2017 Florida Observational Survey for Child Restraint Use

Preusser Research Group, Inc.
Task Force Meeting, October 25, 2017

Protecting Children Riding in Passenger Vehicles

NHTSA (2014) estimates child safety seats reduce fatality by:

- 71% for infants (under 1-year old) in passenger cars
- 58% in light trucks

- 54% percent for toddlers (1 to 4 years old) in passenger cars
- 59% in light trucks

Among children under 5 years old, an estimated 252 lives were saved 2014

Florida's Child Restraint Laws

Children through age 5 must be properly restrained no matter where they sit inside the passenger vehicle

Recommend that children aged 12 and under should ride properly restrained in the back seat

<u>**FLORIDA LAW PROTECTING CHILD PASSENGERS**</u>

Statute 316.613
Florida law requires all children from birth to 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 and 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? *$60.00 and 3 points.*

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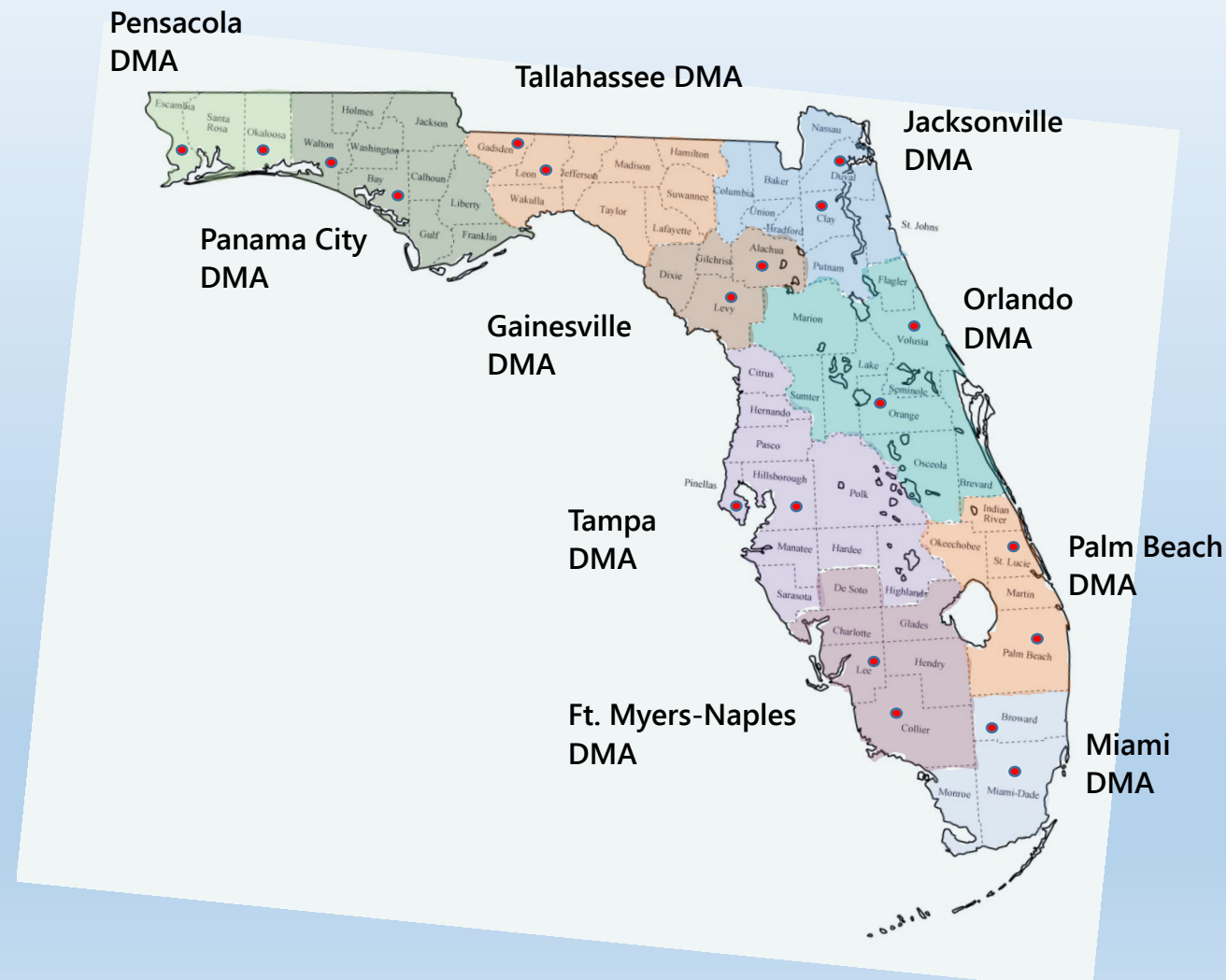GROUP, INC.

