

Saving Kids: Progress and Challenges in Child Passenger Safety

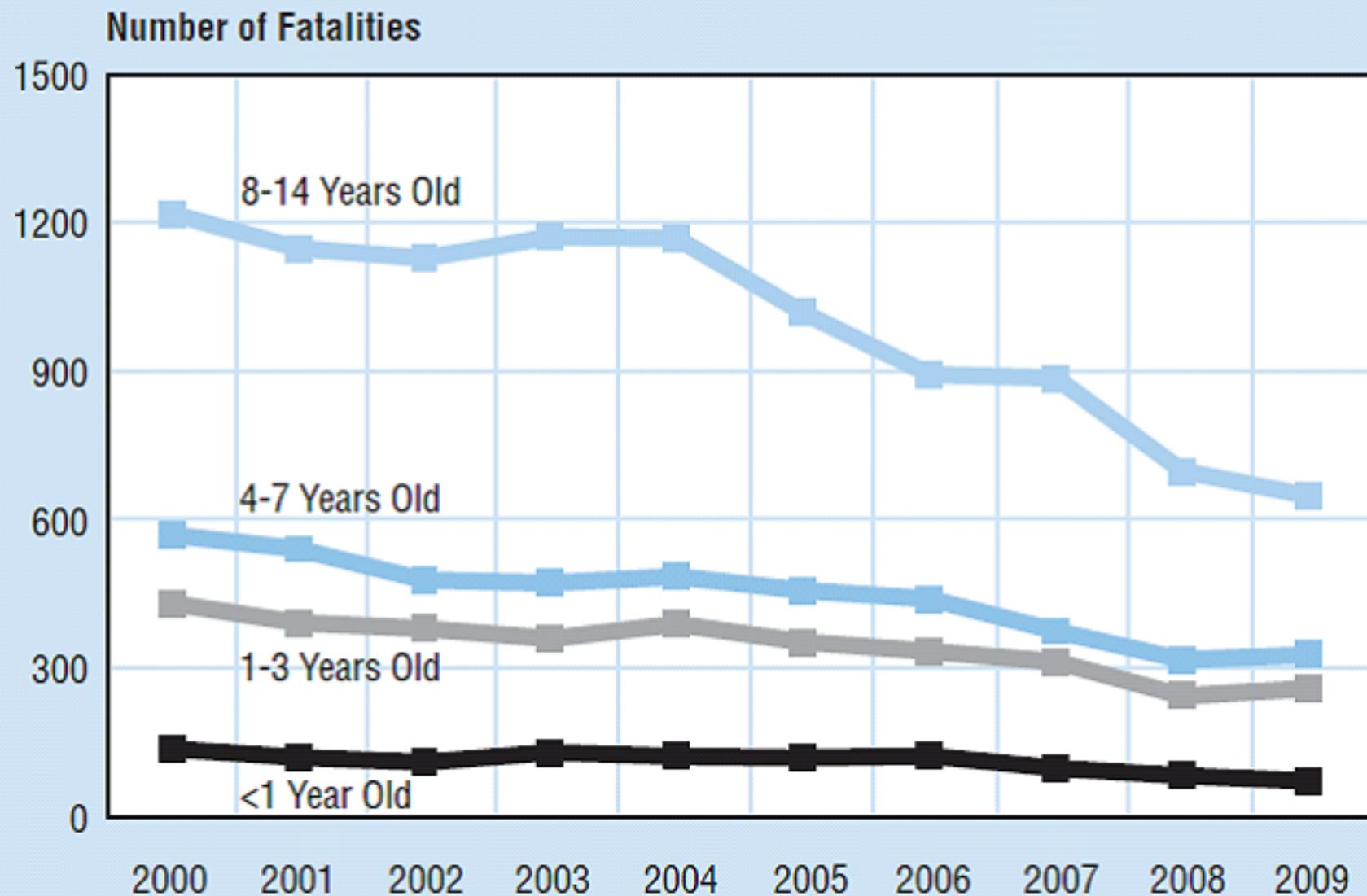
Alexander (Sandy) Sinclair, NHTSA

NTSB Child Safety Forum

Child Passenger Safety in the Air and in Automobiles
Washington, D.C., December 9, 2010

