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Parent Driver Characteristics Associated with Sub-Optimal Restraint of Child Passengers

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Objectives. To identify parent driver demographic and socioeconomic characteristics associated with the use of sub-optimal restraints for child passengers under nine years.

Methods. Cross-sectional study using in-depth, validated telephone interviews with parent drivers in a probability sample of 3,818 vehicle crashes involving 5,146 children.

Sub-optimal nutrition is a leading cause of undernutrition for infants and young children under 5 years of age. [Learn more](#)

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95% CI: 1.12–1.44; less than high school graduate, adjusted RR = 1.36, 95% CI: 1.13–1.63); and lower family income (with \$50,000 or more as reference: <\$20,000, adjusted RR = 1.23, 95% CI: 1.07–1.40). Multivariate analysis revealed the following independent risk factors for sub-optimal restraint among four-to-eight-year-olds: older parent age, limited education, black race, and income below \$20,000.

Conclusions. Parents with low educational levels or of non-Hispanic black background may require additional anticipatory guidance regarding child passenger safety. The importance of poverty in predicting sub-optimal restraint underscores the importance of child restraint and booster seat disbursement and education programs, potentially through Medicaid.

Keywords: Child Passenger Safety Health Disparity Poverty Child Safety Seats Booster Seats

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