Types of Restraint
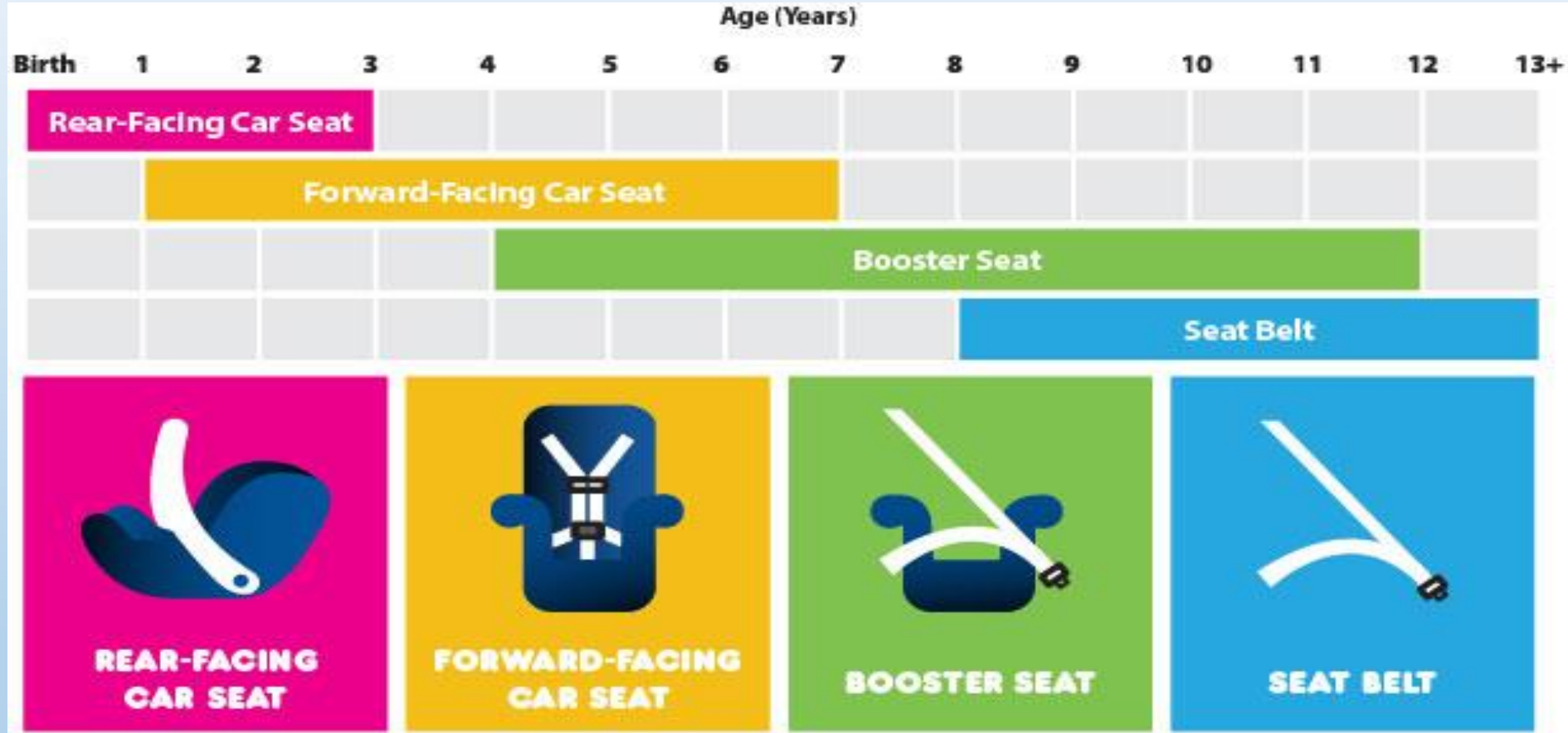
2016 Occupant Protection Assessment (FDOT/NHSTA)