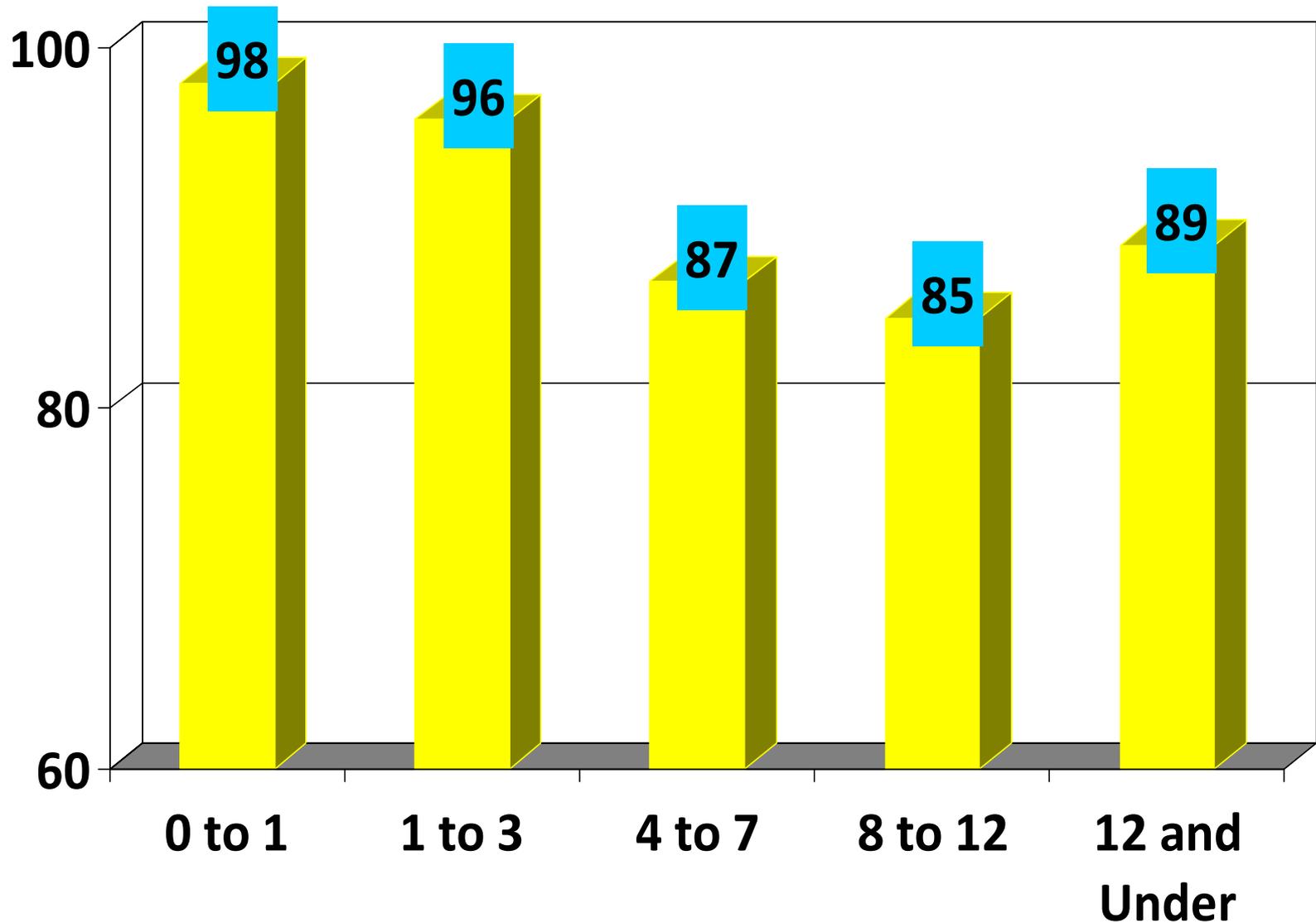


Total Traffic Fatalities Among Children Age 14 and Younger, by Age Group, 2000-2009

