

Child Restraint Use in Mississippi

2015

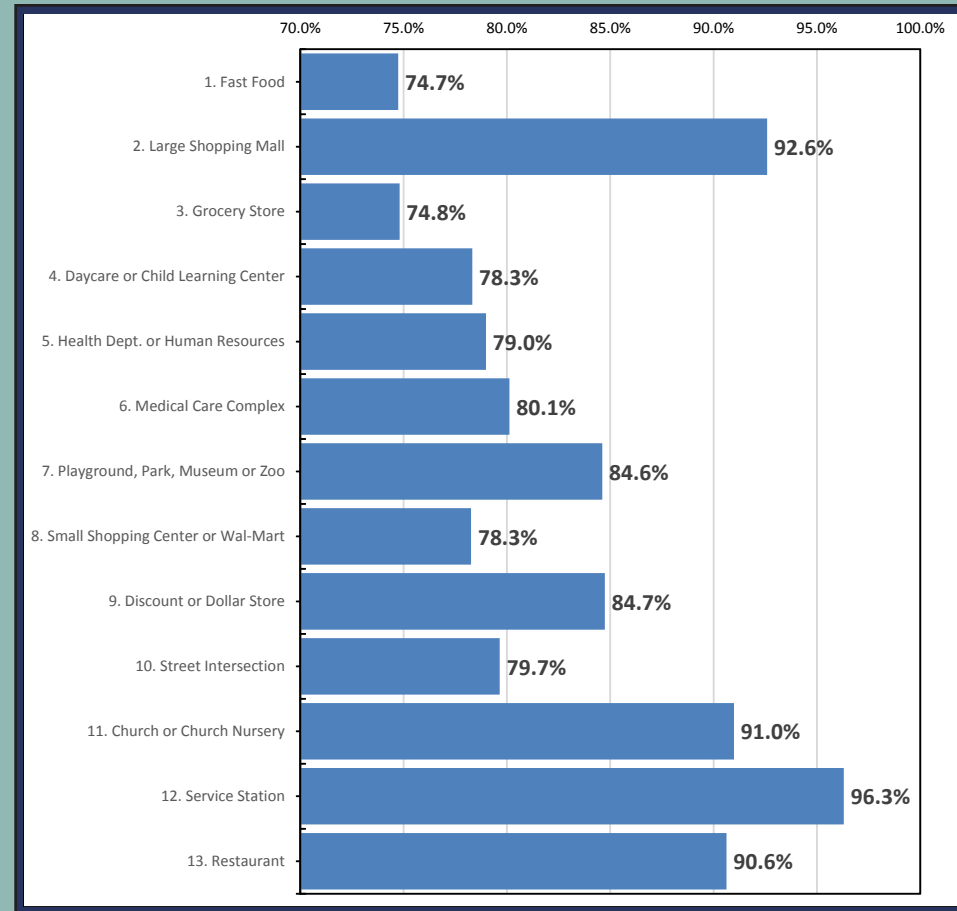
The safety of children on Mississippi roadways remains a major health concern for the state. Each year several countermeasures designed to subvert the trend of needless deaths to our children are put in place with the hope of saving precious lives. Citations are written to those who violate the child 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 2015, the Mississippi Child Restraint Survey conducted by Mississippi State University, there were 5,177 vehicles observed in 40 municipalities during the survey period from March to June. These vehicles contained a total of 6,634 children determined 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 2015 overall calculated child restraint usage rate of 79.1% for the state.