Recommendation for tracking OP use among all age groups, not just front seat belt use at daytime

- Teens
- Tweens
- Children/Infants
- Belt use at Nighttime
- Rear Seat Usage

2017 Observational Survey for Child Restraint

- FDOT/PRG planning in spring 2017
  - Ages birth through age 12
  - Representation from all 10 designated media markets areas (DMA) in the State

- Survey objectives
  - Provide an estimate statewide CPS usage
  - Method for year-to-year comparisons
  - Look at level of compliance for restraint type
  - Adherence to recommendation up to age 12 ride in rear seat

Pensacola DMA
Tallahassee DMA
Jacksonville DMA
Panama City DMA
Gainesville DMA
Orlando DMA
Tampa DMA
Palm Beach DMA
Ft. Myers-Naples DMA
Miami DMA

2017 Observational Survey for Child Restraint- Survey Details

200 sites included in survey
- 10 sites per 20 counties
- 2 highest population counties per DMA (10 DMAs)
- 10 DMAs* 2 counties * 10 sites = 200 sites

Observation sites types
- Daycares
- Shopping centers
- Recreation areas
- Restaurants

Day and Time
- Weekdays and weekend days in every county
- 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- 60 min. observation periods

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2017 Observational Survey for Child Restraint- Survey Details

Child, driver and vehicle information collected

- Age category of **child** (**0-3**) (**4-5**) (**6-12**)
- Age category of **driver**
- **Driver** sex and race/ethnicity
- Vehicle type

Seating position

- Was the child passenger(s) in the **front** row, **second** row or **third** row of vehicle?

Type of restraint used or not using?

- Rear facing child safety seat
- Forward facing child safety seat
- Booster seat
- Safety belt
- **None used**

Survey Limitations

- Unobtrusive observation surveys cannot determine correct usage nor point to common misuses

- Unobtrusive observation method has difficulty with detecting backless-boosters

- The survey is a convenience sample

- Drilling down into the data on the local (DMA) level provides a large margin of error
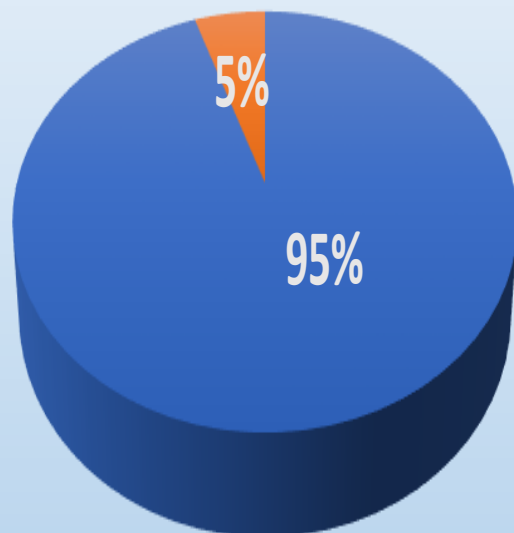
Who Was Observed?