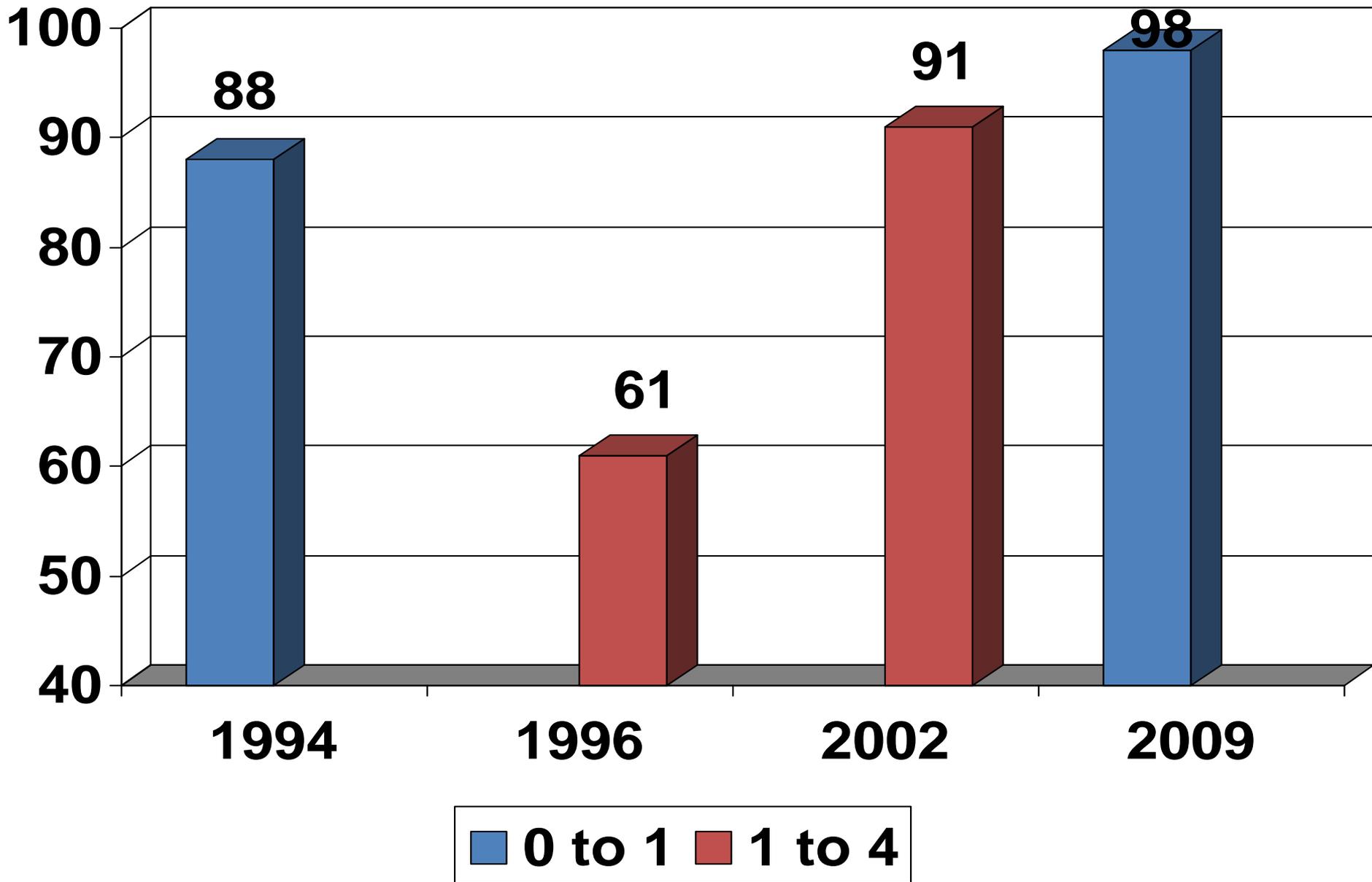


Child Restraint Use By Age in 2009

Source: National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats (NSUBS)