Overall Usage Rate:
79.1%

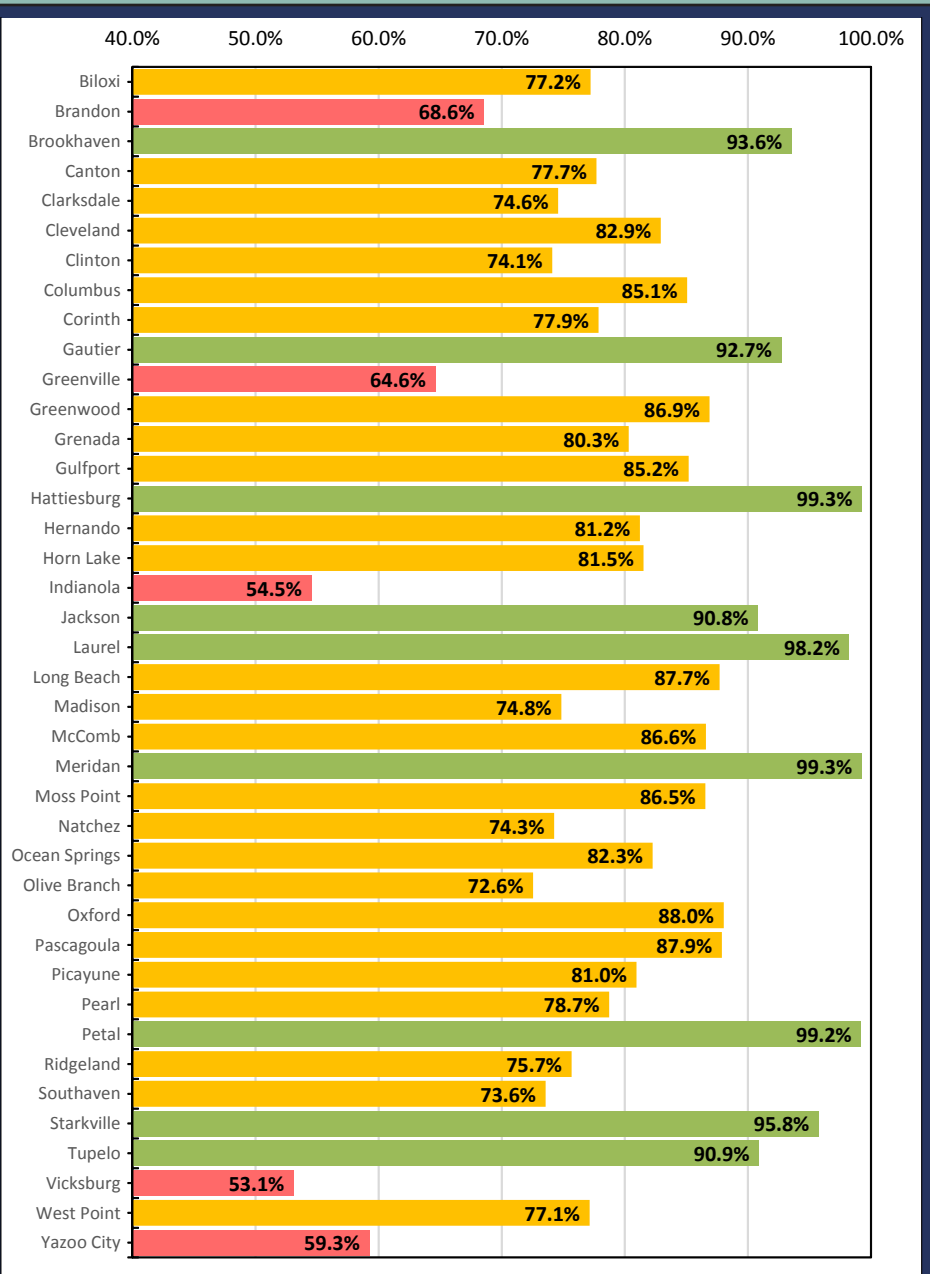
The bar chart to the right provides a breakdown of observed child restraint rates by type of location. Observations made at large shopping malls, churches or church nurseries, service stations and restaurants showed the largest usage rates for child restraints. Over 90% of the children at these four types of locations were using vehicle restraints. The location types that resulted in the lowest observed restraint use were fast food establishments and grocery stores. Observed usage for these two location types was 75%.

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



Number of Observations Per Location Type	
1. Fast Food	1053
2. Large Shopping Mall	108
3. Grocery Store	524
4. Daycare or Child Learning Center	1435
5. Health Dept. or Human Resources	414
6. Medical Care Complex	327
7. Playground, Park, Museum or Zoo	143
8. Small Shopping Center or Wal-Mart	842
9. Discount or Dollar Store	190
10. Street Intersection	1268
11. Church or Church Nursery	244
12. Service Station	54
13. Restaurant	32

Restraint Usages of Children by Municipality (% Restrained)



There were at least 8 observation locations in each of the 40 municipalities surveyed in 2015 (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.

In the pie charts below, child restraint usage by driver gender and child seating position are illustrated. The top and bottom set of charts show females slightly more likely (by 3 percentage points in each case) to buckle up a child whether the child is seated in the front seat or the back. The charts also express a 12% 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