Observers collected data on 5,230 children riding in 4,550 passenger vehicles
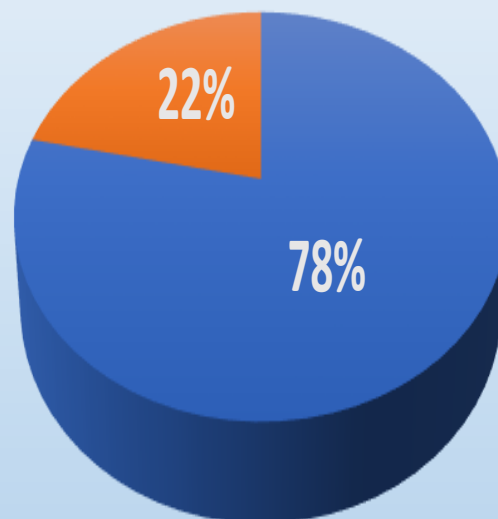
Estimated ages for those observed
- Age 0-3 (n=1,770)
- Age 4-5   (n=1,303)
- Age 6-12 (n=2,072)
- Age Unknown (n=85)

14.1 percent (+/- 0.96; 95% confidence) of the children observed were **unrestrained** across the State of Florida
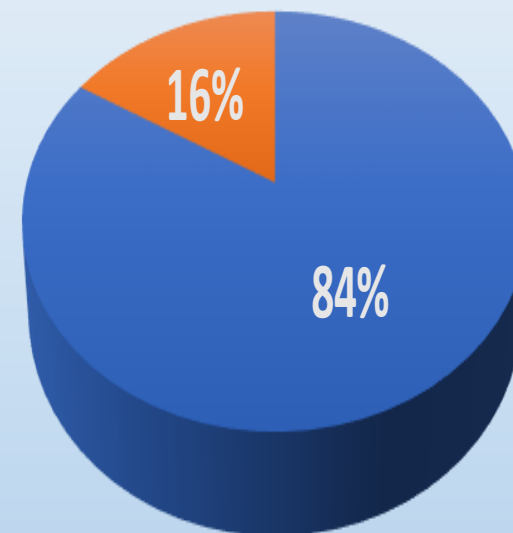
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Ages 0-3

5%
95%

Ages 4-5

22%
78%

Ages 6-12

16%
84%

■ Using Restraint   ■ Not Restrained

Restraint Use by Age and Restraint Type Category

		Ages 0-3 (n=1,770)	Ages 4-5 (n=1,303)	Ages 6-12 (n=2,072)
	Rear-Facing Infant Seat	**27%** (n=481)	**0%** (n=0)	**0%** (n=0)
	Forward-Facing Car Seat	**65%** (n=1,152)	**8%** (n=104)	**0%** (n=1)
	Booster Seat	**0%** (n=7)	**46%** (n=599)	**4%** (n=77)
	Safety Belt	**2%** (n=34)	**24%** (n=315)	**80%** (n=1,654)
	No Restraint Used	**5%** (n=96)	**22%** (n=285)	**16%** (n=340)

SEATING POSITION AND RESTRAINT USE

	% in a REAR Seat % Restrained	% in the FRONT Seat % Restrained
Ages 0-3	98% (n=1,732) 95%	2% (n=33) 55%
Ages 4-5	91% (n=1,187) 79%	9% (n=112) 63%
Ages 6-12	58% (n=1,193) 80%	42% (n=867) 89%
Total*	4,112	1,012

*Table includes passengers whose age and seating position were recorded (n=5,124). Seating position was not recorded for 21 children.

Note 92% of drivers transporting a child were wearing a safety belt

When Driver is Belted
- Unrestrained
- Restrained

3% | 13% | 8%
97% | 87% | 92%

0-3 (n=1,461) | 4-5 (n=995) | 6+ (n=1,694)

