FACTORS SURROUNDING CHILD SEAT USAGE IN RIDE-SHARE VEHICLES

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WHY RESEARCH THIS TOPIC?

• Ride-share services becoming an increasingly popular method of transportation

Source: Compiled from online business data reports
IMPRacticality ISSUES

• Availability of seats
• Portability of seats
• Installation time
• Compatibility with vehicle
• Multiple children
Research Questions

• When and how do parents transport their children using ride-share services?
• When child safety seats are used, how are they provided and installed?
• How are laws and policies interpreted?
• What are drivers’ and parents’ perceptions about child transport in ride-share vehicles?
PHASE 1: REVIEW OF EXISTING REGULATIONS

- Review of state legislation and ride-share company policies regarding child passenger safety
- Compiled data into matrices
  - Law specifications by age, seat location, enforcement
  - Exemptions from CPS laws and verbiage
- Literature review report
STATE-BY-STATE FOR-HIRE EXEMPTIONS FROM CPS LAWS
ONLINE FORUM ANALYSIS

• Monitored ride-share drivers’ online discussion forums
PHASE 2: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

• Experiences with ride-share driving and usage
• Opinions about ride-share services
• Knowledge about company policies and state laws
• Personal use of child safety seats
• Experiences and opinions on transporting children in ride-share vehicles
PARENTS

DRIVERS
# Focus Groups Composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Drivers</th>
<th>Parents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Station</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Houston</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dallas</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAJOR FINDINGS

• 75% of drivers had given rides to young children
  • Half were restrained in child safety seats
• One-third of parents had used R-S with children
  • Half used child safety seats
• Biggest inhibitors: lack of knowledge and uncertainty
• Varying opinions on liability
PHASE 3: NATIONWIDE SURVEY

• Online survey of parental usage of ride-share vehicles with children
  • Overall usage, usage with children, usage of child seats
  • Also questions for parents who are ride-share drivers
• Targeted to parents of children <5 years old
• ~1500 responses
• Data collection complete, analyses in progress
• Sneak peek: Preliminary Data
CHILD TRANSPORTATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Age Distribution of Respondents' Children

- Newborn - 24 months: 1,200
- 7 years - 4 years: 1,300
- 5 years - 8 years: 1,150

Frequency of Transporting Children

- Daily: 70%
- Several Times/Week: 60%
- Several Times/Month: 50%
- <Several Times/Month: 40%
- Rarely: 30%
- Never: 20%
CHILD TRANSPORTATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Where do Respondents Live?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Town</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium City</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburb</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large City</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How Old are Respondents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-30</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-45</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-65</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RIDE-SHARE SERVICE USAGE W/ CHILDREN

64% have used R-S at some point to transport children

Frequency of Transport Modalities w/ Children

Frequency of Use of Child Seats in R-S Vehicles
RIDE-SHARE DRIVERS

Does Respondent Drive for a R-S?

Do Drivers Provide Child Seats?
MOVING FORWARD

- **Policies & Regulations**
  - Clarification
  - More Specificity

- **Child Seat Provision in Ride-Share**
  - Develop services
  - Continue piloting

- **Advocacy**
  - Increase awareness
  - Educate & inform
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