

Child Restraint Use in Mississippi

2016

The safety of children on Mississippi roadways remains a major health concern for the state. Each year several countermeasures designed to subvert the trend of needless deaths to our children are put in place with the hope of saving precious lives. Citations are written to those who violate the child restraint law, and many child restraint clinics staffed by highly trained technicians are provided at no cost to the public. As a measuring stick, observational surveys are conducted to gauge the impact of these efforts each year. In 2016, the Mississippi Child Restraint Survey conducted by Mississippi State University, there were 4,612 vehicles observed in 40 municipalities during the survey period from March to June. These vehicles contained a total of 5,837 children estimated to be under the age of 7, as Mississippi law states all children under the age of 7 must be restrained in a child restraint device or booster seat system. A complete analysis of the data resulted in a 2016 overall calculated child restraint usage rate of 81.3% for the state.



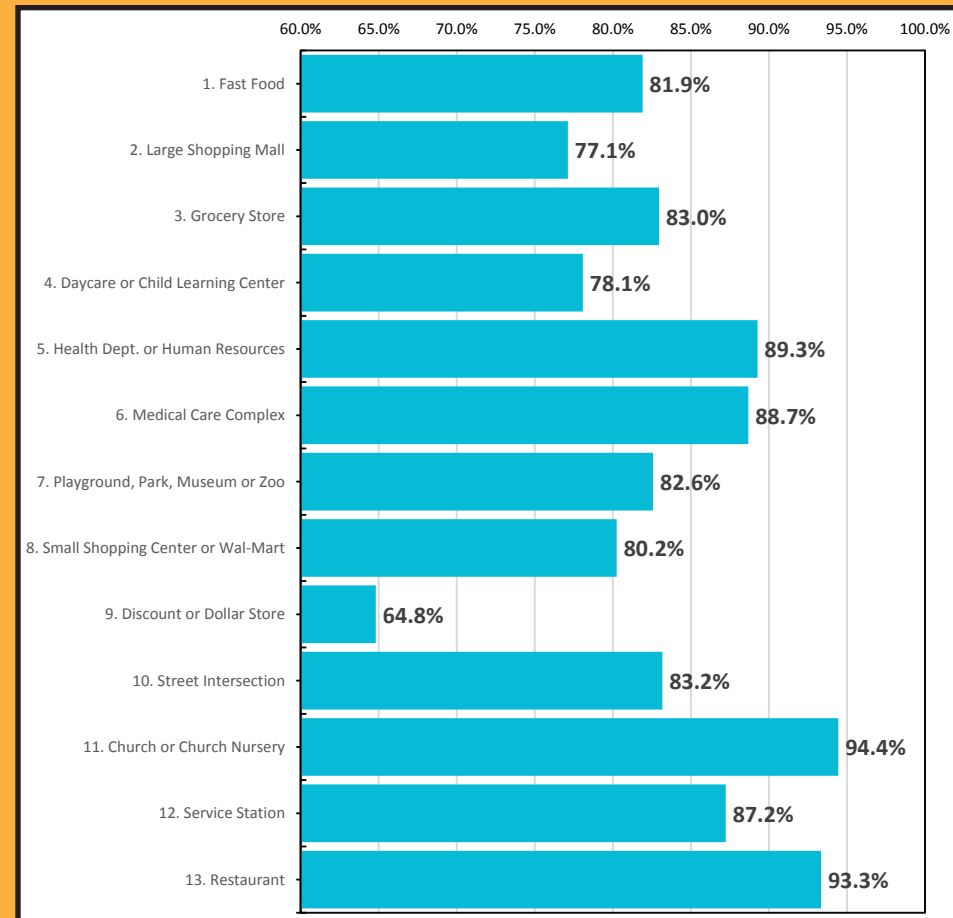
Overall Usage Rate:
81.3%



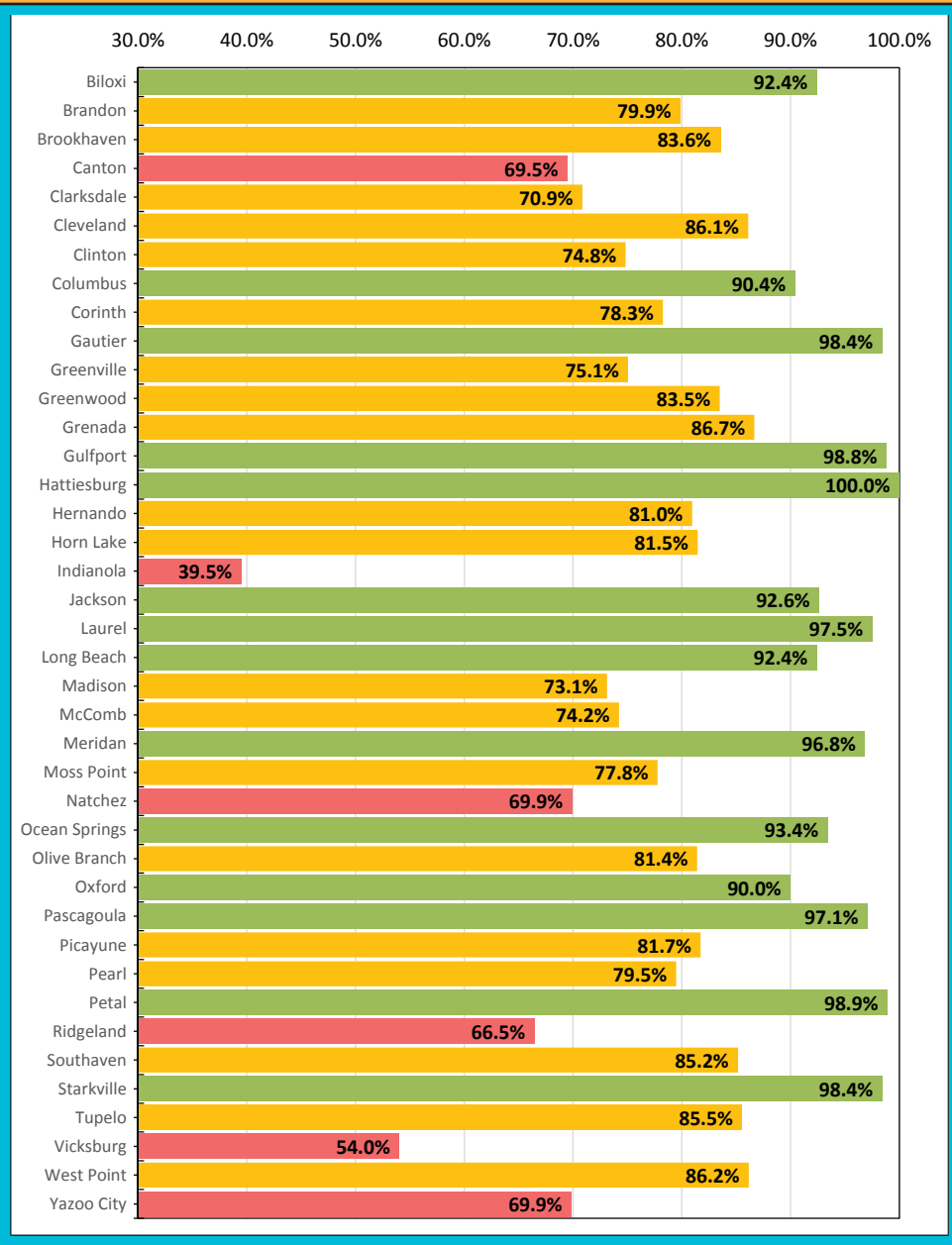
The bar chart to the right provides a breakdown of observed child restraint rates by type of location. Observations made at churches or church nurseries and restaurants showed the largest usage rates for child restraints. Over 90% of the children at these two types of locations were using vehicle restraints. The location type that resulted in the lowest observed restraint use were discount or dollar stores. Observed usage for this type of location types was less than 65%.