Child Age
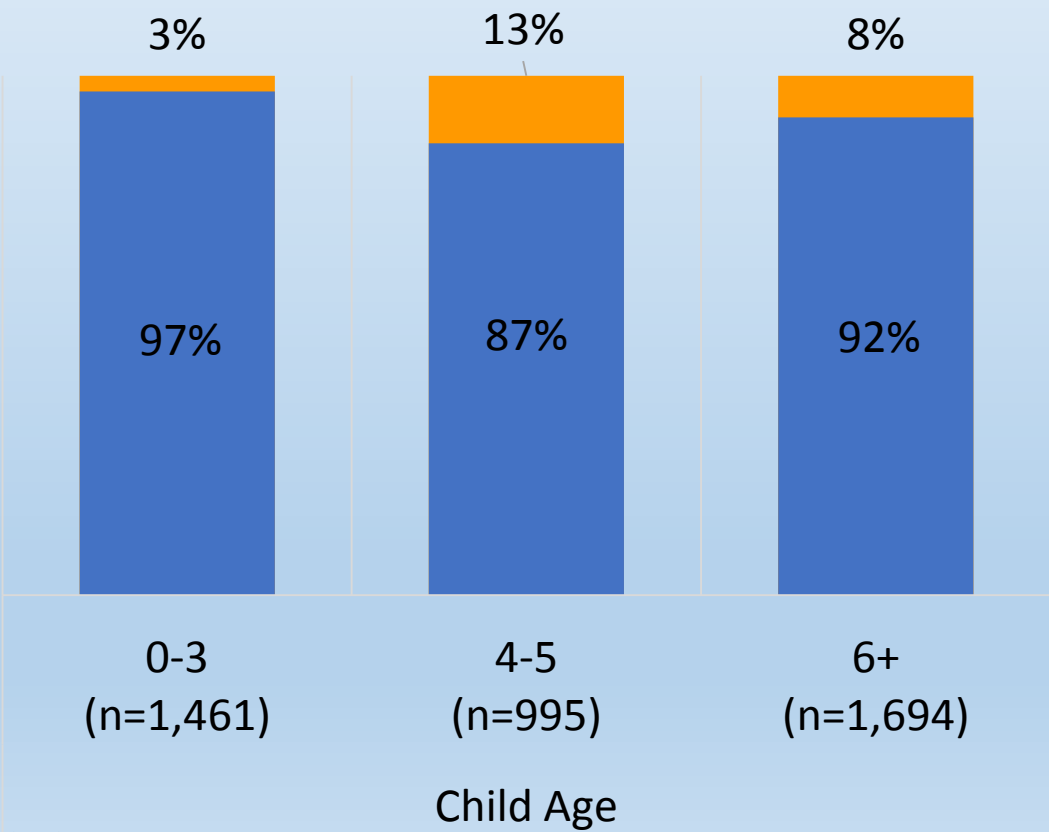
When Driver is NOT Belted
- Unrestrained
- Restrained

28% | 84% | 75%
72% | 16% | 25%

0-3 (n=115) | 4-5 (n=104) | 6+ (n=149)

