Assessment of a Child Passenger Safety Program

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ABSTRACT

Despite significant increases in child safety seat use, many children are still not properly restrained. The Saskatchewan model for addressing child passenger safety consists primarily of targeted education of parents and caregivers through the training of certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians; child passenger safety clinics; distribution of educational resources supplemented with some distribution of car seats; and enforcement of child restraint laws. This assessment aimed to determine whether the Saskatchewan model compares to international best-practices; the program increases use in general, and specifically, proper use of child passenger restraints; the demographics of parents and caregivers involved in interventions match the demographics of the Saskatchewan population; there are segments of the Saskatchewan population being missed; and there is a match between the parents and caregivers targeted by the program and those of the children injured in motor vehicle collisions in Saskatchewan. These research questions were addressed via a systematic review; a child passenger roadside survey and parking lot inspections; a child passenger safety clinic client
survey; and secondary analysis of the Saskatchewan Traffic Accident Information System (TAIS) data. Overall, child passenger safety seat use in Saskatchewan is high and in general, seats are used correctly. An exception to this is the low use of booster seats among 5 to 9 year old children. Improper restraint use is decreasing among children injured in motor vehicle crashes. Low socioeconomic status families, Aboriginal and immigrant families warrant focused efforts in order to be reached. Specific recommendations are made.

RÉSUMÉ