Gains in Child Restraint Use, Age 0-4, 1994-2009



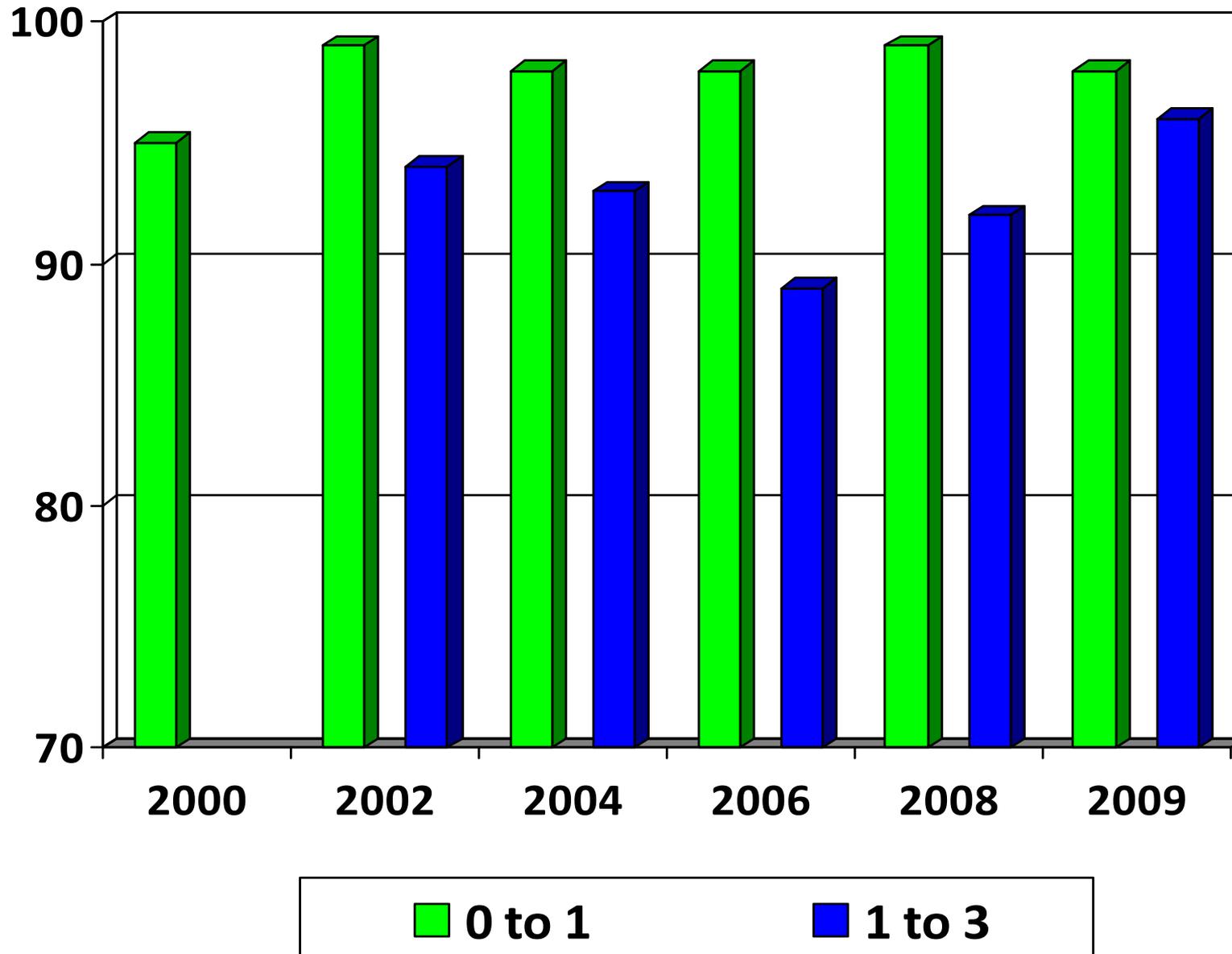
Key Milestones in Child Passenger Safety

- **1971:** The first Federal standard for child restraint systems is created.
- **1978:** Tennessee enacts the nation's first state child restraint law; laws are in effect in all 50 states by 1985.
- **1996:** Following a spate of child deaths and injuries, a major campaign is conducted about the dangers air bags pose to kids. Airbag-related injuries later become rare.
- **1997:** The CPS Technician training program is launched. (There are currently about 34,000 active child passenger safety technicians and 2,000+ certified instructors.)

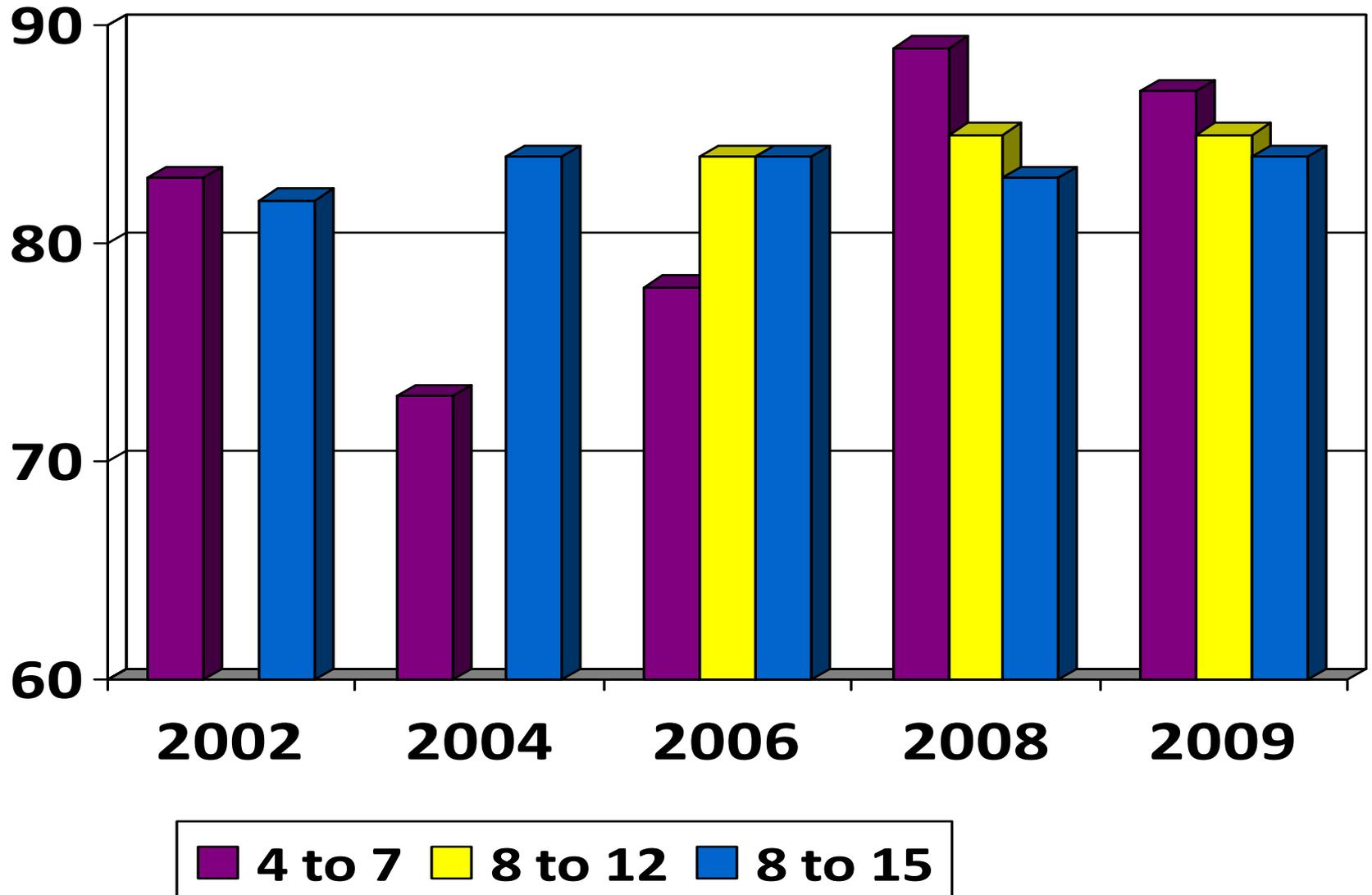
Key Milestones in Child Passenger Safety