Child Age
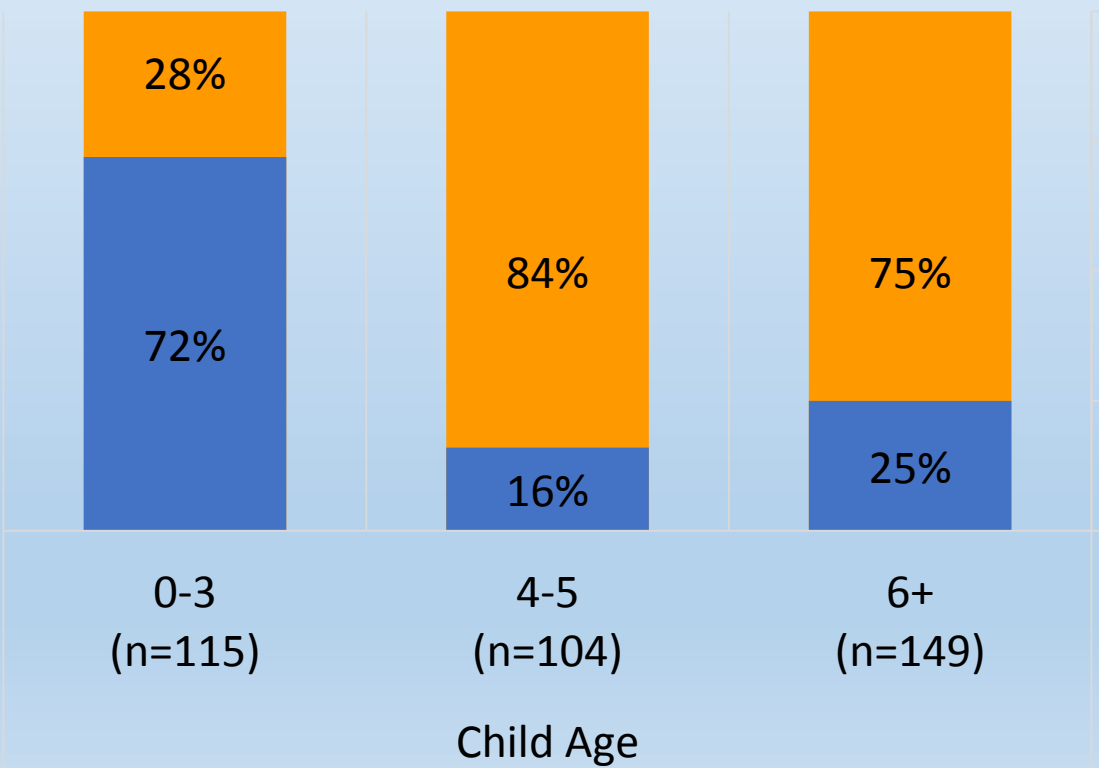
Summary

The 2017 survey found that **14 percent** of the children observed were clearly **unrestrained**

<u>Children Ages 0-3</u>
- Our observations found these children mostly in the second or third rear row of the vehicle (98%)
- Nearly all of these children were using some sort of restraint device (95%)
- Overwhelmingly this age group appeared using an age appropriate device (92%)

<u>Children Ages 4-5</u>
- Our observations found this age group mostly riding in a second or third row of the vehicle (91%)
- Close to half of this age group (46%) were using booster seats or seat belts (22%)
- **22 percent** in this age group were clearly **unrestrained**

Summary

Children Ages 6-12

- Our observations found this age group more split among front and rear rows of the vehicle
- **16 percent** in this age group were clearly **unrestrained**
- Seat belt usage was more likely in the front row of the vehicle compared to the rear rows (89% vs 80%)

Role of the Parent Gaurdian

The 2017 survey found that children travelling with an unbuckled driver were far more likely to be unrestrained

