

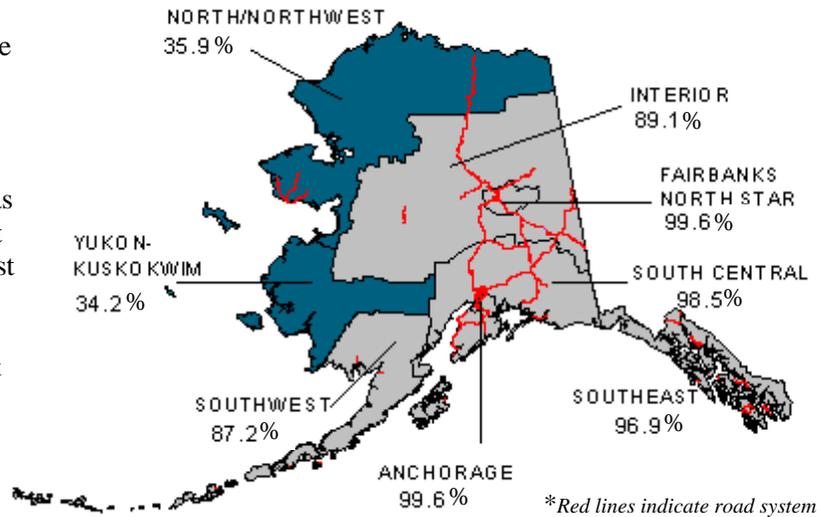
Infant Car Seat Use In Alaska

Data are from the Alaska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), 1996-1999

Estimates of regular[†] infant car seat use for states in the continental U.S. approximate 100% whereas the overall prevalence in Alaska is lower (91.8% in 1999). Closer examination of the data indicates that when remoteness of the mother's community is considered there is no difference in the prevalence of regular car seat use in Alaskan urban areas and U.S. estimates. Geographically, Alaska is a very unique state, with extreme rural areas that have very limited, or no, road systems – travel by residents in these remote areas is commonly by snow-machine, ATV[‡], boat, or plane.

**Prevalence of Regular Infant Car Seat Use by Region*
Alaska, PRAMS, 1996-1999**

- The two most urban regions, Anchorage and Fairbanks, have nearly 100% prevalence of regular car seat use.
- The two most rural regions, Yukon-Kuskokwim and North/Northwest – dark areas of the map – have the lowest usage of infant car seats. Just over one-third of mothers in these two regions indicated they regularly used an infant car seat for their newborn.

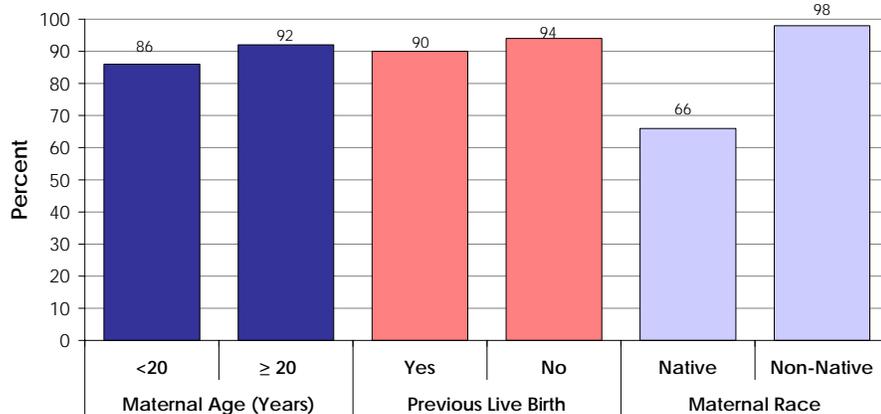


“From the hospital to the airport my baby was in a car seat. Then on the airplane he was held. From the airport to home, baby was on a four-wheeler. No cars in the village.”

— Quote from a PRAMS mother living in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region

- Teen mothers were less likely to report that their baby regularly rides in an infant car seat compared with older mothers.
- Mothers who had a previous live birth were less likely to report that their baby regularly rides in an infant car seat compared with first-time mothers.
- Although the trend is moving upward (10% increase from 1996 to 1999), regular infant car seat use among Alaska Native mothers is significantly lower than for non-Native mothers.

**Prevalence of Regular Infant Car Seat Use for Selected Variables
Alaska, PRAMS, 1996-1999**



[†]Defined as mothers of live-born infants that reported ‘Yes’ to the PRAMS survey question ‘My baby always rides in an infant car seat’.

[‡]All Terrain Vehicle or four-wheeler.