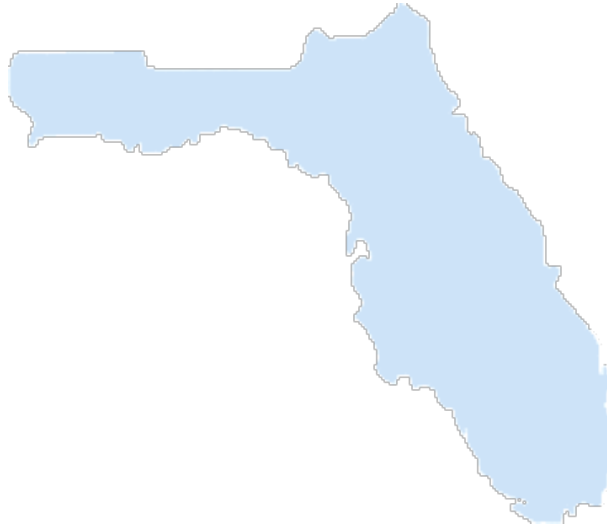


2025 Child Restraint Survey Final Report



**Prepared for:
Florida Department of Transportation
State Safety Office**

**Prepared by:
Preusser Research Group, Inc.**

June 2025

Protecting Children Riding in Passenger Vehicles

Child safety seats have been shown to reduce fatal injury by 71 percent for infants (under 1-year old) and by 54 percent for toddlers (1 through 3 years old) in passenger cars. The corresponding reductions in light trucks are 58 percent and 59 percent, respectively. Among children under 5 years old, an estimated 352 lives were saved nationwide in 2017 by restraint use (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [NHTSA], 2019).

Data also shows that older children and adults alike are far more likely to survive a severe crash with less injury when wearing a safety belt (Centers for Disease Control [CDC], 2017).

Florida's Child Restraint Laws

Florida law (Florida Statute 316.613) requires that children 5 years of age or younger must be properly restrained no matter where they are sitting in the vehicle. Children through age 3 must be secured in a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer's integrated child safety seat. For children ages 4 through 5 years, a separate carrier, an integrated child safety seat, or a safety belt may be used.

Child safety experts recommend that children aged 12 and under should ride properly buckled in the back seat. Airbags can kill young children riding in the front seat. A rear-facing car seat should never be used in the front seat or in front of an airbag.

Types of Restraint

Type of restraint is determined based on age, weight, and height of the child. The device manufacturer provides directions that should be followed.

Information on types of restraint and experts who can help answer questions on proper seats and correct installation can be located at the Florida Occupant Protection Resource Center's web portal:

<https://www.floridaoprc.ce.ufl.edu/oprc>

FLORIDA LAW PROTECTING CHILD PASSENGERS

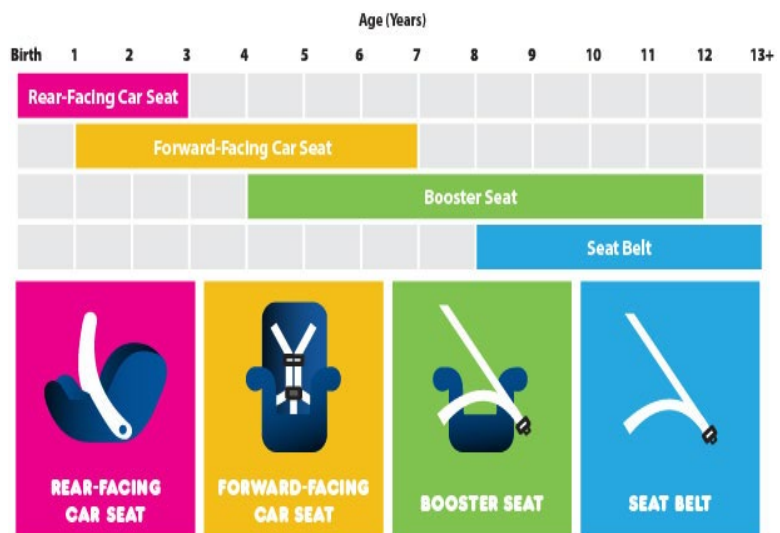
Statute 316.613

Florida law requires all children from birth through age 3 be placed in a restraint device that is a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer's integrated car seat.

Florida law requires all children 4 through 5 years of age to ride in a separate carrier, an integrated child seat or child booster seat, or safety belt.

The Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles recommends keeping children ages 12 and under in the back seat.

What is the fine for a child restraint violation? Fines start at \$60.00 and 3 points, but the dollar amount can vary by local jurisdiction.



2017-2025 Child Observational Surveys

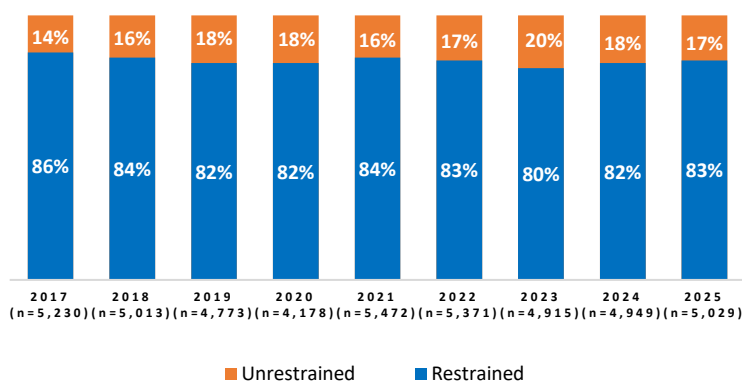
The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) contracting with Preusser Research Group, Inc. (PRG) developed and conducted an observational survey during the Spring of 2017 that estimated child restraint use across the state of Florida. The survey included one-hour observation periods across 200 distinct sites. The sites were spread across 20 counties (10 per county). The 20 counties covered the 10 television/radio Designated Market Areas (DMA) serving the State of Florida. The two most populated counties in each DMA were selected. PRG replicated the survey in the Springs of 2018 and 2019. For 2020, due to COVID-19, the survey was conducted in July. In 2021, data collection reverted back to the Spring timeframe (March/April). Data collection also took place over March and April for the 2022-2025 surveys.

Trained data collectors¹ were positioned near daycare centers, shopping centers, recreational areas, and fast-food restaurants; selected to maximize the number of children in the vehicles observed. Data collected included: types of child restraint used in rear and front seats; estimated age of child passenger(s) (ages: 0-3; 4-5; 6-12); driver characteristics (sex, age, race); and vehicle type (car, SUV, pickup, van).

2025 Survey Results

Observers collected usage data on 5,029 children riding in 4,493 passenger vehicles. In most cases, information was collected on 1 child per vehicle. However, observers could collect information on up to 2 children. **The survey results indicated that 83 percent (+/- 1.04; 95% confidence) of children, ages 0-12, were restrained across the state of Florida.** This rate was 1 percentage point higher than the previous year (2024; 82%). The highest rate was measured in 2017 (86%).

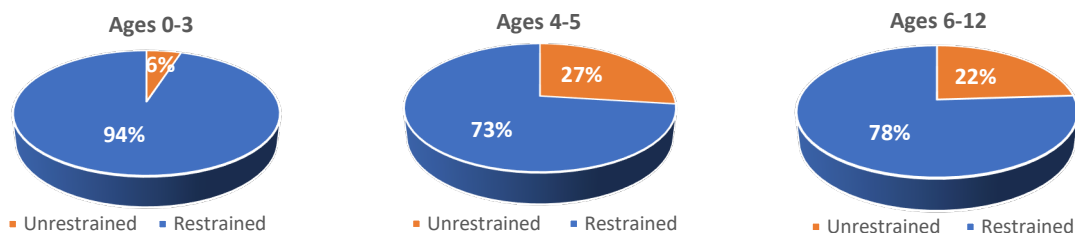
**CHILD RESTRAINT USAGE FOR YEARS
2017–2025**



Usage by Age Category

Observers also estimated an age category for the observed children. As usual, the survey results indicated that youngest children (ages 0-3; n=1,793) were restrained most often (**94%**). Also similar to past measures, children ages 4 to 5 (n=960) were restrained least often (**73%**). Older children (ages 6-12; n=2,276) were observed to be restrained **78 percent** of the time.

2025 RESTRAINT USAGE BY AGE CATEGORY



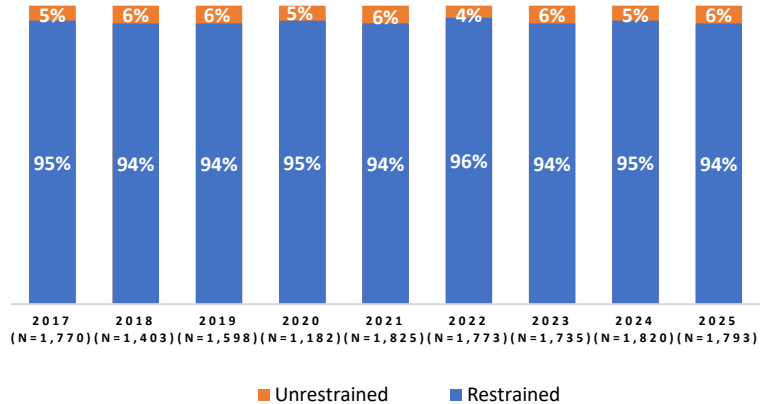
¹ Preusser Research Group, Inc. employees.

The graphs to the right show observed use by age category for survey years 2017 through 2025. The percentages displayed in orange represent unrestrained children and the percentages in blue represent the proportion restrained.

The top graph displays usage among child passengers ages 0-3. Children in this age group should be restrained in rear-facing carriers or forward-facing car seats depending on age, weight, and height. Survey results indicate that children observed in this age group were most often restrained with little difference in the proportion restrained year-to-year.

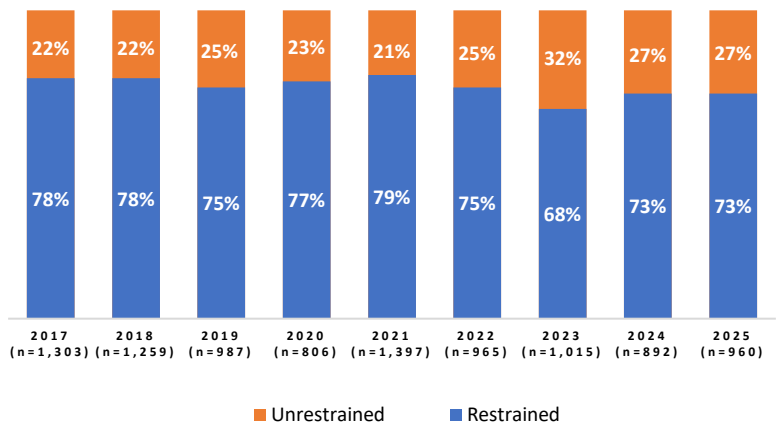
RESTRAINT USE BY AGE CATEGORY FOR YEARS 2017–2025

PASSENGERS AGES 0-3



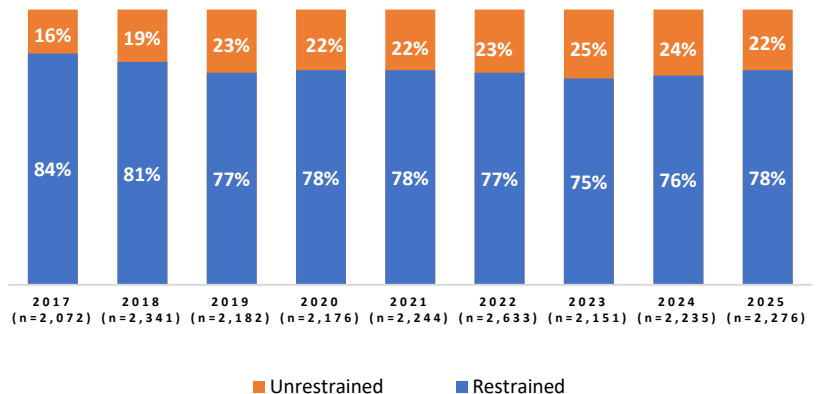
The middle graph displays usage among child passengers ages 4-5. Children in this age group are typically beyond the weight and height of children who should use rear facing carriers. Some are beyond forward-facing car seats too, and using a booster seat would be most appropriate. This age group is far less likely to be restrained compared to the younger children. After reaching a high of 79 percent usage in 2021, this rate fell 4 percentage points to 75 percent in 2022 and a further 7 points to 68 percent in 2023, before recovering to 73 percent in 2024 and 2025.