- **2000:** The TREAD Act is signed into law, with several provisions to protect older kids. Washington State passes “Anton’s Law” -- the nation’s first state booster seat use requirement.
- **2002:** LATCH is mandatory on all child restraints and most passenger vehicles. NHTSA unveils a new child restraint Ease of Use Rating System. The national “Anton’s Law” is enacted, with protections for older child passengers.
- **2010:** 47 States and D.C. now require booster seat use.

Child Restraint Use Rates, Ages 0-4, 2000-2009



Child Restraint Use Rates, Ages 4-15, 2002-2009



NHTSA Best-Practice Recommendations: *4 Steps For Kids*



- 1) Keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, **as long as possible** up to the height or weight limit of their seat.
At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing **until at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds.**

NHTSA Best-Practice Recommendations: *4 Steps For Kids*

2) When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (**at a minimum age 1 and at least 20 pounds**), they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of their seat (**usually around age 4 and 40 pounds**).



NHTSA Best-Practice Recommendations: *4 Steps For Kids*

3) Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (**usually at around age 4 and 40 pounds**), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly.



NHTSA Best-Practice Recommendations: *4 Steps For Kids*

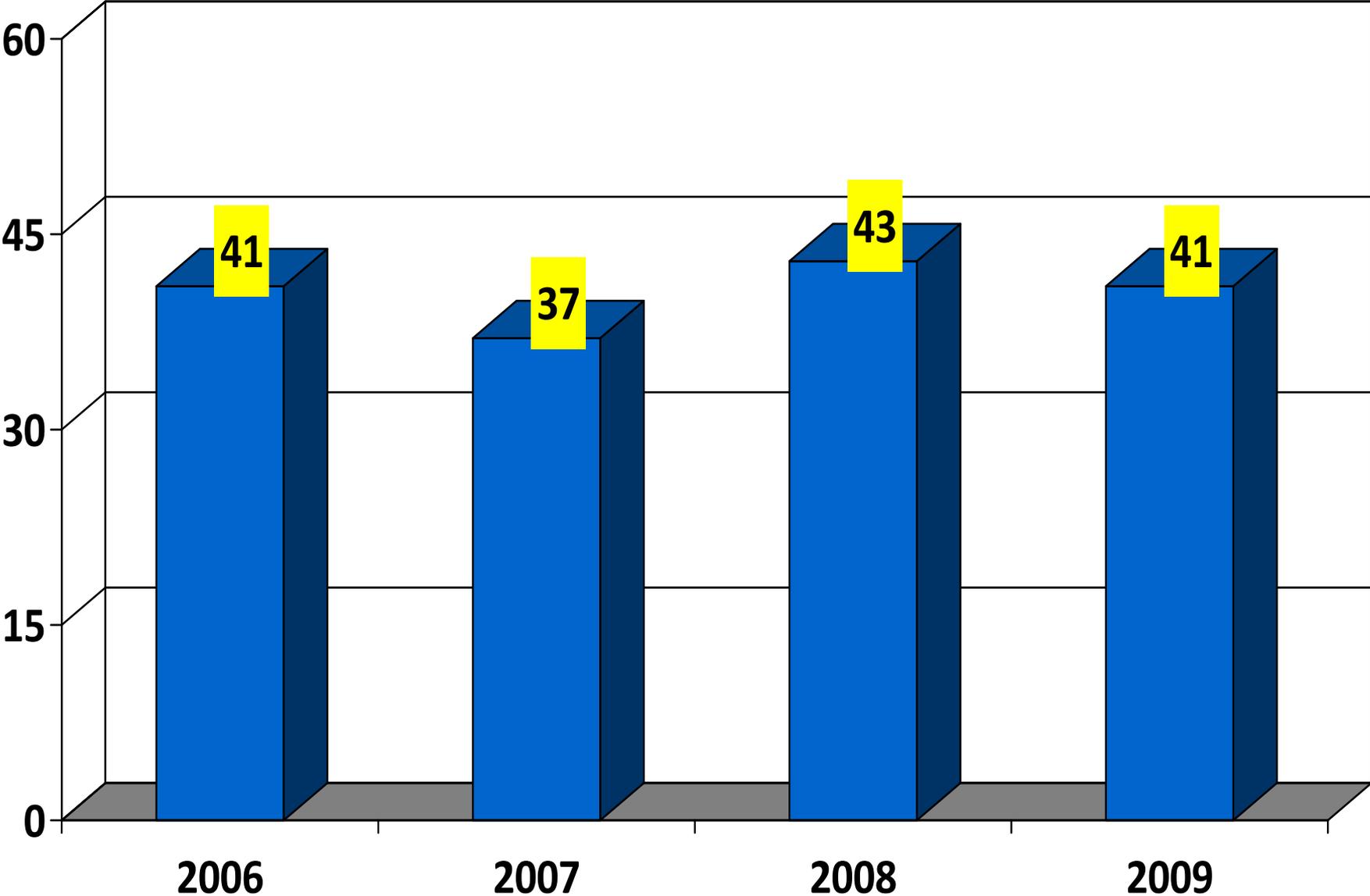


4) When children outgrow their booster seats (**usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall**), they can use the adult seat belts in the back seat, if they fit properly.

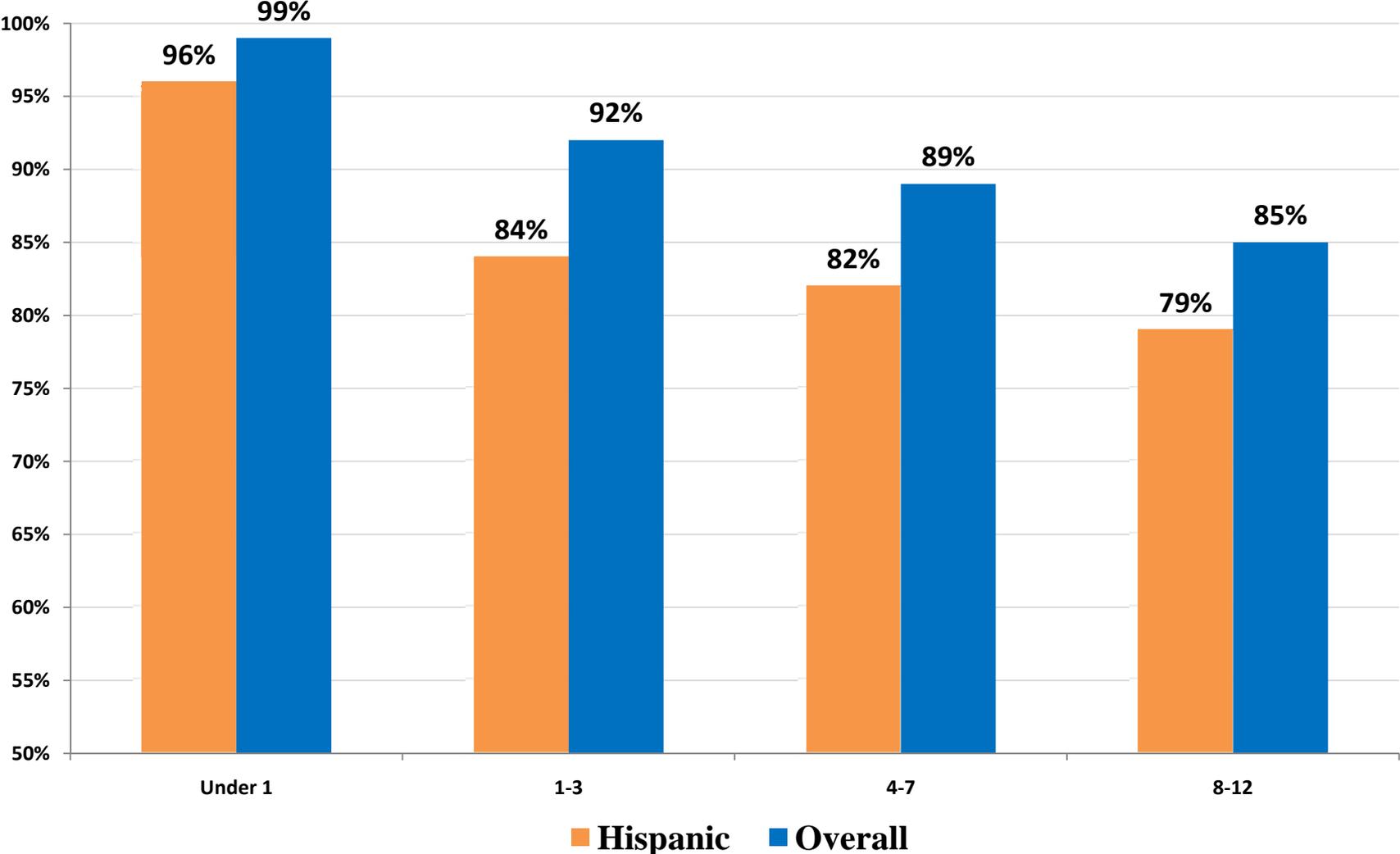
The lap belt should lay across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt should fit across the chest).

