

Summary:

Securing small children in cars

Parents knowledge about the use of child restraint systems.

The campaign “Securing children in cars” is a joint project, between the organisation Safe Traffic¹ and the Norwegian Public Road Administration. The goal is to increase parents knowledge about safety restraints for children, and that they make use of the information. The project is implemented in six out of Norways 19 counties.

This report contains results from an analysis of a questionnaire about the parents knowledge of safety restraint for children, and of two inspections/controls of the use of childrens restraints. The controls/inspections were undertaken in the morning, when parents delivered their children to the kindergarten. The questionnaire and the controls/inspections were a part of the midway evaluation of the campaign “Securing children in cars”. The report also comments on other studies about the use of child restraint systems.

Most of the parents in this study known the right way to secure their children, but few have exact knowledge about rules concerning safety restraint systems for children.

A conclusion is that a lot of the parents failed to put their knowledge about safety restraint into practice.

70 percent of the parents had secured their children correctly, in the six counties where the controls took place. 10 percent had however not secured them at all and about 20 percent had failed to secure their children properly. Placing small children in the front seat, without disconnecting the airbag, was one of the most frequent and severe mistakes.

When compared to data from the Public Road Administrations “state of the art” studies, it seems that safety restraints are lesser used on short trips.

The controls/inspections took place in two subsequent weeks. During the first control/inspection, information and counselling about how to secure the children was given. There was an reduction in the number of children not secured, from the first to the second week. This reduction may be attributed to the campaign. But missing data about which parents that received counselling and advice during the first inspection, makes it difficult to draw a firm conclusion.

¹ Private organisation in Norway