PASSENGERS AGES 4-5



The bottom graph shows usage among child passengers ages 6-12. The younger children in this age group are, by and large, the appropriate size for booster seats, while older children have grown to the appropriate size for safety belts. Children in this age group typically had higher usage than those aged 4-5, however year-to-year comparisons show that usage has been at or around the same levels since 2019 (albeit a 2-percentage point increase from 2024 to 2025).






PASSENGERS AGES 6-12



2025 Florida Observational Survey for Child Restraint Use

Observed restraint type by age category indicates that children, by and large, use the proper restraint type when restrained. It is important to note that an unobtrusive, observational survey like the one presented here cannot tell if a child is **correctly** using a child safety seat or booster seat. Also, there may be cases where booster seat usage is recorded as “seat belted” due to not detecting a backless booster seat.

2025 RESTRAINT TYPE/USE BY AGE CATEGORY

	<u>Ages 0-3</u> (n=1,793)	<u>Ages 4-5</u> (n=960)	<u>Ages 6-12</u> (n=2,276)	<u>Ages 0-12</u> (n=5,029)
 Rear-Facing Carrier	29% (n=518)	0% (n=3)	0% (n=1)	10% (n=522)
 Forward-Facing Car Seat	64% (n=1,148)	25% (n=244)	0% (n=3)	28% (n=1,395)
 Booster Seat	0% (n=7)	38% (n=367)	3% (n=81)	9% (n=455)
 Vehicle Safety Belt	1% (n=15)	9% (n=86)	74% (n=1,688)	36% (n=1,789)
 No Restraint Used	6% (n=105)	27% (n=260)	22% (n=503)	17% (n=868)

Where are Children Positioned and How is that Associated with Restraint Use?

This is the ninth year examining this association, and most findings hold true year after year with similar proportions. Younger children tend to be in the back seat, but as they grow older they begin to migrate into the front of the vehicle. The following diagram shows the ratio of children observed in the front and back seats of passenger vehicles and shows restraint use in the front versus the rear. The survey found nearly all (99%) of passengers between the ages 0-3 rode in the rear seats, and most (95%) were restrained. Restraint use was much lower (33%) for the few (n=12) observed in the front. Children ages 4-5 were still riding in the rear seat, by and large (96%), but restraint use was much lower (73%) compared to younger years. Usage in the front seat was also low for this age group (62%). Older children aged 6-12 had more representation in the front compared to younger children, but most still rode in the rear. Restraint use measured higher for this age group when observed in the **front** compared to riding in the rear (89% versus 71%).

2025 SEATING POSITION AND RESTRAINT USE

	% In a REAR Seat % Restrained	% In the FRONT Seat % Restrained
Ages 0-3	99% (n=1,776) 95%	1% (n=12) 33%
Ages 4-5	96% (n=921) 73%	4% (n=39) 62%
Ages 6-12	60% (n=1,368) 71%	40% (n=904) 89%
Total*	4,065	955

*Table includes passengers whose age, seating position, and restraint use were all recorded (n=5,020). Restraint use, age, and positional observations marked 'unknown' were removed.

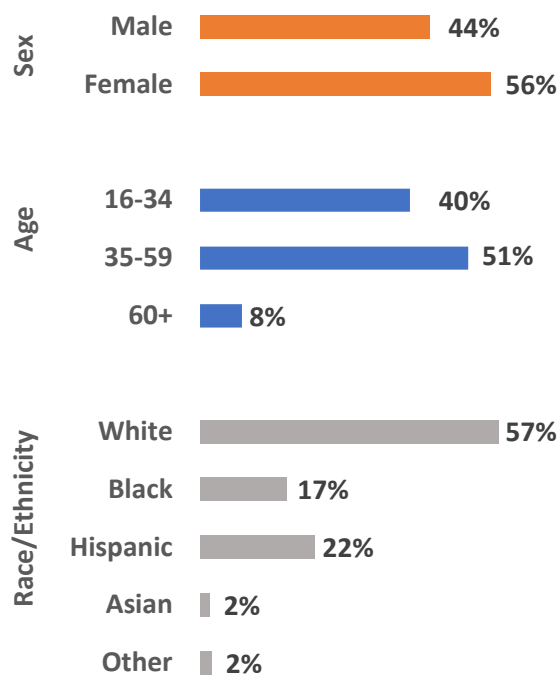
Characteristics of Drivers with Children

The 2025 survey found the characteristics of **drivers with children** to be similar to previous surveys. These drivers were more often female (56%, n=2,505) than male (44%, n=1,981); rarely was the sex of the driver not determined (0.2%, n=7).

Children were most likely with drivers between the ages of 35-59 (51%, n=2,312) followed by drivers between the ages 16-34 (40%, n=1,811). Children least often appeared with drivers 60 years and older (8%, n=351). Rarely was the age range of driver not determined (0.2%, n=9).

The observers also coded perceived race/ethnicity of drivers with children in the vehicle. Of those, fifty-seven percent were coded as White (n=2,574); 17 percent Black (n=746); 22 percent Hispanic (n=987); 2 percent Asian (n=80), and 2 percent Other (n=100). Again, rarely was driver race/ethnicity not determined (0.2% unknown, n=6).

2025 DRIVER CHARACTERISTICS

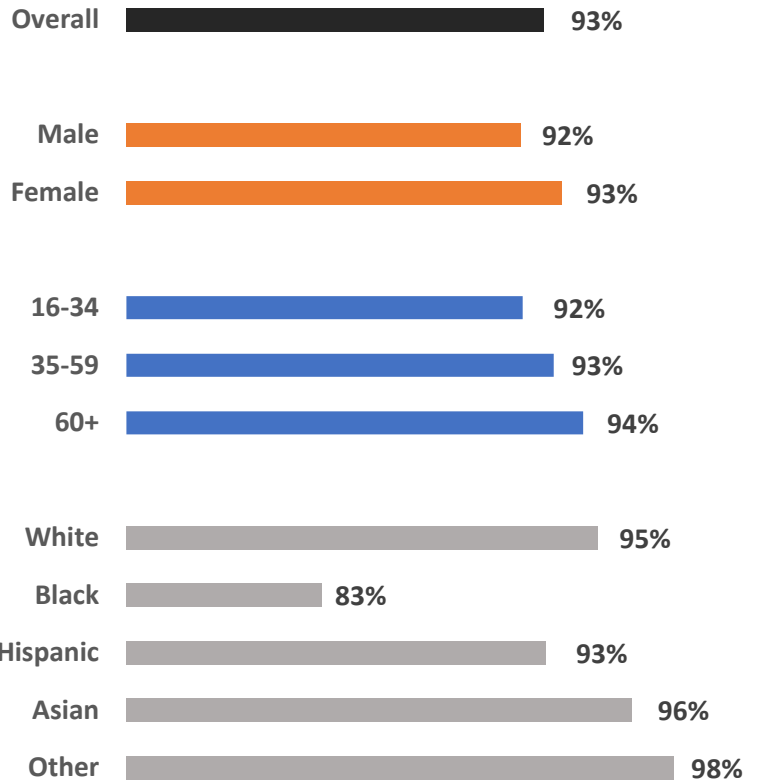


Driver Belt Use

The 2025 survey results found that 93 percent of the drivers transporting children were belted (based on n=4,472 drivers with known safety belt usage). Driver usage was higher in this survey than in all prior ones, with the highest previous measure recorded in 2017 (92%).

Driver characteristics were associated with only slightly varying belt usage in most cases. Female drivers (n=2,492) were belted a little more often than male drivers (n=1,973; 93% versus 92%, respectively). Drivers 60 years and older (n=361) were belted most often (93%) followed by drivers between the ages of 35-59 (n=2,310) at 93 percent. Drivers 16-34 were belted the least (n=1,794) at 92 percent. The survey indicated some differences in belt use by Race/Ethnicity. Drivers with race coded “Other” (n=100) were belted most often at 98 percent, followed closely by Asian drivers (n=80; 96%). White drivers (n=2,569) were buckled 95 percent of the time, and Hispanic drivers (n=979) were 93 percent buckled. Black drivers (n=739) were belted only 83 percent of the time.

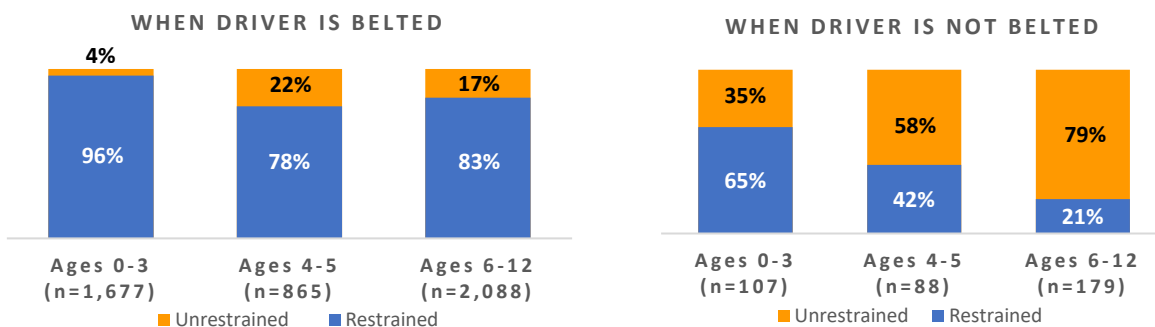
2025 DRIVER BELT USE



How is Driver Belt Use Related to Child Restraint Use?

Driver belt use is clearly associated with child restraint usage. A child was far less likely to be restrained when a driver was not belted. The 2024 survey indicated children ages 6-12 were least likely restrained with an unbuckled driver (**only 21% using restraint**) followed by children ages 4-5 (**only 42% using restraint**). Even the youngest passengers (ages 0-3) were **unrestrained at an alarming rate of 35 percent** when the driver was not belted. **Decreased safety belt usage among unrestrained drivers with children should raise concern.**

2025 RESTRAINT USE BY AGE CATEGORY

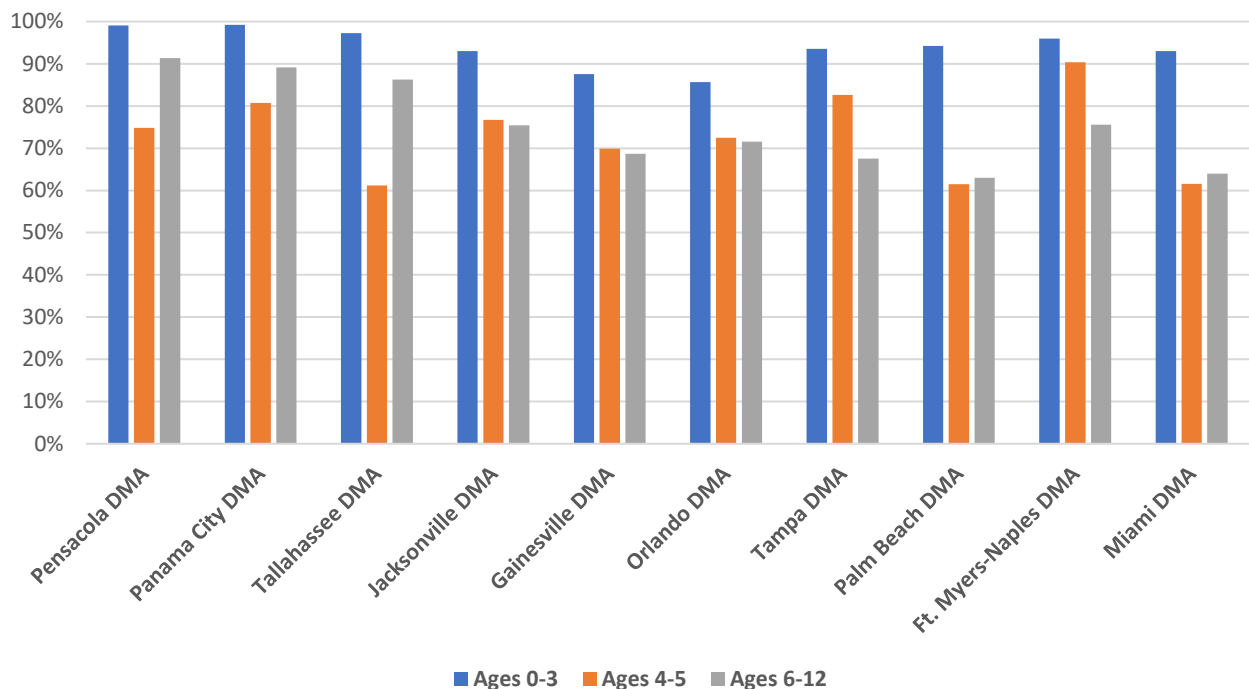


Designated Market Area

Single year results presented by DMA should be viewed with some level of caution due to the likelihood of a low number of child passengers observed. Combining multiple years of data provides more stability and confidence in the results.

