

Child restraint statistics (under 5 years) 2016

The latest national survey of child restraint use in New Zealand by children under 5 years old was carried out in October 2016. Children in more than 5,400 cars were observed at 112 sites throughout New Zealand. As in previous years, sites were surveyed during school hours in the school term in order to target pre-schoolers. Results were weighted to reflect the population under five years in each local authority.

In 2016, 93 percent of children under 5 years used an appropriate restraint - either an infant seat, child seat, booster seat or a child harness. This is unchanged from 2014.

Fifty-one percent of the children in the survey were restrained in child seats, 24 percent in infant seats, 17 percent in booster seats and 0.7 percent in child harnesses. A further 4 percent were restrained by adult safety belts only. The remaining 3 percent were not restrained, including less than 1 percent who were held on the knee of other passengers (see Table 1).

Table 1: Restraint type used by children under 5 years (%)

Category	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2004	2005	2006 ¹	2007	2008	2009	2010 ¹	2012	2014 ¹	2016
Appropriate restraint used	82	86	86	87	89	91	91	90	91	93	92	93	93
Adult safety belt used	9	9	8	8	7	6	7	5	5	4	5	3	4
Unrestrained	9	5	5	5	4	4	2	5	4	2	3	3	3

¹ Rounded figures given; actual percentages add to 100%.

Surveys of under 5 year olds were annual to 2010. Since 2010, under 5 year olds and 5-9 year olds have been surveyed in alternate years.

