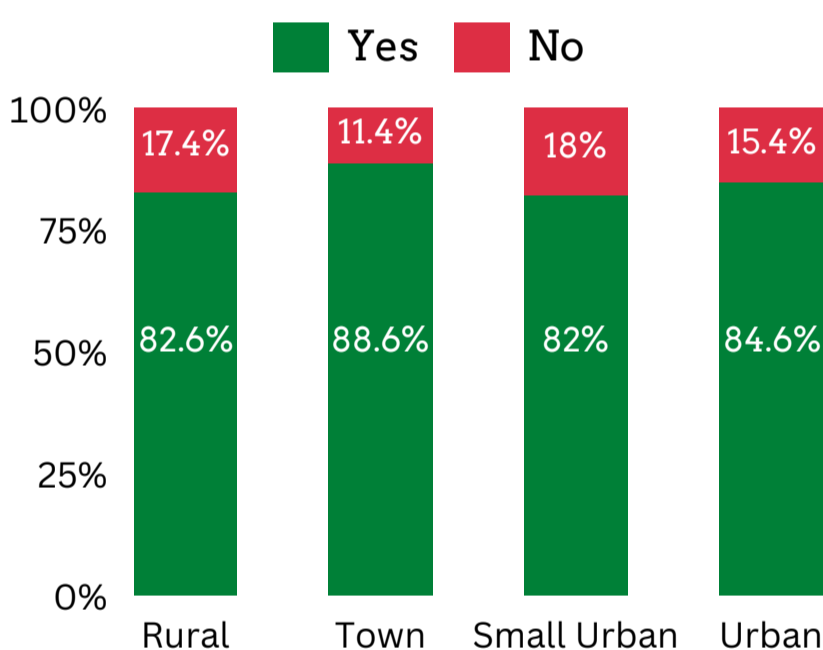
A child from age 6 to 13 must be secured in a child restraint system or by a safety belt.

80.1%

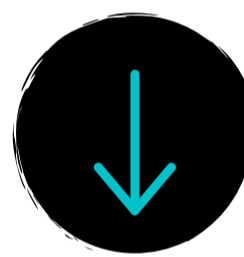
14 to 17 year olds

A child from age 14-17 must be in a child restraint system or by a safety belt.

Proper Child Passenger Restraint Use by Community Size



7.4% Decrease in Properly Restrained Children in 2023 Compared to 2022



14.2% Decrease in Unrestrained Children in the Back Seat in 2023 Compared to 2022



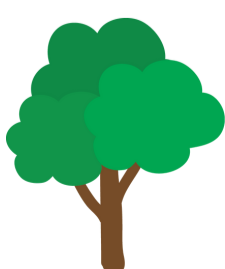
Key Findings

- 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 small urban communities (10,000-49,999), these communities also had the lowest restraint rates by any means.
- 2023 had the lowest rate of restrained children by any means in the past 5 years.
- Observed driver restraint rates in 2023 decreased by 6.5% with the previous year (93.3% vs 99.8%).

Implications

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

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



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