The figure below shows usage rates using combined data for the most recent five years of data, **2021-2025**. The graph separates the results for the ten DMAs. The different colored bars represent usage by individual age categories in each of those DMAs. The bars indicate there is some uniformity across DMAs regarding the age categories. For example, in each DMA, usage is higher among child passengers ages 0-3 compared to any other age category. Usage is lowest among passengers ages 4-5 in five of the DMAs; in five others, the 6-12 age group represents the lowest usage.

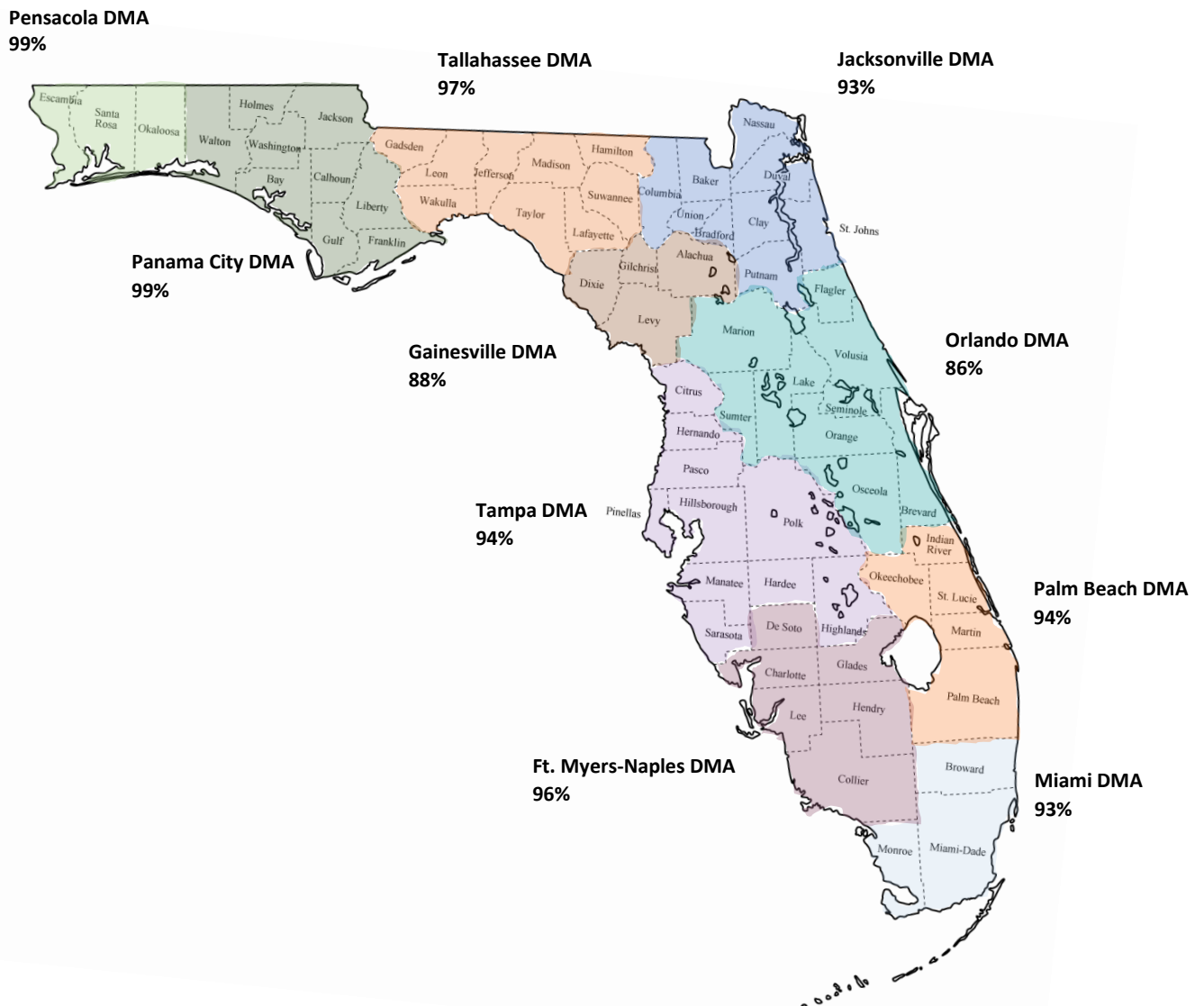
RESTRAINT USE BY AGE CATEGORY AND DESIGNATED MARKET AREA (DMA) FIVE YEAR AVERAGE (2021 - 2025)



Ages 0-3; Restraint Use by DMA

The figure that follows shows the usage rate for children aged 0-3 by DMA. Again, the rates presented were determined using five years of data (2021–2025) with each year (and each county in a DMA) given equal weight. As previously explained, using multiple years of data helps to provide stability and confidence in the estimated rates. Restraint usage for ages 0-3 ranged from 86 percent to 99 percent across the DMAs. Four of the ten DMAs posted usage rates at or above 95 percent (Panama City, Pensacola, Tallahassee, and Ft. Myers-Naples). Four more DMAs posted 93 and 94 percent rates (Tampa, Jacksonville, Miami and Palm Beach). Usage was lowest in the Orlando DMA (86%).

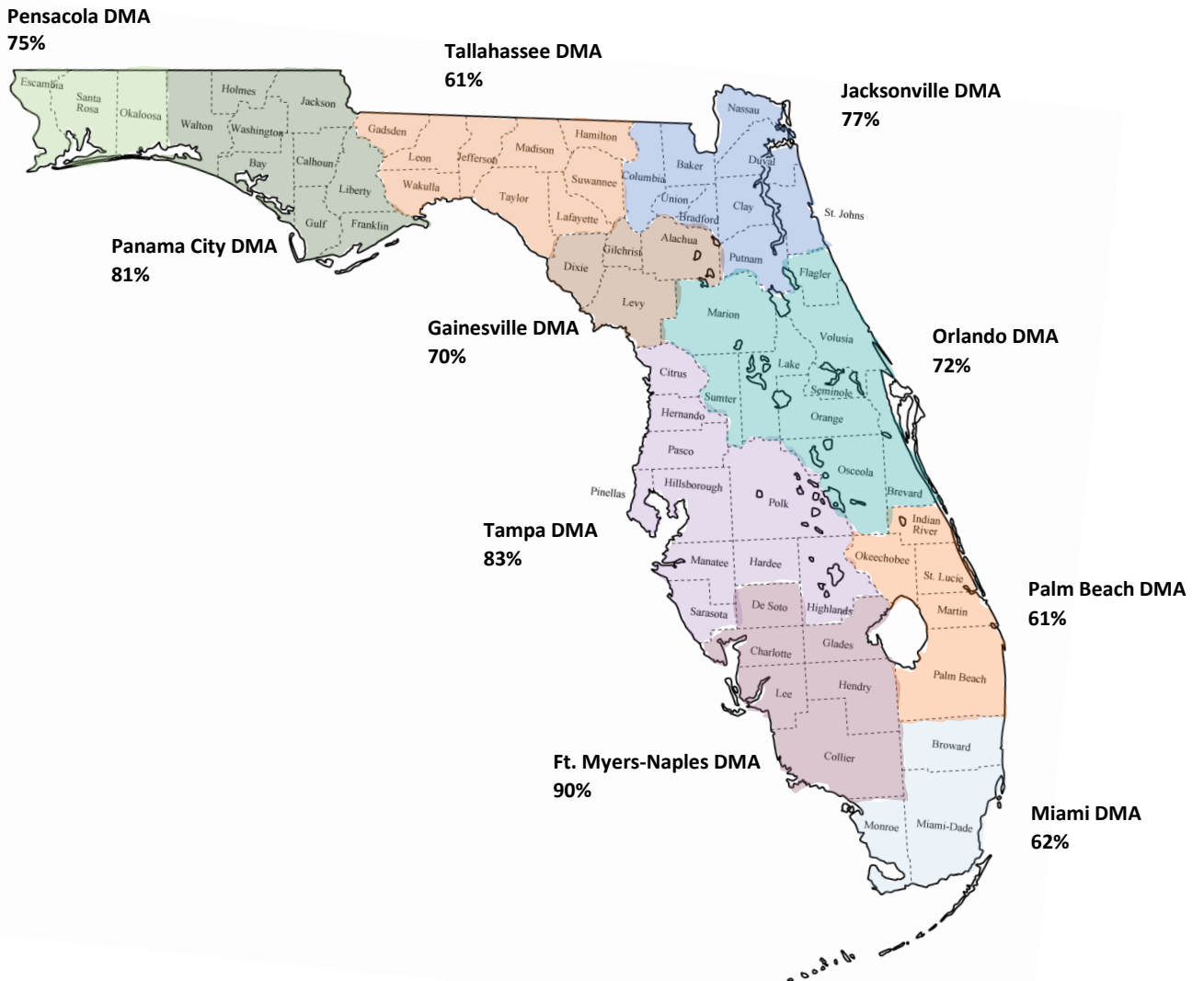
AGES 0-3 CHILD RESTRAINT USE BY DESIGNATED MARKET AREA (DMA) FIVE YEAR AVERAGE (2021-2025)



Ages 4-5; Restraint Use by DMA

The next figure shows the usage rate for children aged 4-5 by DMA. Again, the rates were determined using five years of data (2021–2025). Restraint use among this age group is universally lower compared to other age categories in the DMAs. Usage among passengers in this age category ranged from 61 percent to 90 percent. It is important to note here that the broad range in usage rates across the DMAs is due, at least partially, to the low number of observations of four- and five-year-old passengers. Still, the fact remains, passengers in this age category are restrained less often compared to the youngest age group and that is true across the entire State of Florida.

