



## Child Restraint Survey

### **1. Correct fitment of Child Restraints-RACQ staff inspected the fitment of child restraints in 156 vehicles.**

Age group – Under 6 months:

#### **Appropriateness**

100% of restraints fitted were *very appropriate* for this age group.

#### **Frequency of use**

100% of those surveyed reported that they always transported the child in the restraint.

Age group – 6 months to 11 months :

#### **Appropriateness**

100% of restraints fitted were *very appropriate* for this age group.

#### **Frequency of use**

100% of those surveyed reported that they always transported the child in the restraint.

Age group – 1 year to 3 years:

#### **Appropriateness**

56.92 % of restraints fitted were *very appropriate* for this age group

23.08% of restraints fitted were *somewhat appropriate* for this age group

10.77% of restraints fitted were *not appropriate* for this age group

9.23% of restraints fitted were *not at all appropriate* for this age group

#### **Frequency of use**

90.77% of respondents reported that they *always* or *mostly* transported the child in this restraint.

9.23% of respondents reported that they *sometimes* or *rarely* transported the child in this restraint.

Age group – 4 to 7 years:

#### **Appropriateness**

25.33 % of restraints fitted were *very appropriate* for this age group

29.33% of restraints fitted were *somewhat appropriate* for this age group

16.00% of restraints fitted were *not appropriate* for this age group

29.33% of restraints fitted were *not at all appropriate* for this age group

#### **Frequency of use**

89.19% of respondents reported that they *always* or *mostly* transported the child in this restraint.

10.81% of respondents reported that they *sometimes* or *rarely* transported the child in this restraint.

## **2. Occasions when a child restraint was not used.**

**When asked if there were occasions when a child restraint was not used when transporting a child,**

56.8% of respondents answered yes

### **Length of the trip**

68.2% short trip under 5km

31.8% medium trip 6 to 20 km

### **Purpose of the trip**

20% school/kindergarten/playgroup

12% shopping

28% outing/leisure trip/holiday

40% other varied purpose

### **Reasons given for not using a restraint**

86.4% reported no restraint was available e.g. a hire car/taxi or friends vehicle.

4.5% could not be bothered

4.5% forgot

4.5% had other reasons not specified

Of the above,

86.4% stated that it was only on very rare occasions that a restraint was not used

13.6% cited 'other' unspecified frequency.

## **3. Most recently bought or hired a child safety restraint.**

**Participants were asked to recall their most recent experience in buying or hiring a child restraint.**

82.5% bought a restraint

17.5% hired a restraint

### **Type of restraint purchased**

14.3% capsule

18.4% convertible

14.3% forward facing car seat

22.4% booster with harness

30.6% booster for use with normal seatbelt

**Participants were then asked:****(a) How well informed do you believe the salesperson that sold you the restraint was about its use and the correct fitting?**

- 37.8% there was no sales person
- 32.4% very well informed
- 21.6% well informed
- 5.4% adequately informed
- 2.7% not well informed

**(b) Where was the restraint purchased/hired?**

- 47.4% department store
- 23.7% baby store
- 10.5% Kidsafe
- 7.9% Queensland Ambulance Service
- 7.9% RACQ
- 2.6% did not recall

**(c) Who originally fitted the restraint?**

- 62.5% parent
- 12.5% RACQ
- 10.0% Kidsafe
- 10.0% Queensland Ambulance Service
- 2.5% friend
- 2.5% accredited fitter

**(d) How often is the restraint moved in and out of vehicles?**

- 31.6% never
- 44.7% infrequently
- 7.9% at least monthly
- 15.8% daily

**(e) How did you find out how to install the restraint?**

- 47.2% read instruction booklet
- 13.2% Queensland Ambulance Service
- 13.2% Kidsafe
- 9.4% RACQ
- 7.5% salesperson/car dealer/mechanic/garage
- 3.8% other
- 1.9% parent
- 1.9% friend/relative
- 1.9% daycare/childcare/kindergarten

**(f) What were the most important aspects to you in selecting this restraint?**

- 14.4% weight of child
- 12.5% met Australian Standards
- 12% age of child
- 12% safety
- 8.8% comfort

