

E-News for Florida Child Passenger Safety Professionals

Fall 2024



Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Florida Child Passenger Safety (CPS) e-news where we bring you the latest information on training opportunities, resources, and activities. In this edition, we cover Safe Kids renewal extensions due to the impact of recent hurricanes, upcoming CEU webinars, the new 2024 CPS Technician Certification Training Guide, an analysis of Florida's National Digital Car Seat Check Form (NDCF) data, the Florida CPS fitting station locator, and the new Florida Vehicular Heatstroke Task Force.

Our goals are to share information to help you keep your CPS certification up to date, connect with other CPS professionals in your community, and stay informed about state CPS activities. We invite you to share information about upcoming CPS events in your community, CEU trainings, or other topics of interest for future editions of the Florida CPS e-news by emailing us at floridaoprc@ce.ufl.edu. To promote your local CPS event on the Occupant Protection Resource Center (OPRC) website, complete this [form](#).

Upcoming Events



Safe Kids Grants Extensions for CPSTs Renewals for Those in Storm-Impacted Counties

Are you a CPST from a county impacted by tropical storm Debby or hurricanes Helene or Milton? We understand that in times of natural disaster it may be difficult for you to fulfill the recertification requirements. If your certification expires between October 1, 2024 and January 31, 2025, Safe Kids is extending your recertification deadline to February 28, 2025. Check your Safe Kids profile to see if you received an extension. Please [contact Safe Kids](#) if you need an extension and it is not designated on your profile.

Florida Hurricane Impacted Areas

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Alachua | Duval | Hillsborough | Marion | Sarasota |
| Baker | Flagler | Indian River | Martin | Seminole |
| Brevard | Franklin | Jefferson | Okeechobee | St. Johns |
| Charlotte | Gilchrist | Lake | Orange | St. Lucie |
| Citrus | Glades | Lafayette | Osceola | Sumter |
| Clay | Hamilton | Lee | Palm Beach | Suwannee |
| Collier | Hardee | Leon | Pasco | Taylor |
| Columbia | Hendry | Levy | Pinellas | Union |
| Dixie | Hernando | Madison | Polk | Volusia |
| DeSoto | Highlands | Manatee | Putnam | Union |

Upcoming CEU Webinars



1. Our partners in Tennessee are presenting the CEU Workshop, “Interacting with Caregivers: Sometimes Talking is Better than Doing: Hands-On Activity” on **Monday, Nov. 18, from 1-2 p.m ET**. Proof of attendance will be emailed after the meeting. Register in advance at [Interacting with Caregivers CEU](#).

2. [Hot Topics by CPS Stages](#). Despite being regulated, car seats are far from uniform – for every rule there seems to be an exception! CPSTs know to follow owner’s manuals and stay abreast of instructions but are naturally curious when the guidance in some manuals seems to be at odds with guidance in others. Join Denise as she discusses some hot topic areas and call out inconsistencies in instructions that exist on topics including load legs, LATCH versus seat belt, and touch-the-front-seatback-or-not issues. **Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 2-3 p.m. ET**.



2024 CPST Certification Training Curriculum Launches in February

Get ready! The 2024 Child Passenger Safety Technician Training curriculum launches on February 3, 2025. Digital materials are available on December 2. Instructor’s guides will be delivered in mid-late December. Please join an upcoming session to prepare to teach the revised curriculum.

1. Go Time! Prepping to Teach the 2024 CPST Certification Training Curriculum
 - Thursday, Dec. 12 (10-11:30 a.m. ET) **Special webinar for Florida CPS Instructors.**
 - Wednesday, Dec. 18 (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ET)
 - Tuesday, Jan. 7 (2-3:30 p.m. ET)
 - Friday, Jan. 24 (12-1:30 p.m. ET)
 2. The Child Passenger Safety Learning Portal has pre-recorded National Instructor Forum videos of two workshops leading up to the launch of the new curriculum.
 3. CPSTs can attend Key Updates in the 2024 CPST Certification Training Curriculum, **Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 2-3 p.m. ET** with Tammy Franks as she provides a certification training curriculum update and shares how and when to access the 2024 Technician Guide.
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Learn about the NDCF

The NDCF collects standardized data allowing stakeholders to identify patterns that can help reduce child passenger injuries and fatalities. This edition contains an analysis of Florida's NDCF car seat data. Since 2018, Florida's CPSTs have entered 8,000 car seat checks, representing 12% of all CPSTs. The overall misuse rate is 67.6%, with seatbelts and harness use identified as the most often misuse observed. Most misuse was seen with caregivers using rear facing car seats.

Florida CPSTs must use the NDCF for car seat checks when distributing OPRC car seats. Check out the resources and webinars to help you navigate the NDCF.

1. Explore the National Child Passenger Safety Board user guide and tutorials.
2. Attend a free online orientation session to learn how to use the NDCF.
 - Thursday, Nov. 21: Register to attend (2-3 p.m. ET)
 - Monday, Dec. 16: Register to attend (1-2 p.m. ET)
 - Thursday, Jan. 16: Register to attend (2-3 p.m. ET)
3. Attend the National Instructors" Forum: NDCF and the 2024 CPST Certification Curriculum – What Instructors Need to Know, on **Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2-3 p.m. ET**. NSC's Jennifer Booge explains how the NDCF is being incorporated into the 2024 CPST curriculum and how instructors can educate students on the benefits of using this data-rich tool.