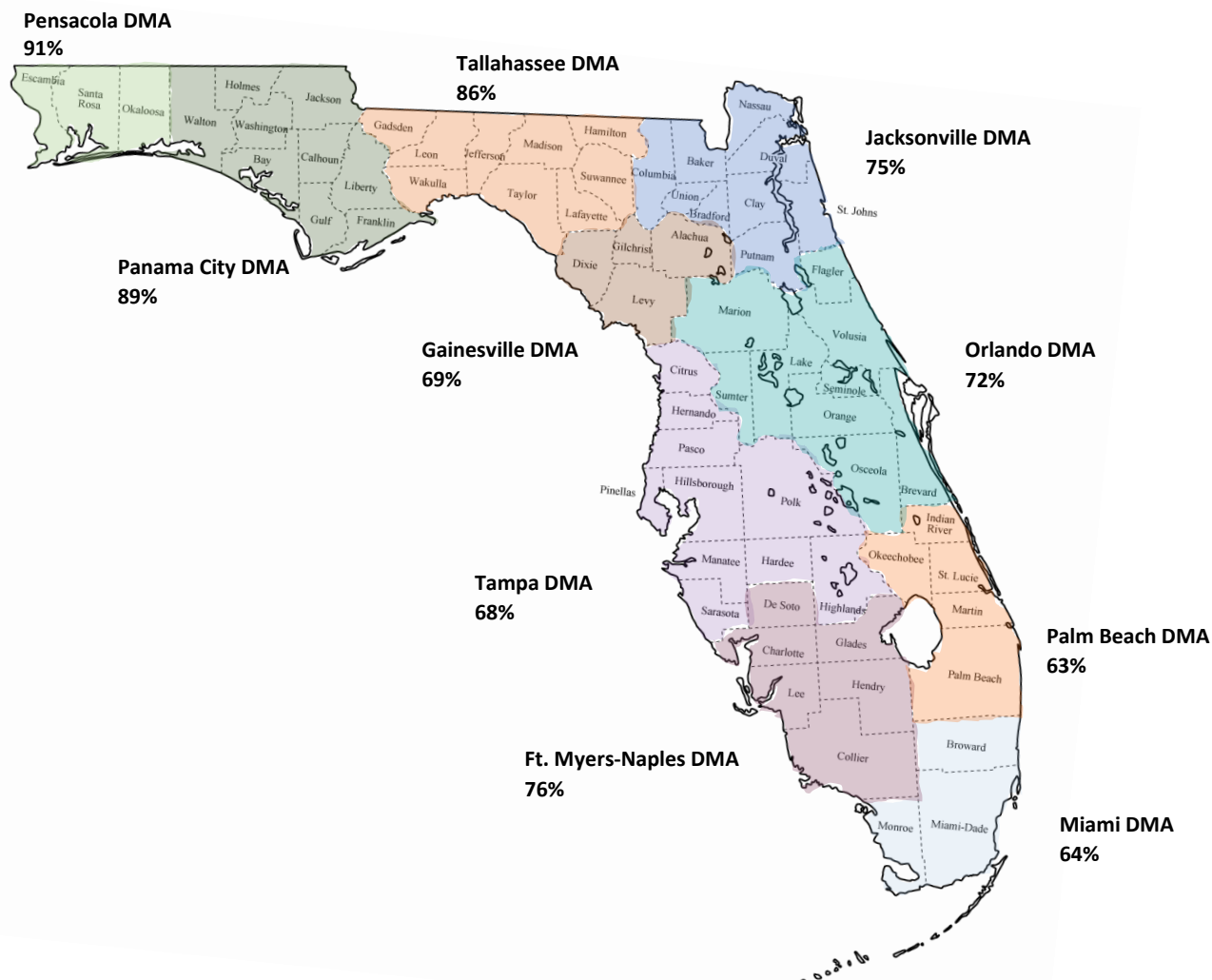
AGES 4-5 CHILD RESTRAINT USE BY DESIGNATED MARKET AREA (DMA) FIVE YEAR AVERAGE (2021-2025)



Ages 6-12; Restraint Use by DMA

The next figure shows the usage rate for children ages 6-12 by DMA, once again using five years of data (2021–2025). Most of the passengers in this age group were observed out of child restraint devices and were observed either belted or not. Though more than half still ride in the rear, many more of the passengers in this age group, compared to younger passengers, were observed riding in the front seat. Restraint usage for passengers ages 6-12 ranged from 63 percent to 91 percent across the ten DMAs. In this instance, the wide range in usage cannot be explained by low observation volume and is more likely due to area differences. Usage levels attained 90 percent in only one DMA (Pensacola), and only two DMAs had usage between 80 and 89 percent (Panama City and Tallahassee). Usage was between 70 percent to 79 in three DMAs (Fort Myers–Naples, Jacksonville, and Orlando). Usage was below 70 percent in four DMAs (Miami, Palm Beach, Tampa, and Gainesville).

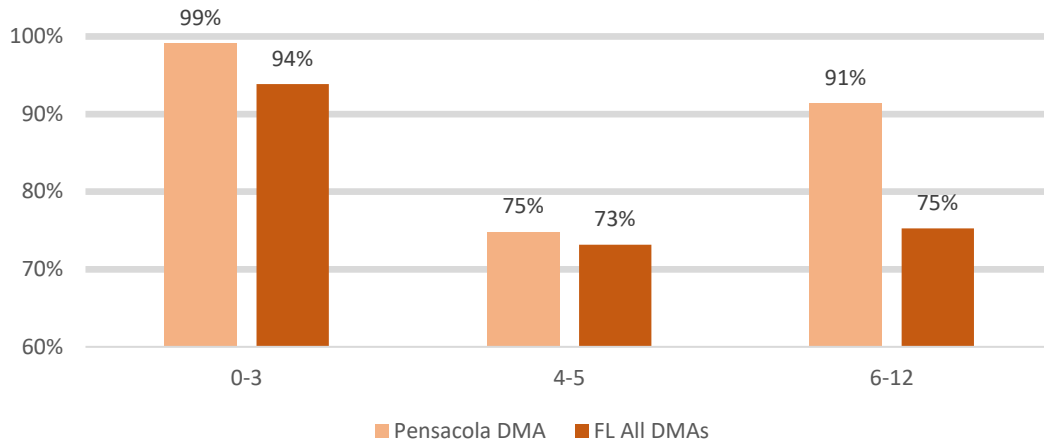
AGES 6-12 CHILD RESTRAINT USE BY DESIGNATED MARKET AREA (DMA) FIVE YEAR AVERAGE (2021-2025)



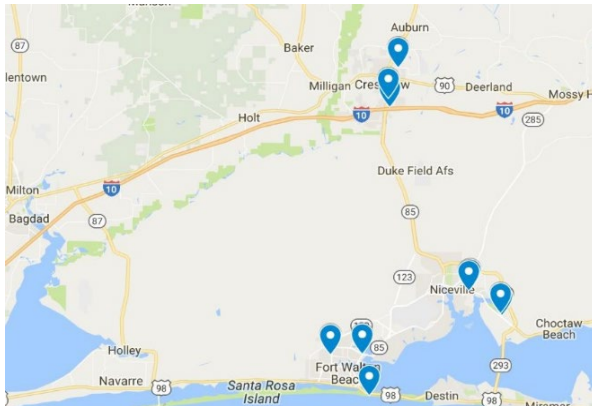
Appendix A.
DMA County Specific Information

PENSACOLA DMA

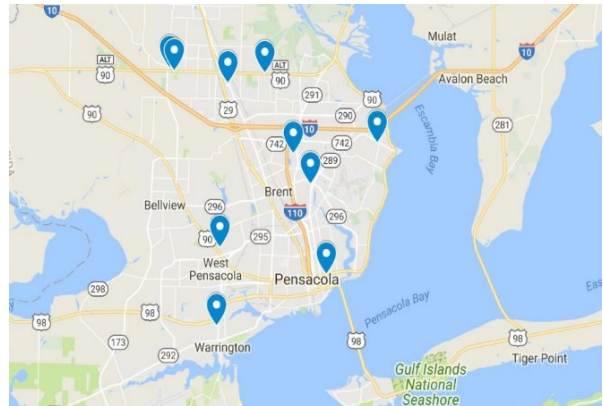
Pensacola DMA Child Restraint Use Rates
Five Year Averages (2021-2025)



Escambia County Suvey Locations²



Okaloosa County Survey Locations

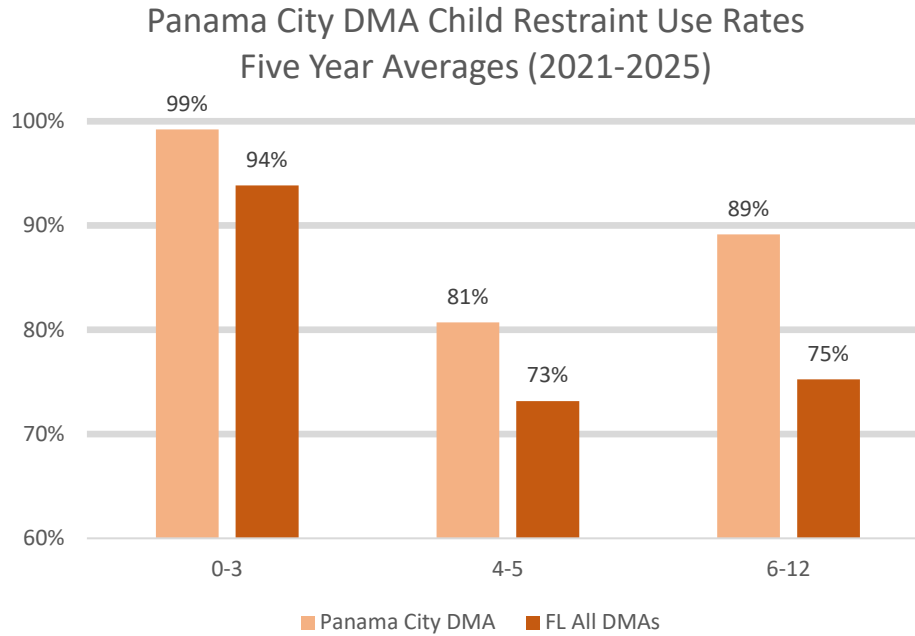


DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	RESTRAINT USE BY AGE 5 year averages			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	674	68	695	1	1438	3260	98%	76%	97%	91%
	Okaloosa	799	67	955	1	1822		100%	74%	98%	92%

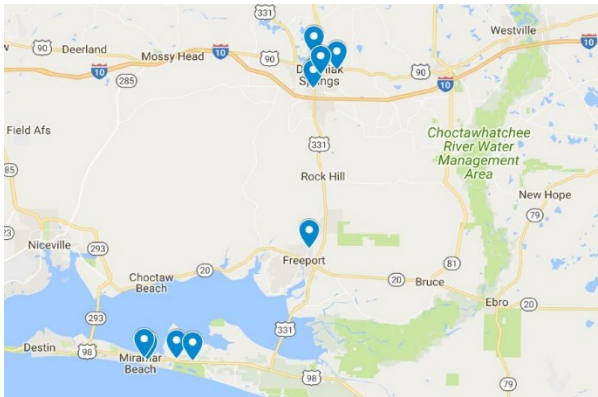
PANAMA CITY DMA

² Fewer than 10 pins showing due to overlapping.