- 7.9% quality of brand
- 6.5% whether it was correctly fitted
- 5.1% anchor points & fitting
- 4.6% whether it would fit in car
- 3.2% ergonomic design/features
- 3.2% price/cost/value for money
- 2.8% not too old/frayed straps
- 2.8% wear and tear
- 0.9% whether restraint had been involved in accident
- 0.5% second hand
- 0.5% whether it could be hires/rented
- 2.3% other

#### **4. Respondents were asked to rate on a scale of one to 7 where**

- 1 is 'never'
- 7 is 'always' and
- 4 is 'somewhat likely'

##### **(a) How likely are you to use a child restraint every time you travel in your vehicle?**

97.44% responded 5 or above  
2.56% responded 4 or less  
Average response 6.8

##### **(b) How likely are you to get professional advice on how to install a child restraint?**

79.48% responded 5 or above  
20.51% responded 4 or less  
Average response 5.6

##### **(c) Are you mindful that children in the wrong type of restraint are likely to have more severe injuries?**

92.3% responded 5 or above  
7.7% responded 4 or less  
Average response 6.4

##### **(d) How likely are you to buy new restraints when your child needs a different type?**

97.44% responded 5 or above  
2.56% responded 4 or less  
Average response 6.7

#### **5. Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the following statements where**

- 1 is 'strongly disagree'
- 7 is 'strongly agree' and
- 4 is neither agree or disagree

**(a) Normal seatbelts offer the same protection as special child restraints.**

5.12% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
2.56% neither agreed or disagreed  
93.2% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average responses 1.5

**(b) Child restraints prevent severe injury or death in a vehicle**

94.87% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
5.13% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 6.0

**(c) Children in the wrong type of restraint are likely to have more severe injuries**

94.87% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
5.13% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 6.3

**(d) Child restraints are mostly for longer journeys**

2.56% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
97.44% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 1.3

**(e) It was easy to find out about child restraints**

84.62% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
5.13% neither agreed or disagreed  
10.25% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 5.9

**(f) It is easy to install child restraints yourself**

58.98% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
20.51% neither agreed or disagreed  
20.51% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 4.8

**(g) I know where to get a child restraint fitted**

84.61% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
5.13% neither agreed or disagreed  
10.26% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 6.4

**(h) My children find it easy to undo their restraints**

30.77% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
12.82% neither agreed or disagreed  
56.41% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 3.3

**(i) My children resist, they sometimes ride without a restraint**

12.82% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
87.18% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 1.8

**(j) Child restraints are too expensive to buy or hire**

10.26% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
2.56% neither agreed or disagreed  
87.18% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 1.8

**(k) Child restraints are worth the money you pay for them**

100% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
Average response 6.9

**(l) It is safe for an adult and a child to share a common seatbelt**

5.13% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
2.56% neither agreed or disagreed  
92.31% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 1.5

**(m) I am likely to get caught by the police if my children are not restrained**

61.54% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
20.51% neither agreed or disagreed  
17.95% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 5.2

**(n) I only restrain my child because it is the law**

100.00% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 1.1

**(o) There is adequate support and information for parents about child restraints**

66.67% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
12.82% neither agreed or disagreed  
20.51% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 5.3

**(p) Police should warn offenders rather than enforcing**

17.95% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
7.69% neither agreed or disagreed  
74.36% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 2.3

**(q) It would be useful to me to have complete information about child restraints**

35.90% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
38.46% neither agreed or disagreed  
25.64% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 4.1

**(r) I am satisfied with my knowledge of child restraints**

84.62% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
10.26% neither agreed or disagreed  
5.12% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 5.8

**(s) I am satisfied with my own ability to correctly fit and use child restraints**

71.80% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
10.26% neither agreed or disagreed  
17.94% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 5.2

**(t) It is safe for children 7 years and over to sit in the front passenger seat**

25.64% responded 5 or more (agreed)  
17.95% neither agreed or disagreed  
56.41% responded 3 or less (disagreed)  
Average response 3.2

**6. Respondents were asked: What do you think would be the best way to help parents / carers improve their knowledge of child restraints and their correct use?**

21.6% TV advertisements  
23.2% pamphlets available at child care centres, kindergartens & maternity hospitals  
20.8% more stories about child safety restraints on TV and radio shows  
10.4% home shows/displays/garden shows  
21.6% displays at schools and kindergartens  
2.4% other i.e. increase penalties/antenatal classes/random police checks/magazines