Booster Seat Use Since 2006

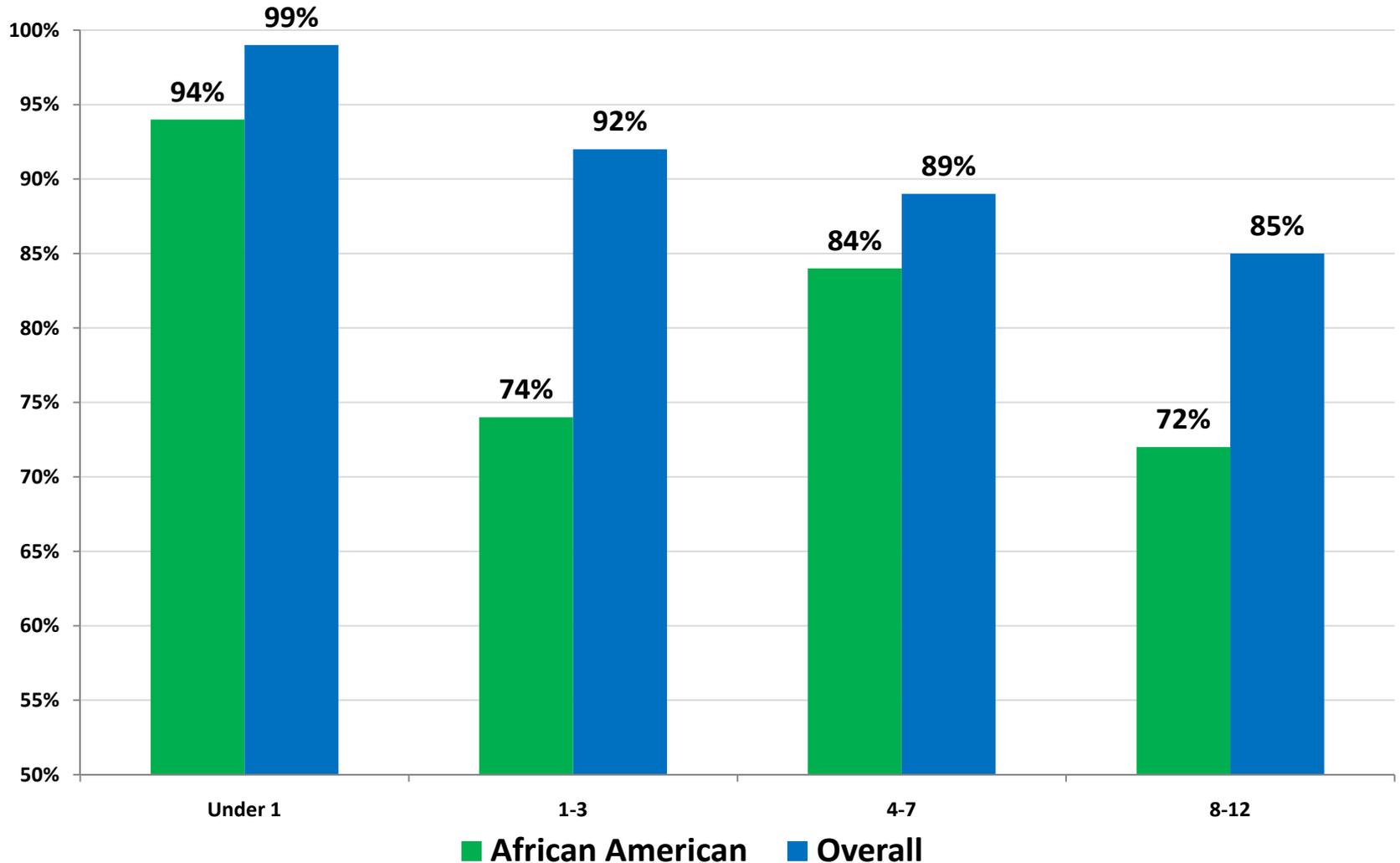
Source: National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats (NSUBS)