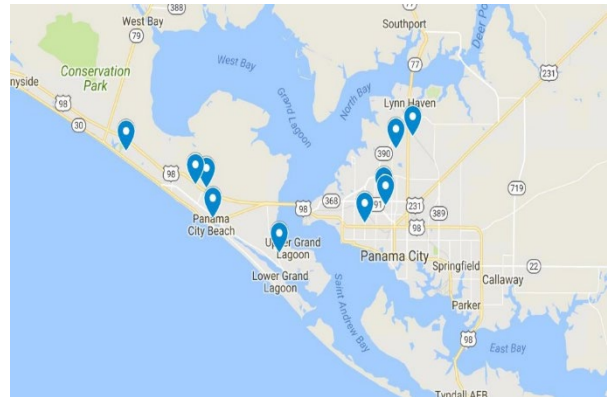
2025 Florida Observational Survey for Child Restraint Use



Walton County Suvey Locations³



Bay County Survey Locations⁴



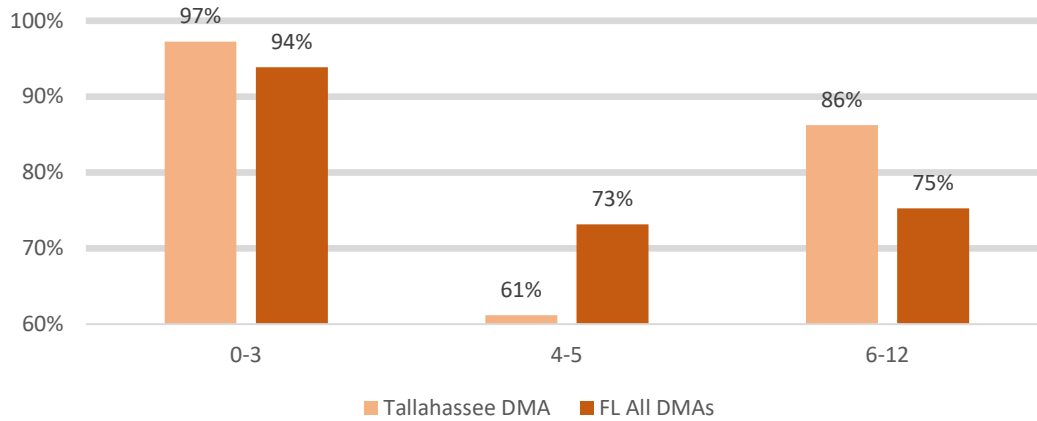
DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	RESTRAINT USE BY AGE 5 year averages			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Panama City	Walton	562	63	806	0	1431	2795	99%	79%	96%	87%
	Bay	577	50	737	0	1364		99%	82%	98%	91%

³ Fewer than 10 pins showing because of overlapping pins

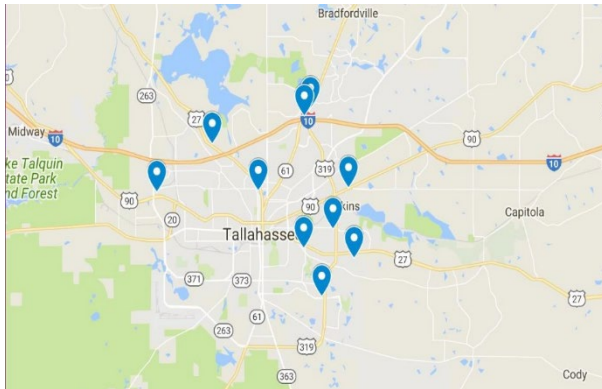
⁴ Fewer than 10 pins showing because of overlapping pins

TALLAHASSEE DMA

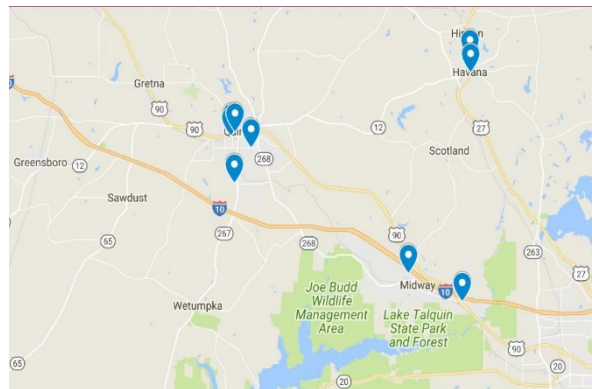
Tallahassee DMA Child Restraint Use Rates
Five Year Averages (2021 -2025)



Leon County Survey Locations



Gadsden County Survey Locations⁵

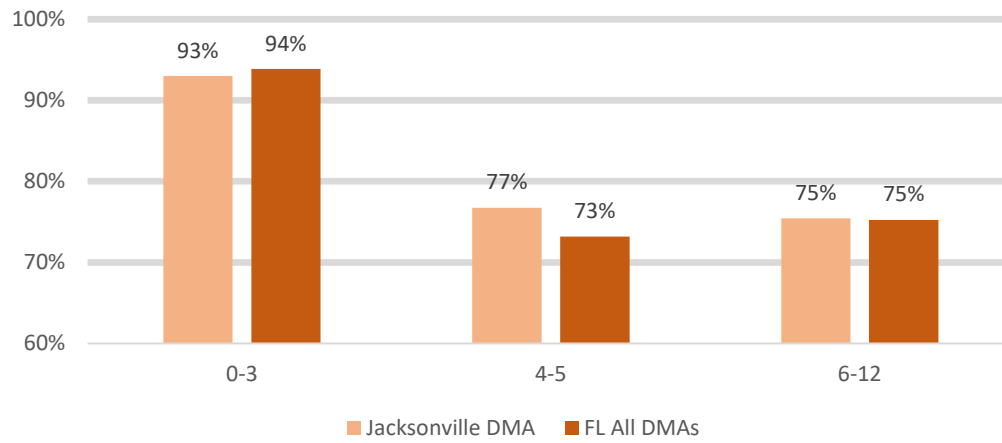


DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	RESTRAINT USE BY AGE 5 year averages			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Tallahassee	Gadsden	304	50	559	0	913	2409	95%	41%	88%	80%
	Leon	657	66	772	1	1496		99%	81%	98%	92%

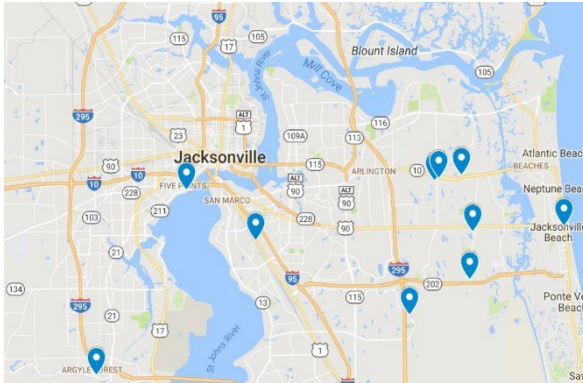
⁵ Fewer than 10 pins showing because of overlapping pins, or some site(s) used twice on different day of week and time of day.

JACKSONVILLE DMA

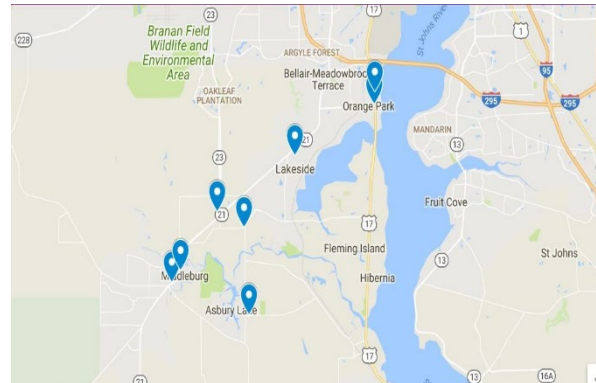
Jacksonville DMA Child Restraint Use Rates
Five Year Averages (2021-2025)



Duval County Suvey Locations



Clay County Survey Locations⁶

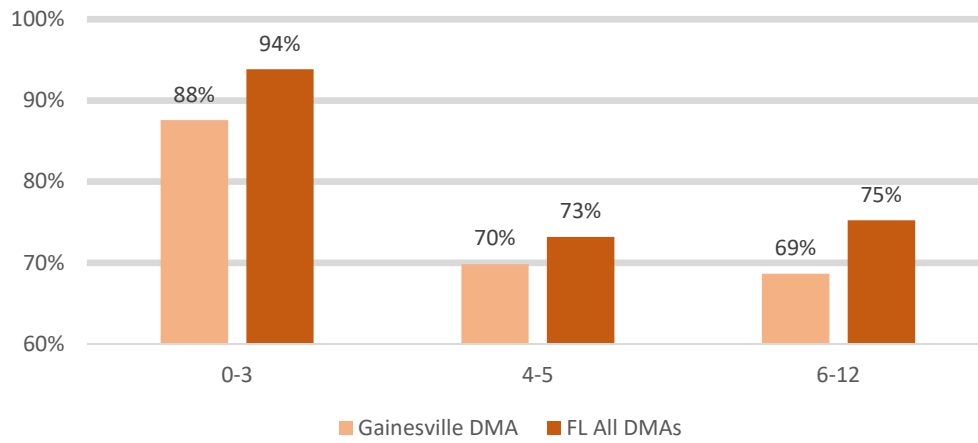


DMA	County							RESTRAINT USE BY AGE 5 year averages			
		Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Jacksonville	Clay	459	330	368	0	1157	2285	93%	80%	88%	75%
	Duval	446	307	374	1	1128		93%	74%	85%	76%

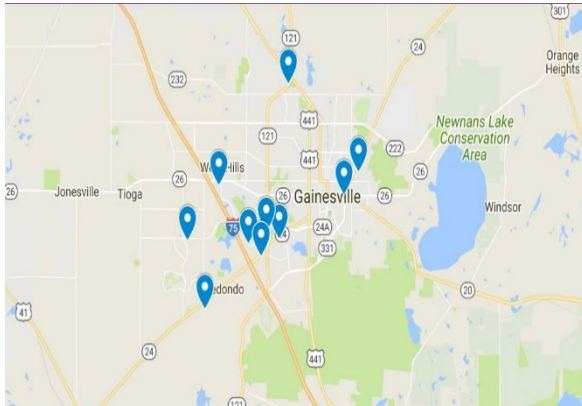
⁶ Fewer than 10 pins showing because of overlapping pins.

GAINESVILLE DMA

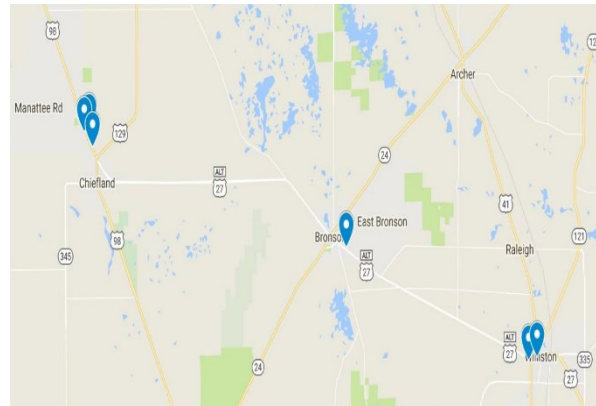
Gainesville DMA Child Restraint Use Rates
Five Year Averages (2021-2025)



Alachua County Suvey Locations



Levy County Survey Locations⁷

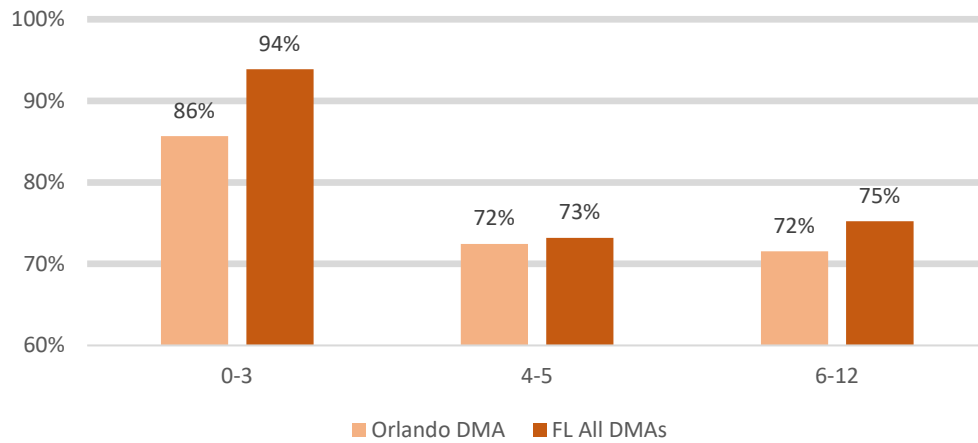


DMA	County							RESTRAINT USE BY AGE 5 year averages			
		Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Gainesville	Alachua	414	306	287	0	1007	1819	88%	74%	82%	75%
	Levy	175	264	373	0	812		87%	65%	75%	63%

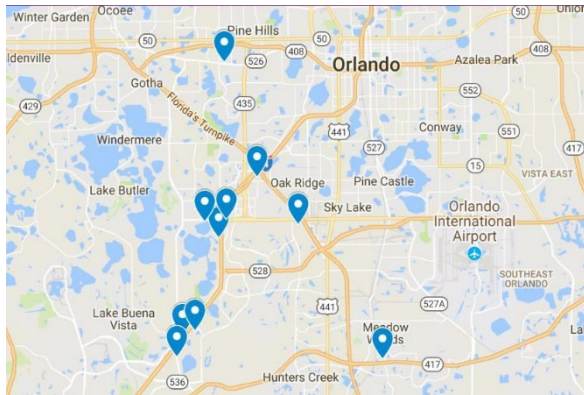
⁷ Fewer than 10 pins showing because of overlapping pins, or some site(s) used twice on different day of week and time of day.