Florida NDCF Fact Sheet



8,000

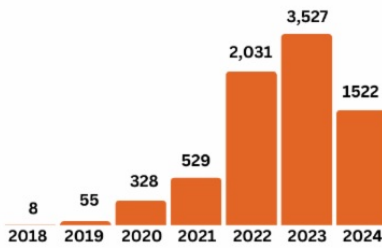
Total Child Car Seat Checks Entered (2018-2024)



67.6%

Overall Misuse of Car Seats Inspected

Car Seat Checks Entered by Year



Most Often Misuse Type Observed



65.2%
Seatbelt



58.2%
Harness



50.6%
Lower Anchor



47.2%
Tether



30%
Load Leg



20%
Recline Angle



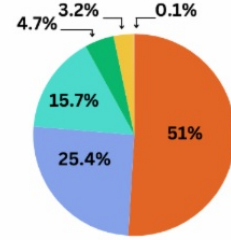
11.3%
Handle Position



4.9%
Manufacturer Direction

Misuse by Car Seat Type

- Rear Facing Only
- Rear Facing Convertible
- Forward Facing/Harness
- Lap/Shoulder Belt
- Booster Seat
- Lap Belt



1,477

Total CPSTs

90

Total CPSIs

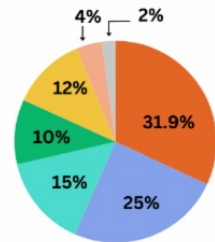


12.4%

of CPST/s entered data into the NDCF

Overall Misuse by Child Age

- Birth 0-1
- Age 1-2
- Age 2-3
- Age 3-4
- Age 4-6
- Age 6-8
- Age 8+



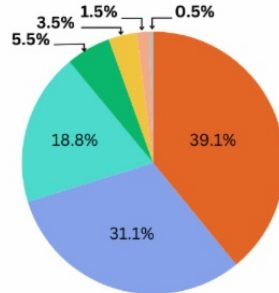
<http://carseatcheckform.org/dashboards> (NDCF Florida Dashboard), July 2018 - August 2024

Florida NDCF Fact Sheet

Overall Seatbelt Misuse

Percentage of Checks

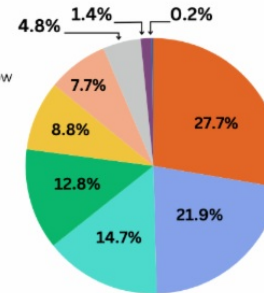
- Too Loose
- Used w/Lower Anchors
- Retractor Not Locked
- Routed Incorrectly
- Other
- Didn't Fit Properly (Booster)
- Locking Clip



Overall Harness Misuse

Percentage of Checks

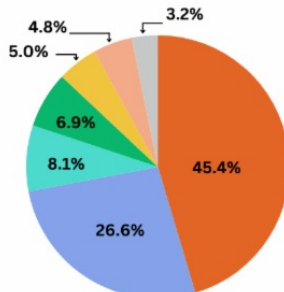
- Too Loose
- Harness Slot Wrong Placement
- Harness Twisted
- Harness Retainer Clip Too High/Low
- Crotch Buckle Slot/Routing
- Other
- Not Used
- Damaged
- Altered



Overall Lower Anchor Misuse

Percentage of Checks

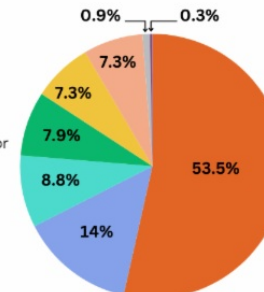
- Webbing Too Loose
- Used with Seat Belt
- Incorrectly Used
- Webbing Routed Twisted
- Connectors Upside Down
- Other
- Exceeded Weight Limit



Overall Tether Misuse

Percentage of Checks

- Not Used
- Strap Too Loose
- Strap Routed Incorrectly
- Other
- Strap Twisted
- Attached to Non-Approved Anchor
- Connector Upside Down
- Exceeded Weight Limit