Number of Observations Per Location Type	
1. Fast Food	923
2. Large Shopping Mall	118
3. Grocery Store	352
4. Daycare or Child Learning Center	1688
5. Health Dept. or Human Resources	205
6. Medical Care Complex	159
7. Playground, Park, Museum or Zoo	132
8. Small Shopping Center or Wal-Mart	977
9. Discount or Dollar Store	108
10. Street Intersection	909
11. Church or Church Nursery	90
12. Service Station	94
13. Restaurant	75

Restraint Usages of Children by Type of Location (% Restrained)



Restraint Usages of Children by Municipality (% Restrained)



There were at least 8 observation locations in each of the 40 municipalities surveyed in 2016 (the city of Jackson has 28 sites observed). The bar chart to the left shows the estimated child restraint usage rate for each of the cities surveyed, and each bar is color-coded to indicate how prominent child restraint usage appears relative to the group. Green bars show municipalities with exceptional child restraint usage rates above 90% and red bars highlight the cities showing less than desirable child restraint usage rates below 70%. The yellow bars, naturally, indicate the cities that fell somewhere between the 70% and 90% range.

The pie charts below express child restraint usage by driver gender and child seating position. In 2016, males restrained children in the front seat by a slight margin over females. Female drivers outperformed males in child restraint use in back seats however. The charts also illustrate the greater probability a child in the back seat will be buckled compared to a front seat child passenger, regardless the gender of the driver.



Child Restraint Usage by Gender of Driver and Seating Position of Child

