CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PRACTICE IN CHINA: ATTENTION AND ACTION

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Background China is undergoing rapid motorisation. Since little
was known for child passenger safety practice in China.

Aims This study aims to describe where child passengers are seated
and whether restraints are used; and investigate the influence of
children and/or parental attributes on seating position and restraint
use.

Methods Toll gate observation for child passengers aged ≤12 years
was conducted in Shanghai during 2009. Another parent survey for
kindergarten enrolled children aged 2–7 years was conducted during
2008–2009. The adjusted relative risks (RR) comparing rear with
front seating position among child passengers were evaluated using
multivariate binomial regression with robust variance estimation.
The adjusted RR comparing any restraint use with no restraint use
was also evaluated.

Results Both observation and survey studies revealed common front
seating practice and low restraint use among child car passengers.
Younger age (≤4 years), single child in a car, and parental license
status were associated with decreased likelihood of rear seating posi-
tion; whereas tertiary education for mothers was associated with
increased likelihood of rear seating selection for child passengers.
Children travelling with drivers using no restraints were less likely
to be restrained; whereas parents having drivers license were more
likely to use restraints for their child passengers.

Conclusion This study demonstrates common front seating and low
restraint use as ignored safety concerns, and identified risk factors
influencing restraint use and seating position for child passengers.
These findings call for urgent attention and appropriate intervention
targets to improve child passenger safety in China.