



Common Child Passenger Safety Misuses in the U.S. and by State

In partnership with



Data provided by AAA and the National Safety Council, based on
2025 data from the National Digital Car Seat Check Form (NDCF).

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Learn about the most common child passenger safety misuses by state, along with the percentage of children who moved to booster seats or adult seat belts too soon. Use the numbered icons within the Key to understand each misuse and what to check.

Top Misuses Key

Parents and caregivers should check that...

- 1** A seat belt fits properly when children are riding in a booster seat or seat belt alone.
- 2** The car seat harness is snug enough on the child.
- 3** The car seat is installed tight enough on vehicle seats when using a seat belt for installation.
- 4** The car seat is installed tight enough on vehicle seats when using the lower anchor attachment system for installation.
- 5** The tether is used whenever possible on forward-facing car seats (and as instructed by both the car seat and vehicle manufacturers).
- 6** The lower anchor attachment system and seat belt are not used together to install a car seat (unless both the car seat manufacturer and the vehicle manufacturer approve the use of both systems for installation).

* State Data Unavailable - Default to National Trends on Misuse

** Misuse is less than national trends

** Misuse is more than national trends

National Trends

Country	Top Misuses to Check	Overall Car Seat Misuse	Percent of children who transitioned to a booster seat too soon	Percent of children who transitioned to an adult seat belt too soon
US	2 5 3 4	73.7%	19.1%	86.5%
State	Top Misuses to Check	Overall Car Seat Misuse**	Percent of children who transitioned to a booster seat too soon**	Percent of children who transitioned to an adult seat belt too soon**
Alabama	1 2 3	88.0%	45.8%	87.0%
Alaska	2 3 5	75.9%	26.6%	95.1%
Arizona	2 3 4	54.3%	29.7%	*
Arkansas	1 2 3	89.5%	37.5%	94.7%
California	1 2 3	78.2%	24.1%	82.1%
Colorado	1 2 6	73.1%	16.4%	88.5%



State	Top Misuses to Check	Overall Car Seat Misuse**	Percent of children who transitioned to a booster seat too soon**	Percent of children who transitioned to an adult seat belt too soon**
Connecticut	2 3 4	69.5%	13.3%	*
Delaware	*	*	*	*
Florida	1 2 3	71.5%	32.0%	94.7%
Georgia	1 2 5	84.3%	34.3%	96.6%
Hawaii	2 3 4	72.5%	14.0%	39.4%
Idaho	1 3 5	75.2%	20.6%	81.7%
Illinois	1 2 3	68.5%	22.8%	95.9%
Indiana	1 2 5	79.5%	29.3%	91.5%
Iowa	2 5 6	75.3%	*	*
Kansas	1 5 6	65.7%	24.6%	95.6%
Kentucky	1 4 6	75.9%	*	93.4%
Louisiana	2 3 5	75.2%	18.1%	*
Maine	2 3 5	78.8%	21.9%	*
Maryland	1 2 3	72.6%	21.5%	82.3%
Massachusetts	1 2 3 5	65.0%	21.9%	93.3%
Michigan	1 3 5	80.8%	28.3%	89.8%
Minnesota	1 2 3	69.4%	13.2%	81.8%
Mississippi	*	*	*	*
Missouri	1 3 5	68.6%	42.0%	97.6%
Montana	1 3 5	72.7%	18.0%	91.7%
Nebraska	1 2 3	76.8%	15.4%	82.6%
Nevada	1 2 3	82.0%	24.0%	89.7%



State	Top Misuses to Check	Overall Car Seat Misuse**	Percent of children who transitioned to a booster seat too soon**	Percent of children who transitioned to an adult seat belt too soon**
New Hampshire	2 4 6	69.8%	20.0%	*
New Jersey	3 5 6	20.2%	*	*
New Mexico	2 3 4	75.2%	12.5%	*
New York	1 2 6	55.7%	22.5%	97.2%
North Carolina	1 2 3	66.2%	23.1%	86.0%
North Dakota	1 2 3	72.5%	16.4%	81.6%
Ohio	1 2 3	74.3%	16.8%	71.1%
Oklahoma	1 2 3	83.6%	25.4%	89.1%
Oregon	2 3 5	73.3%	16.7%	*
Pennsylvania	2 3 4	62.4%	*	*
Rhode Island	5 3 4	69.1%	19.6%	95.1%
South Carolina	1 2 6	60.7%	25.1%	99.2%
South Dakota	*	*	*	*
Tennessee	1 2 3	76.4%	20.1%	90.3%
Texas	1 2 3	72.6%	20.0%	*
Utah	1 2 6	74.1%	27.9%	93.1%
Vermont	1 3 5	70.2%	23.7%	96.6%
Virginia	2 5 6	58.9%	25.8%	*
Washington	1 2 3	72.9%	21.6%	85.0%
West Virginia	*	75.0%	*	*
Wisconsin	1 2 3	76.6%	22.4%	82.7%
Wyoming	1 3 4	72.9%	22.1%	88.6%