ORLANDO DMA

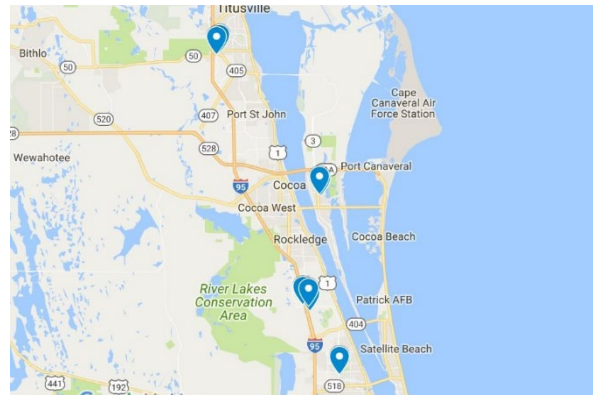
Orlando DMA Child Restraint Use Rates
Five Year Averages (2021-2025)



Orange County Survey Locations



Brevard County Survey Locations⁸



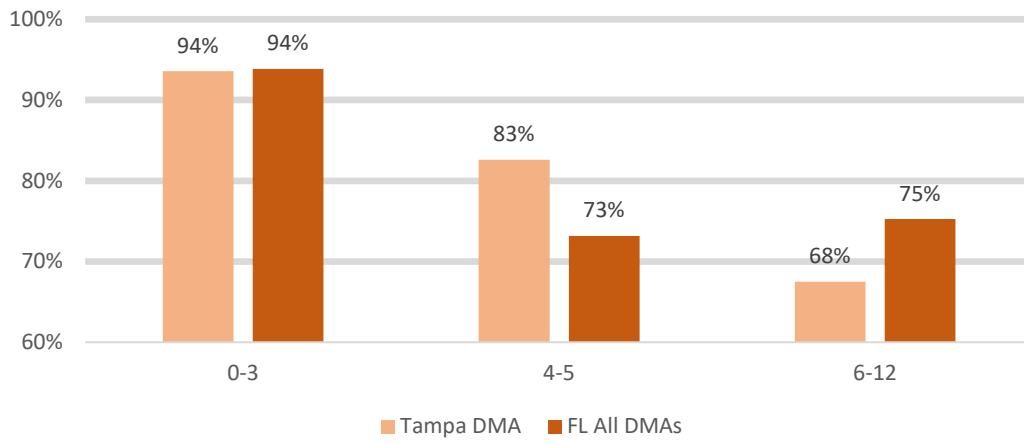
DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	RESTRAINT USE BY AGE 5 year averages			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Orlando	Orange	469	404	504	0	1377	2458	79%	67%	74%	70%
	Brevard	423	297	361	0	1081		92%	78%	86%	73%

⁸ Fewer than 10 pins showing because of overlapping pins.

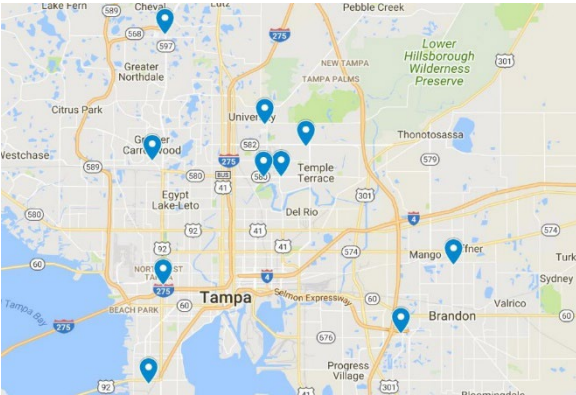
2025 Florida Observational Survey for Child Restraint Use

TAMPA DMA

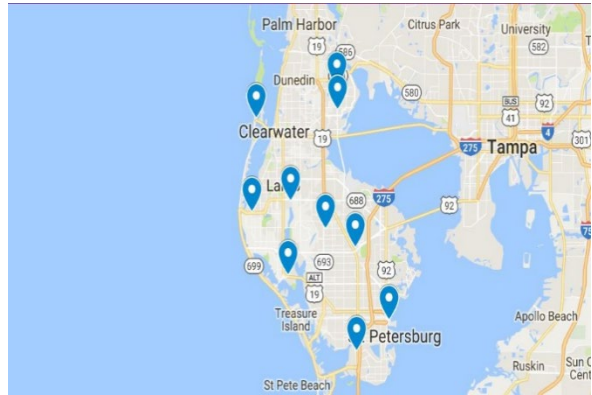
Tampa DMA Child Restraint Use Rates
Five Year Averages (2021-2025)



Hillsborough County Survey Locations



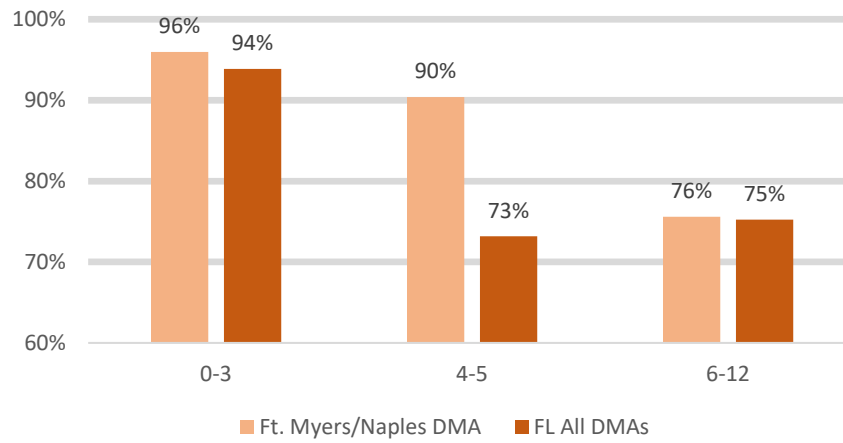
Pinellas County Survey Locations



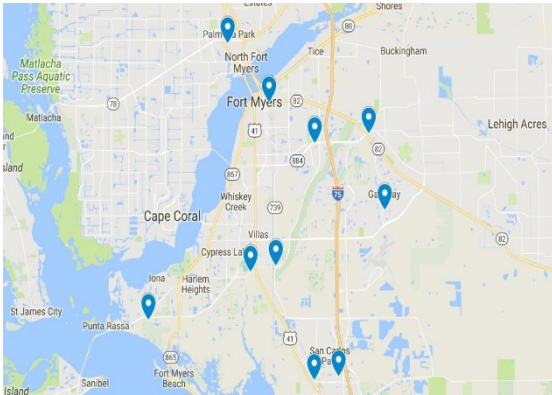
DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	RESTRAINT USE BY AGE 5 year averages			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Tampa	Pinellas	121	333	557	0	1011	2118	95%	83%	86%	69%
	Hillsborough	125	385	596	1	1107		92%	83%	85%	66%

FT. MYERS-NAPLES DMA

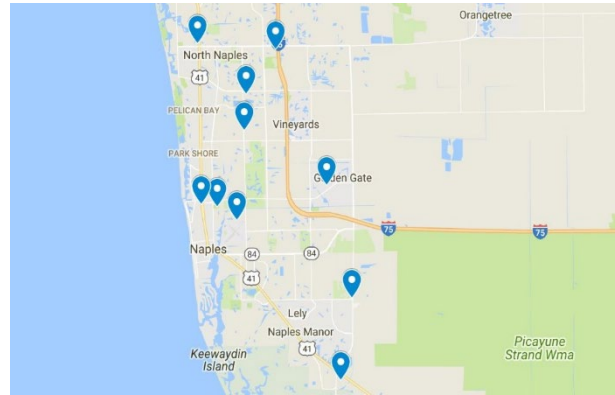
Ft. Myers-Naples DMA Child Restraint Use Rates
Five Year Averages (2021-2025)



Lee County Survey Locations



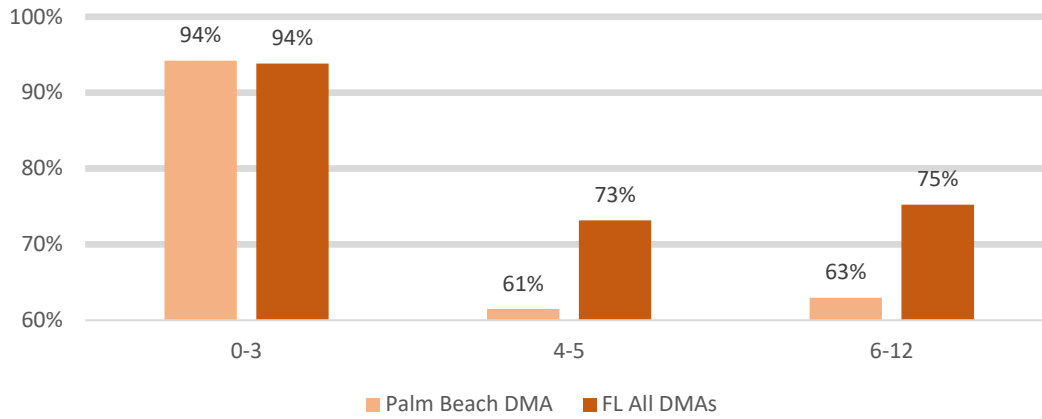
Collier County Survey Location



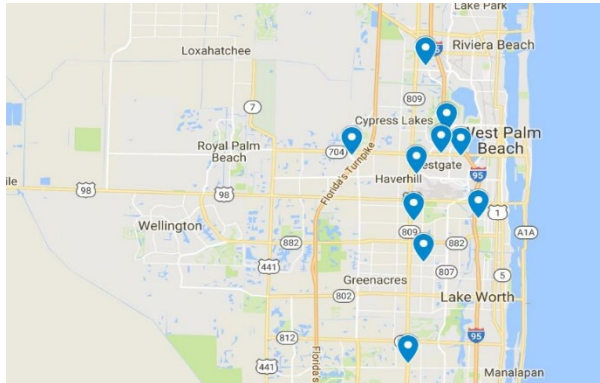
DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	RESTRAINT USE BY AGE 5 year averages			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Ft. Myers- Naples	Lee	155	451	563	0	1169	2223	94%	89%	90%	74%
	Collier	128	389	534	3	1054		98%	92%	94%	77%

PALM BEACH DMA

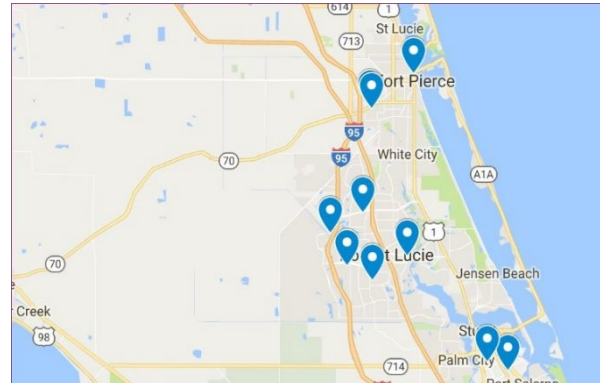
Palm Beach DMA Child Restraint Use Rates
Five Year Averages (2021-2025)



