

## **NHTSA's Office of Behavioral Safety Research**

### *Child Passenger Safety Related Research Efforts*

May 27, 2021

In the past year, NHTSA has released final reports for three behavioral safety research projects focused on child passenger safety:

1. "Awareness and Availability of CPS Information Resources" (Dec. 2020) estimated the degree of awareness caregivers have of CRS inspection stations as well as the relationships among caregiver confidence, risk perceptions, and potential barriers and facilitators to inspection station use:
  - In all, 67% of respondents were aware of inspection stations, but only 44% of those who were aware reported that they had used these services.
  - A quarter of the respondents indicated a reason that might prevent them from using an inspection station was that they "don't think it's necessary."

[Awareness and Availability of Child Passenger Safety Information Resources](#)

See also [Reducing child restraint misuse: National survey of awareness and use of inspection stations](#).

2. "Evaluation of Correct Child Restraint System Installation" (July 2020) examined factors associated with accurately selecting and properly installing child restraint systems (CRSs) and securing the child in the CRS for both novice and experienced users:
  - Participants made CRS installation errors in 68% of trials and made errors when securing a doll in the CRS in 71% of trials.
  - There was no statistically significant difference in error rates between novice and experienced participants.

[Evaluation of Correct Child Restraint System Installation](#)

3. The national "2016 Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey" also had a portion that focused in Child Passenger Safety (June 2020):
  - 42% of adults have driven a child under 13 in the past year. Of those who drove children, 69% only drove children who lived outside of their households.
  - There was broad support for fines for driving with unrestrained children (89%), but only about one-half of adults (55%) believed police regularly ticket drivers with unrestrained children in their vehicles.

[Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey; Volume 3: Child Passenger Safety Report](#)

[The 2016 Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey: Child Passenger Safety \[Traffic Tech\]](#)

Current projects focus on the effect of shared mobility and vehicle automation on child passenger safety:

- “Child Passenger Safety Perceptions and Practices in Ride-sharing and Autonomous Vehicles” explores (1) how people secure their children when riding in ride-share vehicles and (2) how caregiver and driver perceptions of CRS use in the ride-sharing and automated vehicle context compare to personal vehicles.

[Child Passenger Safety Perceptions and Practices in Ride-sharing and Autonomous Vehicles](#)

- Through NHTSA’s Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research and Evaluation Program, the Transportation Research Board’s “Ensuring Child Safety in New Travel Modes” is developing a guide to identify and prioritize the types of behavioral interventions needed to improve child passenger safety in the for-hire rideshare environment, including taxis.

[BTS-11, Ensuring Child Safety in New Travel Modes](#)