

Child Safety Seat Misuse

2017 New York State Child Safety Seat Inspection Data

Key Findings

88% of inspected seats were reported to have at least one problem. The most frequent problems reported were:

- The seat being too loose
- Incorrect use of harness straps
- Incorrect seat use for child's age or weight

6% of all inspected seats were either expired or recalled.

Child safety seat misuse increased in the winter.

Among 2017 Inspections

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Cars inspected | 3,735 |
| Seats checked | 5,168 |
| Seats correctly installed | 618 |
| Seats distributed | 1,270 |

Only 1 In 10 Child Safety Seats Were Correctly Installed



Top 10 Reported Problems

| | |
|------------|---|
| 762 | Child safety seats too loose |
| 445 | Child safety seats unsuitable for age/weight |
| 411 | Harness straps incorrectly placed |
| 366 | Harness straps not snug |
| 332 | Child safety seats too old or recalled |
| 316 | Latch systems used incorrectly |
| 274 | Seat belt/harnesses used incorrectly with booster seats |
| 231 | Booster seats not used at all |
| 138 | Booster seats not secured while not in use |
| 120 | Child safety seats inappropriately reclined |

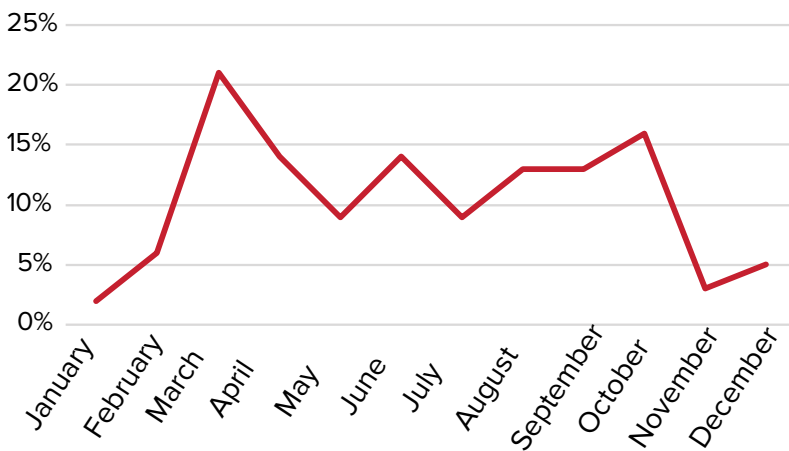
Data sources: New York State Child Passenger Safety Program Inspection Data, New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee January 2018; New York State Department of Health Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention.

Child Safety Seat Installations by County

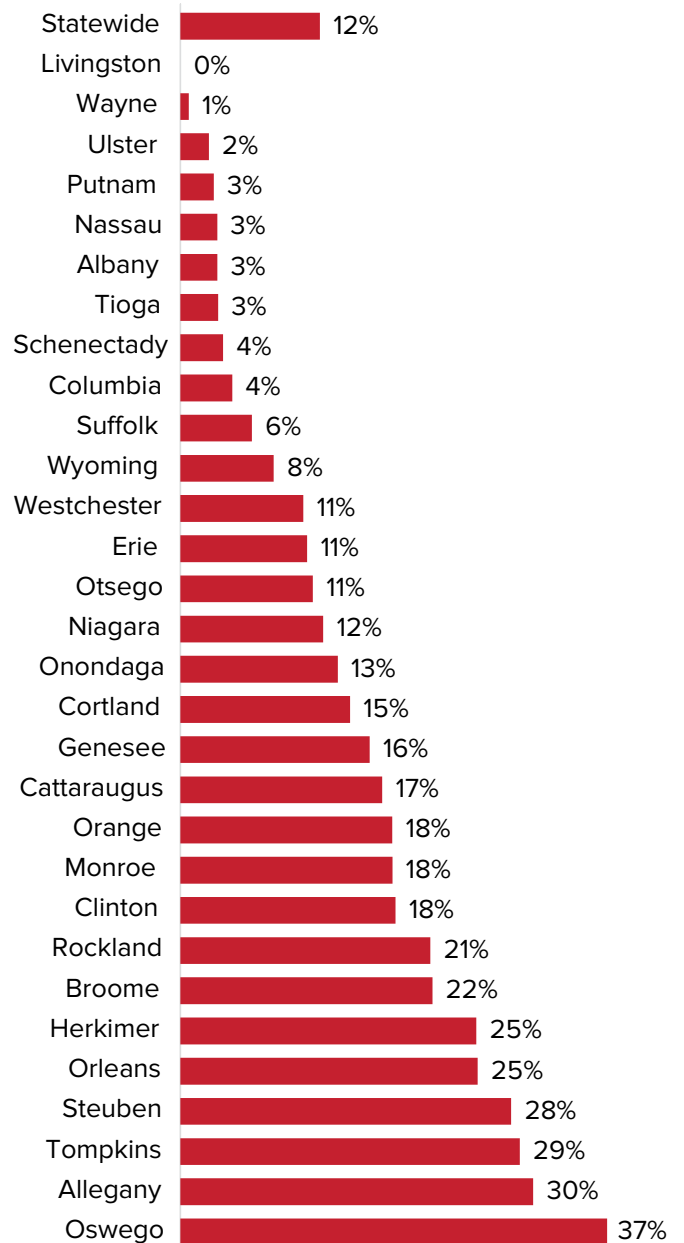
This figure (right) shows that most child safety seats observed at check events were incorrectly installed, even in the highest performing counties.

The figure below shows that child passenger safety technicians observed more properly installed seats in the spring and summer months. Although overall, more people had improperly installed seats regardless of time of year. Late fall and winter months had the lowest percentage of correctly installed seats.

Correct Installations by Month



Correct Installations by County*



* Data shown for counties that had three or more child safety seat check events in 2017.

Data sources: New York State Child Passenger Safety Program Inspection Data, New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee January 2018; New York State Department of Health Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention.