Palm Beach County Survey Locations



St. Lucie County Survey Locations⁹

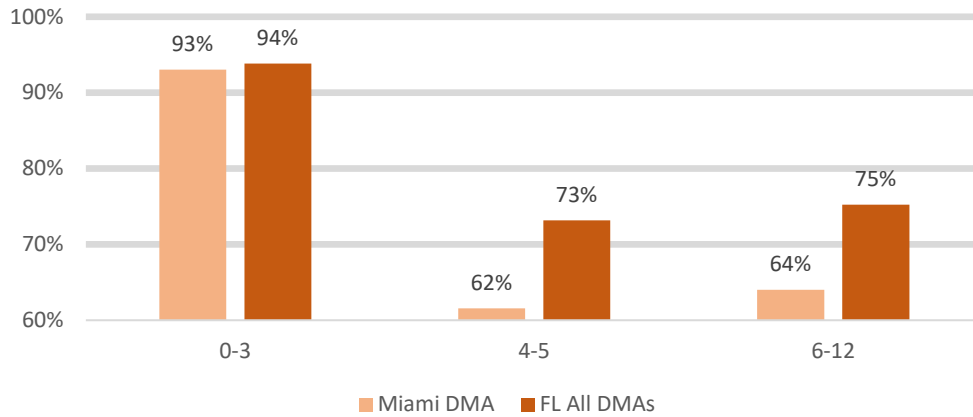


DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	RESTRAINT USE BY AGE 5 year averages			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Palm Beach	St. Lucie	590	362	666	5	1623	3420	96%	65%	84%	65%
	Palm Beach	650	425	717	5	1797		93%	58%	79%	61%

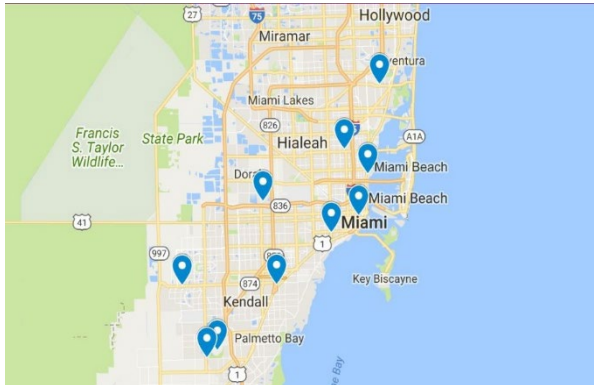
⁹ Fewer than 10 pins showing because of overlapping pins.

MIAMI DMA

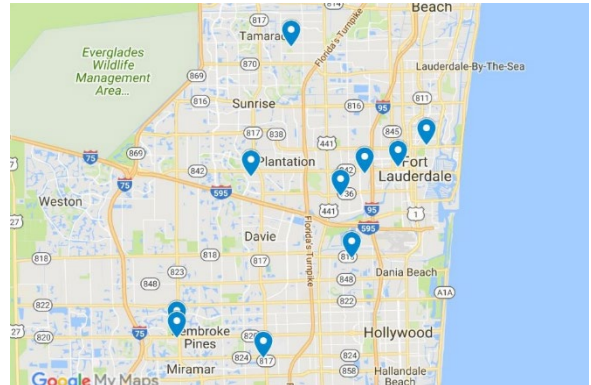
Miami DMA Child Restraint Use Rates
Five Year Averages (2021-2025)



Miami-Dade County Survey Locations



Broward County Survey Locations



DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	RESTRAINT USE BY AGE 5 year averages			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Miami	Broward	688	298	560	3	1549	2949	96%	65%	87%	64%
	Dade	530	314	555	1	1400		90%	58%	79%	64%

Appendix B.

Number of Children Observed and Restraint Use by DMA and Age Category

NUMBER OF OBSERVED CHILDREN PER COUNTY AND DMA BY AGE CATEGORY
2025

DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Age Unk.	County Total	DMA Total	Restraint Use by Age Category			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	148	4	146	0	298	676	99%	50%	98%	88%
	Okaloosa	177	7	194	0	378		99%	57%	98%	92%
Panama City	Walton	135	4	198	0	337	666	99%	75%	99%	93%
	Bay	144	5	180	0	329		100%	100%	100%	89%
Tallahassee	Gadsden	75	4	139	0	218	526	96%	50%	94%	80%
	Leon	143	9	156	0	308		100%	89%	99%	90%
Jacksonville	Clay	83	71	63	0	217	428	99%	92%	96%	79%
	Duval	69	65	77	0	211		93%	71%	82%	71%
Gainesville	Alachua	72	64	54	0	190	311	92%	69%	81%	69%
	Levy	16	45	60	0	121		75%	69%	71%	70%
Orlando	Orange	80	81	98	0	259	474	78%	65%	71%	66%
	Brevard	75	72	68	0	215		92%	79%	86%	68%
Tampa	Pinellas	19	59	92	0	170	344	79%	81%	81%	65%
	Hillsborough	25	66	83	0	174		80%	74%	76%	65%
Palm Beach	St. Lucie	107	63	109	0	279	638	95%	71%	87%	81%
	Palm Beach	132	77	150	0	359		93%	60%	81%	65%
Ft. Myers-Naples	Lee	28	73	84	0	185	369	96%	97%	97%	67%
	Collier	21	79	84	0	184		100%	90%	92%	82%
Miami	Broward	144	67	122	0	333	597	95%	57%	83%	65%
	Dade	100	45	119	0	264		85%	58%	77%	66%
Total		1793	960	2276	0	5029	5029				

NUMBER OF OBSERVED CHILDREN PER COUNTY AND DMA BY AGE CATEGORY 2024

DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Age Unk.	County Total	DMA Total	Restraint Use by Age Category			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	171	21	122	0	314	684	97%	100%	97%	86%
	Okaloosa	166	12	192	0	370		99%	89%	98%	89%
Panama City	Walton	127	11	165	0	303	602	98%	47%	86%	71%
	Bay	122	12	165	0	299		99%	60%	98%	88%
Tallahassee	Gadsden	76	9	119	0	204	519	91%	0%	80%	75%
	Leon	155	14	146	0	315		98%	67%	97%	85%
Jacksonville	Clay	84	46	81	0	211	408	97%	74%	86%	85%
	Duval	83	48	66	0	197		95%	78%	86%	86%
Gainesville	Alachua	71	53	57	0	181	334	90%	78%	85%	75%
	Levy	34	46	73	0	153		91%	72%	79%	56%
Orlando	Orange	82	69	95	0	246	431	78%	58%	70%	72%
	Brevard	68	57	60	0	185		93%	72%	84%	74%
Tampa	Pinellas	29	63	81	0	173	362	96%	83%	87%	68%
	Hillsborough	25	70	94	0	189		95%	82%	84%	68%
Palm Beach	St. Lucie	115	67	162	1	345	695	93%	50%	77%	68%
	Palm Beach	137	59	154	0	350		91%	46%	73%	61%
Ft. Myers-Naples	Lee	39	72	73	0	184	354	96%	85%	87%	74%
	Collier	28	59	83	0	170		97%	92%	93%	81%
Miami	Broward	119	35	111	1	266	560	92%	57%	83%	65%
	Dade	89	69	136	0	294		86%	36%	70%	61%
Total		1820	892	2235	2	4949	4949				

NUMBER OF OBSERVED CHILDREN PER COUNTY AND DMA BY AGE CATEGORY 2023

DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Age Unk.	County Total	DMA Total	Restraint Use by Age Category			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	121	8	147	1	277	567	97%	100%	97%	86%
	Okaloosa	120	9	160	1	290		99%	89%	98%	89%
Panama City	Walton	104	32	135	0	271	519	98%	47%	86%	71%
	Bay	118	5	125	0	248		99%	60%	98%	88%
Tallahassee	Gadsden	58	8	84	0	150	434	91%	0%	80%	75%
	Leon	126	6	151	1	284		98%	67%	97%	85%
Jacksonville	Clay	74	68	79	0	221	412	97%	74%	86%	85%
	Duval	60	58	72	1	191		95%	78%	86%	86%
Gainesville	Alachua	80	54	72	0	206	392	90%	78%	85%	75%
	Levy	34	58	94	0	186		91%	72%	79%	56%
Orlando	Orange	76	52	101	0	229	491	78%	58%	70%	72%
	Brevard	89	65	108	0	262		93%	72%	84%	74%
Tampa	Pinellas	26	52	94	0	172	388	96%	83%	87%	68%
	Hillsborough	19	76	120	1	216		95%	82%	84%	68%
Palm Beach	St. Lucie	124	70	100	2	296	679	93%	50%	77%	68%
	Palm Beach	156	105	119	3	383		91%	46%	73%	61%
Ft. Myers-Naples	Lee	26	98	102	0	226	431	96%	85%	87%	74%
	Collier	31	76	95	3	205		97%	92%	93%	81%
Miami	Broward	160	51	101	1	313	602	92%	57%	83%	65%
	Dade	133	64	92	0	289		86%	36%	70%	61%
Total		1735	1015	2151	14	4915	4915				

NUMBER OF OBSERVED CHILDREN PER COUNTY AND DMA BY AGE CATEGORY 2022

DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Age Unk.	County Total	DMA Total	Restraint Use by Age Category			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	132	20	144	0	296	713	99%	80%	96%	92%
	Okaloosa	169	17	231	0	417		100%	65%	97%	92%
Panama City	Walton	141	12	228	0	381	690	98%	83%	97%	90%
	Bay	123	11	175	0	309		100%	82%	99%	89%
Tallahassee	Gadsden	49	18	113	0	180	500	96%	67%	88%	79%
	Leon	134	23	163	0	320		99%	78%	96%	95%
Jacksonville	Clay	85	54	63	0	202	444	91%	78%	86%	62%
	Duval	95	55	92	0	224		92%	71%	84%	76%
Gainesville	Alachua	75	60	68	0	203	339	89%	78%	84%	71%
	Levy	30	35	71	0	136		83%	54%	68%	63%
Orlando	Orange	84	70	115	0	269	477	85%	66%	86%	62%
	Brevard	80	50	78	0	208		91%	78%	84%	76%
Tampa	Pinellas	17	61	159	0	237	494	100%	85%	89%	70%
	Hillsborough	23	56	178	0	257		100%	93%	95%	65%
Palm Beach	St. Lucie	104	53	136	0	293	605	99%	60%	86%	60%
	Palm Beach	110	77	125	0	312		94%	57%	79%	54%
Ft. Myers-Naples	Lee	30	89	152	0	271	498	97%	96%	96%	80%
	Collier	36	64	127	0	227		100%	95%	97%	80%
Miami	Broward	114	75	124	0	340	611	97%	64%	85%	61%
	Dade	115	65	91	0	271		94%	62%	82%	60%
Total		1773	965	2633	0	5371	5371				

NUMBER OF OBSERVED CHILDREN PER COUNTY AND DMA BY AGE CATEGORY 2021

DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Age Unk.	County Total	DMA Total	Restraint Use by Age Category			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	102	15	136	0	253	620	100%	93%	99%	92%
	Okaloosa	167	22	178	0	367		100%	82%	98%	94%
Panama City	Walton	55	4	80	0	139	318	100%	100%	100%	95%
	Bay	70	17	92	0	179		99%	94%	98%	93%
Tallahassee	Gadsden	46	11	104	0	161	430	98%	45%	88%	85%
	Leon	99	14	156	0	269		99%	93%	98%	96%
Jacksonville	Clay	133	91	82	0	306	593	89%	76%	84%	76%
	Duval	139	81	67	0	287		94%	80%	89%	76%
Gainesville	Alachua	116	75	36	0	227	443	84%	79%	82%	92%
	Levy	61	80	75	0	216		95%	66%	79%	68%
Orlando	Orange	147	132	95	0	374	585	80%	81%	81%	77%
	Brevard	111	53	47	0	211		96%	81%	91%	72%
Tampa	Pinellas	30	98	131	0	259	530	100%	86%	89%	74%
	Hillsborough	33	117	121	0	271		94%	85%	87%	75%
Palm Beach	St. Lucie	140	109	159	2	410	803	97%	72%	86%	60%
	Palm Beach	115	107	169	2	393		95%	62%	79%	66%
Ft. Myers-Naples	Lee	32	119	152	0	303	571	84%	83%	83%	70%
	Collier	12	111	145	0	268		92%	91%	91%	72%
Miami	Broward	124	70	102	1	297	579	98%	80%	92%	65%
	Dade	93	71	117	1	282		92%	75%	85%	68%
Total		1825	1397	2244	6	5472	5472				

