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FDOT Highlights Statewide Child Passenger Restraint Use In 2018

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Today, as the nation recognizes Child Passenger Safety Week, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) released the *2018 Child Restraint Survey* report showing 94% compliance among our youngest and most vulnerable road users.

The *2018 Child Restraint Survey* report details the results of a state-wide observational survey conducted to determine child passenger restraint use in Florida.

The survey indicated that 84 percent of children, ages 0-12, were restrained across the state of Florida. Results indicate that the majority of Floridians understand the importance of properly restraining their children—especially infants—with 94% of observed children age zero to three being restrained. Florida also saw increases in rear-facing carrier use (27% in 2017 to 31% in 2018), forward-facing car seat use (8% in 2017 to 28% in 2018), and booster seat use (24% in 2017 to 30% in 2018).

FDOT Secretary Mike Dew said, “As a parent or caregiver, keeping your children safe is always a top priority. Using car seats that are age- and size-appropriate is the best way to keep children safe and can reduce serious and fatal injuries by more than half. Make sure your child is always buckled in safely and correctly—every trip, every time.”

Child safety seats have been shown to reduce fatal injury by 71% for infants (under one-year-old) and by 54% for toddlers (one to four years old) in passenger cars. The corresponding reductions in light trucks are 58% and 59% respectively. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [NHTSA], 2014).

Florida law requires all children from birth to age three be placed in a restraint device that is a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer’s integrated car seat. Children four and five years of age are required to ride in a separate carrier, an integrated child seat or child booster seat, or safety belt. In addition, FDOT follows the [American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations](#) that children age 12 and under should ride properly buckled in the back seat.

For additional information, please visit www.safercar.gov/therightseat. To view the *2018 Child Restraint Survey* report, please visit: <http://www.fdot.gov/info/CO/news/newsreleases/2018-CPS-Observational-Survey-Final-Report.pdf>

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