2017 Child Observational Use by DMA

Pensacola DMA
92%

Tallahassee DMA
91%

Jacksonville DMA
90%

Panama City DMA
81%

Gainesville DMA 74%

Orlando DMA
77%

Tampa DMA
95%

Palm Beach DMA 85%

Ft. Myers-Naples DMA 98%

Miami DMA
83%
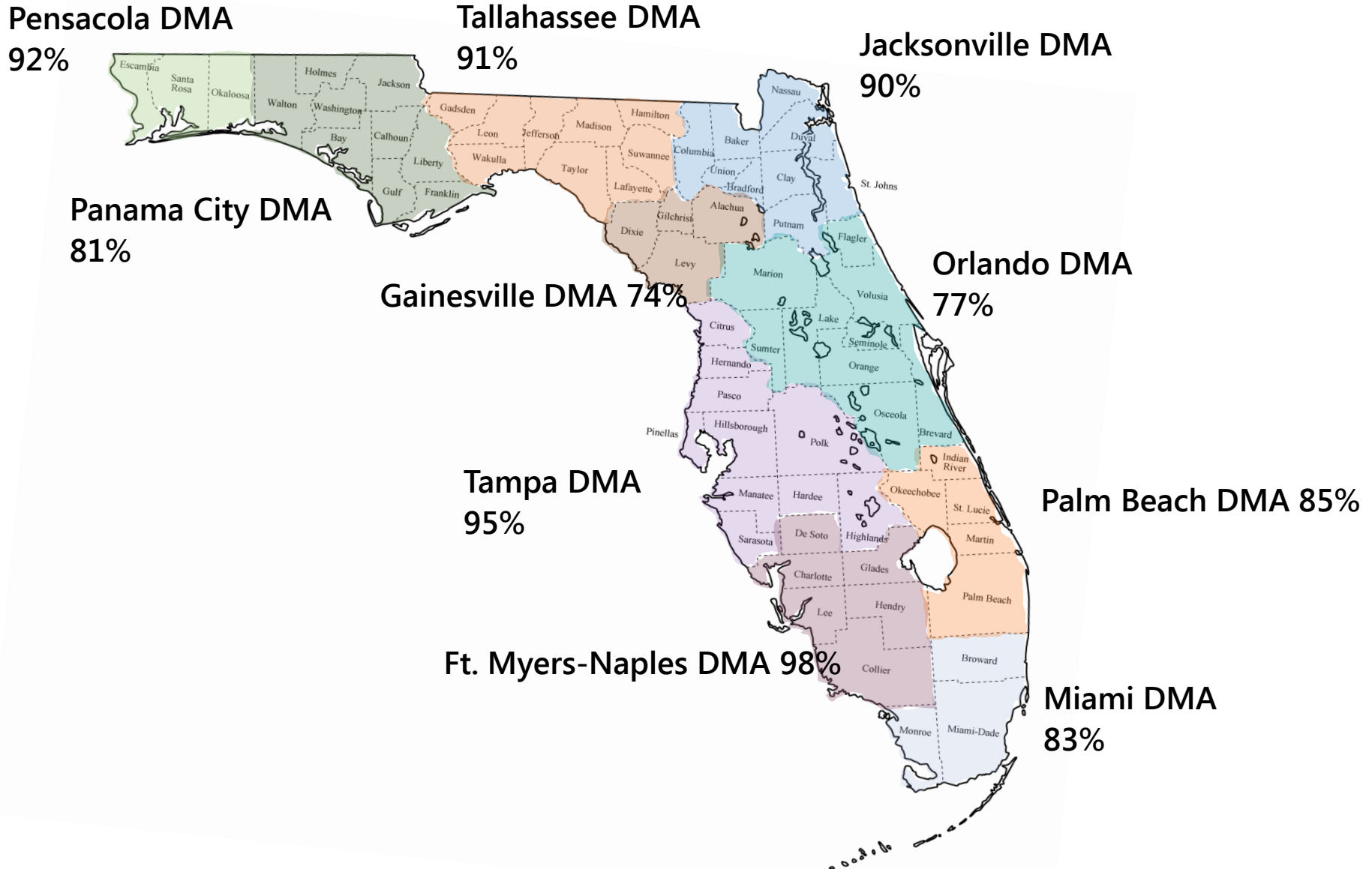
Restraint Use by DMA

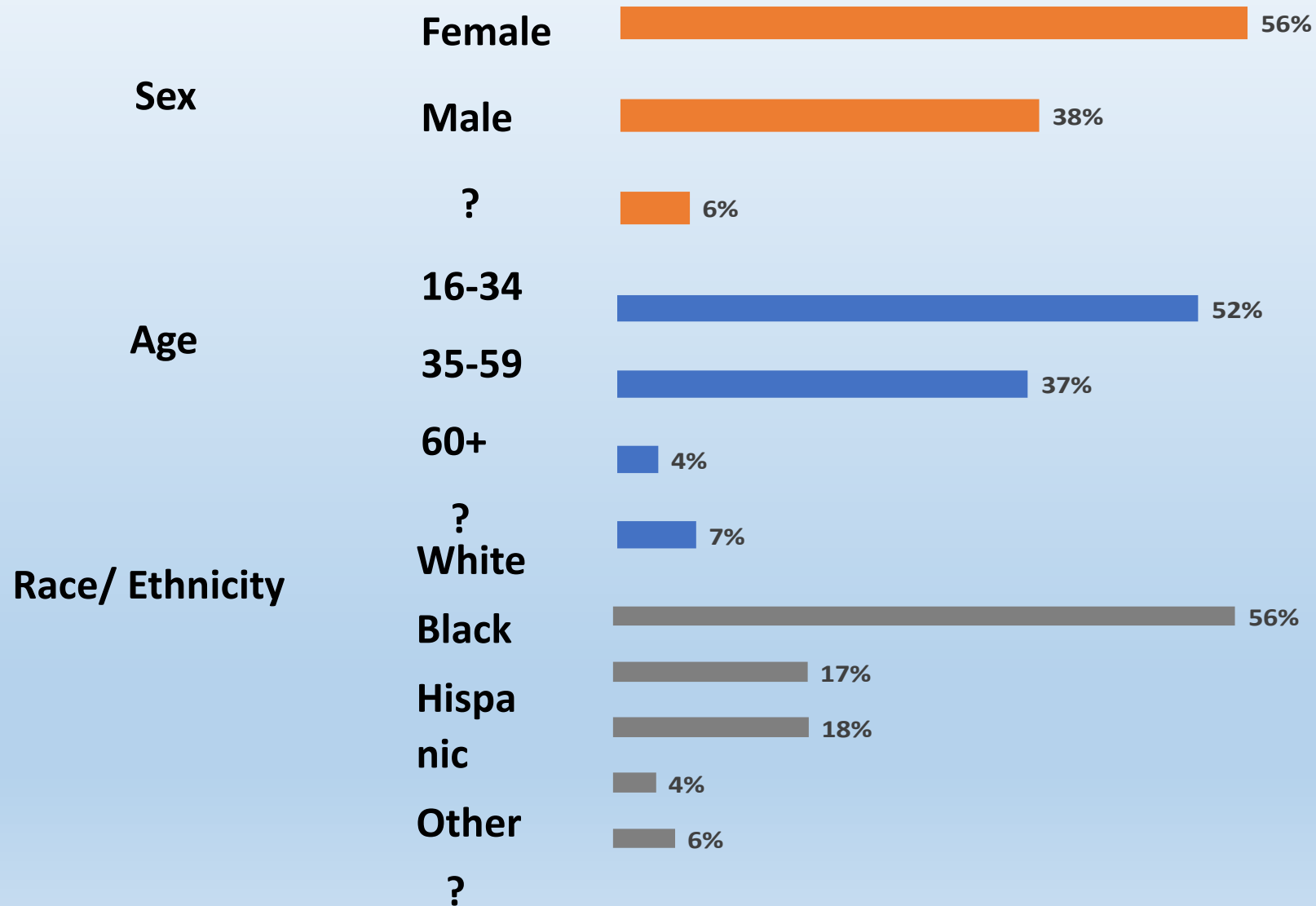| DMA	COUNTY	Age 0-3	Age 4-5	Age 6-12	Unk. Age	County Total	DMA Total	RESTRAINT USE BY AGE CATEGORY			
								0-3	4-5	<6	6-12
Pensacola	Escambia	100	38	84	2	224	493	97%	89%	95%	94%
	Okaloosa	149	39	80	1	269		99%	82%	95%	92%
Panama City	Walton	32	35	82	3	152	327	100%	80%	90%	76%
	Bay	56	38	79	2	175		98%	82%	91%	73%
Tallahassee	Gadsden	82	26	46	2	156	461	90%	46%	80%	82%
	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%	82%
	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		1,770	1,303	2,072	85	5,230					

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Characteristics of Drivers with Children

Sex
- Female — 56%
- Male — 38%
- ? — 6%

Age
- 16-34 — 52%
- 35-59 — 37%
- 60+ — 4%
- ? — 7%

Race/ Ethnicity
- White — 56%
- Black — 17%
- Hispanic — 18%
- Other — 4%
- ? — 6%

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Driver (with child occupant present) Belt Use

Overall	92%
Male	91%
Female	93%
16-34	90%
35-59	95%
60+	89%
White	94%
Black	86%
Hispanic	94%
Other	95%