NUMBER OF OBSERVED CHILDREN PER COUNTY AND DMA BY AGE CATEGORY 2020

DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Age Unk.	County Total	DMA Total	Restraint Use by Age Category			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	68	9	114	0	191	500	97%	100%	97%	89%
	Okaloosa	108	26	175	0	309		100%	96%	99%	89%
Panama City	Walton	47	11	88	0	146	324	98%	91%	97%	91%
	Bay	62	15	101	0	178		98%	80%	95%	92%
Tallahassee	Gadsden	46	11	81	0	138	331	87%	45%	79%	85%
	Leon	71	13	108	1	193		99%	85%	96%	96%
Jacksonville	Clay	42	80	107	0	229	419	100%	76%	84%	91%
	Duval	64	55	71	0	190		92%	80%	87%	82%
Gainesville	Alachua	56	36	43	0	135	303	91%	69%	83%	81%
	Levy	36	52	80	0	168		92%	69%	78%	75%
Orlando	Orange	36	57	79	0	172	361	72%	74%	73%	82%
	Brevard	73	44	72	0	189		89%	80%	85%	76%
Tampa	Pinellas	30	53	159	0	242	474	100%	83%	89%	66%
	Hillsborough	13	26	193	0	232		92%	85%	87%	68%
Palm Beach	St. Lucie	130	66	107	2	305	597	98%	53%	83%	73%
	Palm Beach	87	55	144	6	292		91%	76%	85%	64%
Ft. Myers-Naples	Lee	14	65	144	0	223	407	79%	98%	95%	61%
	Collier	15	60	108	1	184		93%	92%	92%	74%
Miami	Broward	94	32	100	2	228	462	99%	59%	89%	78%
	Dade	90	40	102	2	234		93%	65%	85%	67%
Total		1182	806	2176	14	4178	4178				

NUMBER OF OBSERVED CHILDREN PER COUNTY AND DMA BY AGE CATEGORY 2019

DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Age Unk.	County Total	DMA Total	Restraint Use by Age Category			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	101	10	117	0	228	513	100%	100%	100%	91%
	Okaloosa	138	11	136	0	285		99%	82%	97%	92%
Panama City	Walton	22	23	48	0	93	202	86%	78%	82%	77%
	Bay	31	18	60	0	109		97%	67%	86%	80%
Tallahassee	Gadsden	40	12	70	0	122	379	85%	42%	75%	79%
	Leon	108	20	129	0	257		98%	75%	95%	91%
Jacksonville	Clay	45	29	59	0	133	253	96%	79%	89%	80%
	Duval	61	22	37	0	120		87%	86%	87%	89%
Gainesville	Alachua	104	39	75	0	218	385	91%	59%	83%	71%
	Levy	40	38	89	0	167		85%	63%	74%	67%
Orlando	Orange	151	105	152	0	408	693	79%	64%	73%	72%
	Brevard	116	69	100	0	285		92%	75%	86%	79%
Tampa	Pinellas	14	48	126	1	189	438	93%	79%	82%	67%
	Hillsborough	16	55	178	0	249		100%	84%	87%	73%
Palm Beach	St. Lucie	113	92	144	0	349	779	98%	73%	87%	76%
	Palm Beach	142	119	168	1	430		100%	77%	90%	65%
Ft. Myers-Naples	Lee	16	74	124	1	215	416	100%	85%	88%	83%
	Collier	12	70	119	0	201		92%	90%	90%	87%
Miami	Broward	172	69	117	2	360	715	95%	64%	86%	66%
	Dade	156	64	134	1	355		96%	70%	88%	67%
Total		1598	987	2182	6	4773	4773				

NUMBER OF OBSERVED CHILDREN PER COUNTY AND DMA BY AGE CATEGORY 2018

DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Age Unk.	County Total	DMA Total	Restraint Use by Age Category			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	98	11	118	0	227	498	97%	73%	94%	83%
	Okaloosa	129	13	128	1	271		99%	77%	97%	90%
Panama City	Walton	29	25	59	1	114	246	93%	64%	80%	76%
	Bay	40	25	67	0	132		88%	72%	82%	82%
Tallahassee	Gadsden	52	23	73	0	148	458	88%	61%	80%	93%
	Leon	116	36	155	3	310		96%	83%	93%	90%
Jacksonville	Clay	42	40	118	0	200	385	100%	95%	98%	85%
	Duval	97	34	53	1	185		92%	88%	91%	85%
Gainesville	Alachua	78	66	85	0	229	464	95%	79%	88%	86%
	Levy	71	56	108	0	235		94%	73%	85%	85%
Orlando	Orange	152	128	162	0	442	776	88%	74%	81%	82%
	Brevard	141	86	106	1	334		91%	75%	85%	85%
Tampa	Pinellas	34	63	122	0	219	456	100%	87%	92%	76%
	Hillsborough	22	65	150	0	237		95%	75%	80%	73%
Palm Beach	St. Lucie	43	97	162	0	302	700	98%	80%	86%	80%
	Palm Beach	50	112	235	1	398		92%	79%	83%	69%
Ft. Myers-Naples	Lee	32	97	115	0	244	440	100%	84%	88%	88%
	Collier	36	87	73	0	196		100%	89%	92%	93%
Miami	Broward	71	106	102	2	281	590	97%	69%	79%	72%
	Dade	70	89	150	0	309		100%	73%	85%	80%
Total		1403	1259	2341	10	5013	5013				

NUMBER OF OBSERVED CHILDREN PER COUNTY AND DMA BY AGE CATEGORY 2017

DMA	County	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Age Unk.	County Total	DMA Total	Restraint Use by Age Category			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	100	38	84	2	224	493	97%	89%	95%	82%
	Okaloosa	149	39	80	1	269		99%	82%	95%	93%
Panama City	Walton	32	35	82	3	152	327	100%	80%	90%	73%
	Bay	56	38	79	2	175		98%	82%	91%	73%
Tallahassee	Gadsden	82	26	46	2	156	461	90%	49%	80%	83%
	Leon	164	41	98	2	305		99%	83%	96%	95%
Jacksonville	Clay	64	45	84	5	198	371	97%	89%	94%	89%
	Duval	61	43	65	4	173		97%	91%	94%	90%
Gainesville	Alachua	95	74	53	7	229	477	87%	74%	82%	77%
	Levy	57	83	102	6	248		91%	54%	69%	70%
Orlando	Orange	186	184	137	2	509	831	85%	68%	77%	73%
	Brevard	133	110	76	3	322		87%	75%	81%	71%
Tampa	Pinellas	62	89	124	4	279	567	98%	90%	93%	96%
	Hillsborough	55	79	152	2	288		98%	97%	98%	93%
Palm Beach	St. Lucie	100	69	134	14	317	718	99%	77%	90%	81%
	Palm Beach	97	96	197	11	401		99%	77%	88%	82%
Ft. Myers-Naples	Lee	42	67	102	0	211	423	100%	100%	100%	94%
	Collier	34	57	121	0	212		100%	96%	98%	99%
Miami	Broward	131	55	128	10	324	562	95%	67%	87%	82%
	Dade	70	35	128	5	238		93%	60%	82%	76%
Total		1770	1303	2072	85	5230	5230				

Appendix C.
Data Collection Form

2025 Florida Observational Survey for Child Restraint Use







FLORIDA Child Restraint Use Data Collection Form 2023 - SAMPLE

SITE #: _____ COUNTY: _____ Observer Name: _____ DATE: _____

TIME: _____ a.m. p.m. DAY OF WEEK: Sun M Tu W Th F Sat DIRECTION OF TRAVEL: N S E W
(circle one) (circle one)

LOCATION: _____
(street) (cross street or other landmark)

SITE TYPE: 1-Daycare Facility 2-Food Establishment 3-Shopping Center/Grocery Store 4- Entertainment/Recreation place
(circle one)

<input type="checkbox"/> SAME VEHICLE AS PREVIOUS				<input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED ON ADJACENT STREET			
VEHICLE TYPE:		RESTRAINT USE:		AGE:		DRIVER	
<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Car <input type="checkbox"/> SUV <input type="checkbox"/> Van/Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Pickup Truck		<input type="checkbox"/> Belted <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> Not Belted		<input type="checkbox"/> 16-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 60+ <input type="checkbox"/> 35-59 <input type="checkbox"/> Unk		GENDER: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Unk	
		RACE: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Unk					
CHILD PASSENGER 1				CHILD PASSENGER 2			
RESTRAINT USE: <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Backless Booster <input type="checkbox"/> Rear-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Not Belted <input type="checkbox"/> Front-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> High Back Booster		AGE: <input type="checkbox"/> 0-3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-12				RESTRAINT USE: <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Backless Booster <input type="checkbox"/> Rear-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Not Belted <input type="checkbox"/> Front-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> High Back Booster	
		AGE: <input type="checkbox"/> 0-3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-12					
Seating Position		Seating Position		Seating Position		Seating Position	
<input type="checkbox"/> SAME VEHICLE AS PREVIOUS				<input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED ON ADJACENT STREET			
VEHICLE TYPE:		RESTRAINT USE:		AGE:		DRIVER	
<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Car <input type="checkbox"/> SUV <input type="checkbox"/> Van/Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Pickup Truck		<input type="checkbox"/> Belted <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> Not Belted		<input type="checkbox"/> 16-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 60+ <input type="checkbox"/> 35-59 <input type="checkbox"/> Unk		GENDER: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Unk	
		RACE: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Unk					
CHILD PASSENGER 1				CHILD PASSENGER 2			
RESTRAINT USE: <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Backless Booster <input type="checkbox"/> Rear-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Not Belted <input type="checkbox"/> Front-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> High Back Booster		AGE: <input type="checkbox"/> 0-3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-12				RESTRAINT USE: <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Backless Booster <input type="checkbox"/> Rear-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Not Belted <input type="checkbox"/> Front-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> High Back Booster	
		AGE: <input type="checkbox"/> 0-3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-12					
Seating Position		Seating Position		Seating Position		Seating Position	
<input type="checkbox"/> SAME VEHICLE AS PREVIOUS				<input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED ON ADJACENT STREET			
VEHICLE TYPE:		RESTRAINT USE:		AGE:		DRIVER	
<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Car <input type="checkbox"/> SUV <input type="checkbox"/> Van/Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Pickup Truck		<input type="checkbox"/> Belted <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> Not Belted		<input type="checkbox"/> 16-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 60+ <input type="checkbox"/> 35-59 <input type="checkbox"/> Unk		GENDER: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Unk	
		RACE: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Unk					
CHILD PASSENGER 1				CHILD PASSENGER 2			
RESTRAINT USE: <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Backless Booster <input type="checkbox"/> Rear-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Not Belted <input type="checkbox"/> Front-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> High Back Booster		AGE: <input type="checkbox"/> 0-3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-12				RESTRAINT USE: <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Backless Booster <input type="checkbox"/> Rear-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Not Belted <input type="checkbox"/> Front-Facing CSS <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> High Back Booster	
		AGE: <input type="checkbox"/> 0-3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-12					
Seating Position		Seating Position		Seating Position		Seating Position	