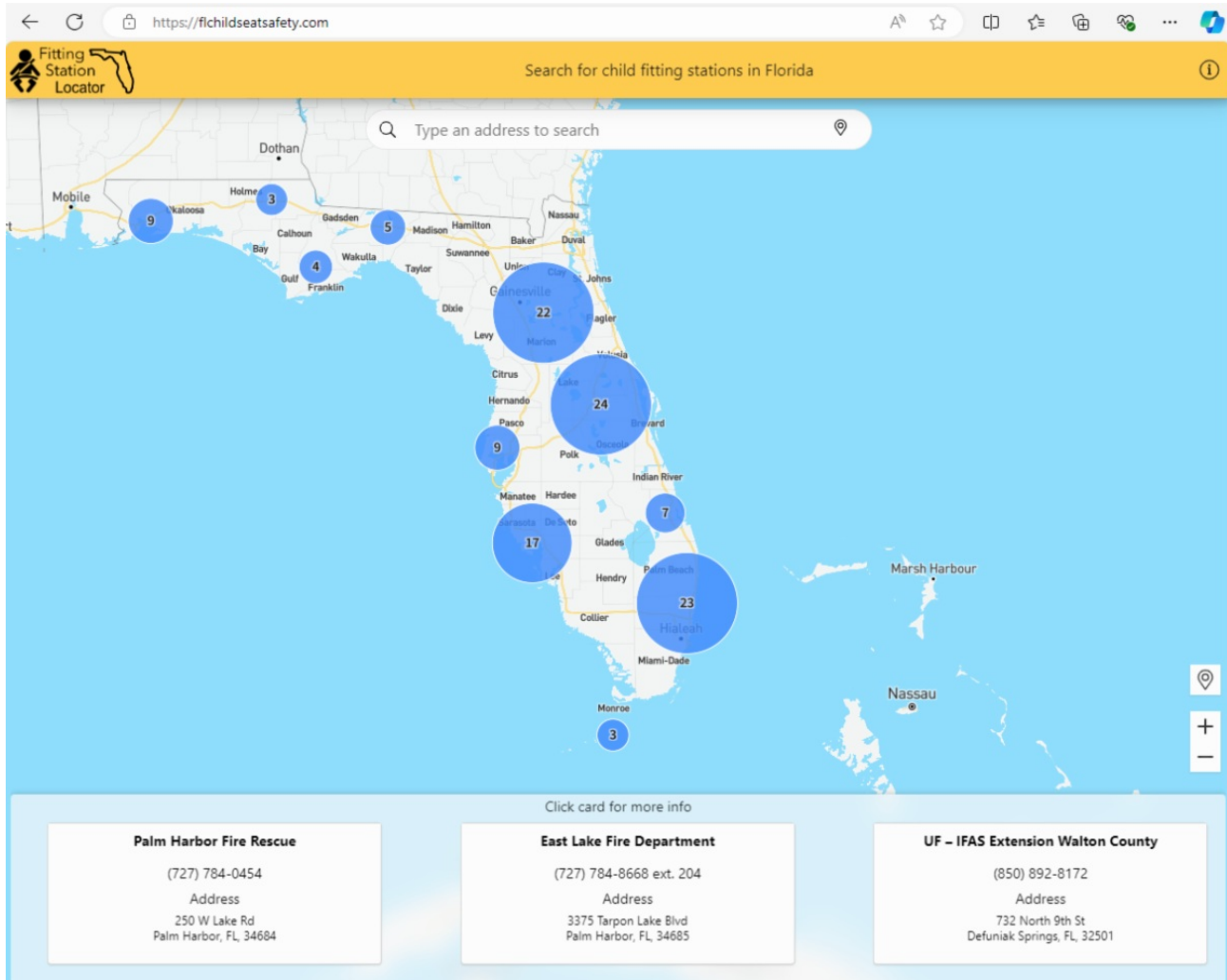


<http://carseatcheckform.org/dashboards> (NDCF Florida Dashboard), July 2018 - August 2024

Florida CPS Fitting Station Locator

The Florida CPS Seat Fitting Station Locator helps caregivers find a fitting station to learn how to use child safety seats, booster seats, and seat belts correctly for every trip, every time. For CPSTs, the locator is also a valuable tool to search for other technicians to partner with in your community.

The FDOT-sponsored locator map is a collaborative effort of the University of Florida (UF) Institute for Driving, Activity, Participation, and Technology (I-DAPT), Transportation Technology Transfer (T2) Center, and the GeoPlan Center.



New Florida Vehicular Heatstroke Task Force (FVHTF)

Over the past 26 years, more than 1,000 children have died of vehicular heat stroke after being left in

hot cars, according to NoHeatStroke.org. Almost one third of these deaths happened in Texas and Florida because an unattended child was forgotten in a motor vehicle. Florida formed a new task force to bring awareness to vehicular heat stroke deaths among children, pets, and other vulnerable populations, including seniors. The Florida Vehicular Heatstroke Task Force (FVHTF) focuses on advocating change to the Florida Unattended Child Law and increasing awareness about vehicular heatstroke risk and prevention through community outreach and education.

The OPRC added a new [Children in Hot Cars](#) brochure to help increase awareness of vehicular heatstroke in your community. The next FVHTF meeting is **Dec. 13, from 10-11 a.m. ET**. Please contact [Amy Artuso](#) or [Alexis Kagiliery](#) for more information on joining the FVHTF.

Order Traffic Safety Resources

Interested in ordering free resources for your next CPS class or materials to distribute at your next car seat check event?

Apply for a Scholarship

Do you know someone who wants to become a CPS technician? Are you ready to recertify? Our scholarships cover Safe Kids fees!

Apply for a Stipend

Calling all Instructors! Did you know that the OPRC offers stipends to help cover the cost (travel, materials, etc.) of instructing a CPS course?

<https://www.floridaoprc.ce.ufl.edu>

UFTI-T2 Center | 2100 NE Waldo Road, Building 1604, Suite 106 | Gainesville, FL 32611 US

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