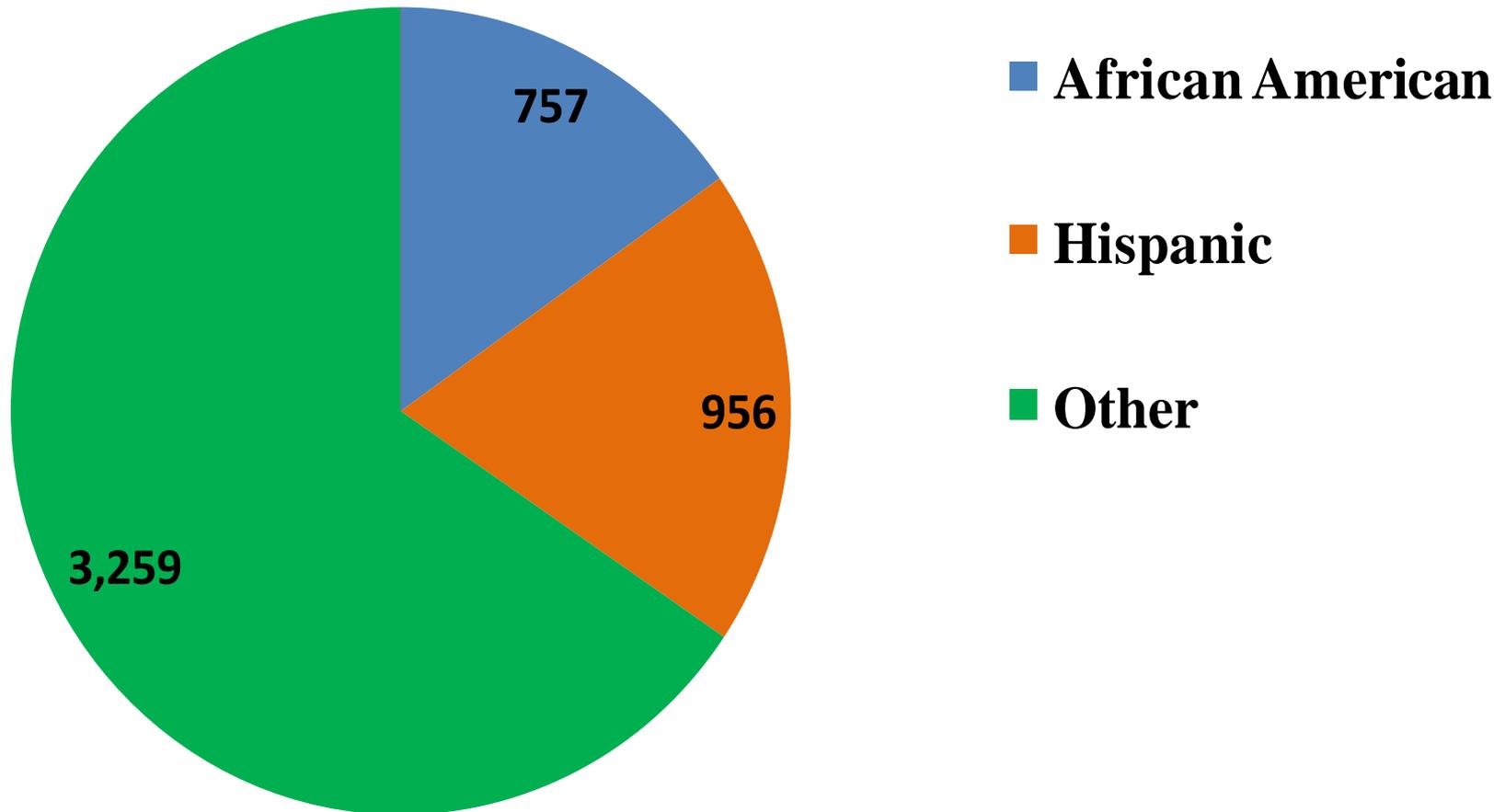
Child Restraint Use Among Hispanic Children Compared to the National Average, 12 Years of Age and Under, by Age Group, 2008



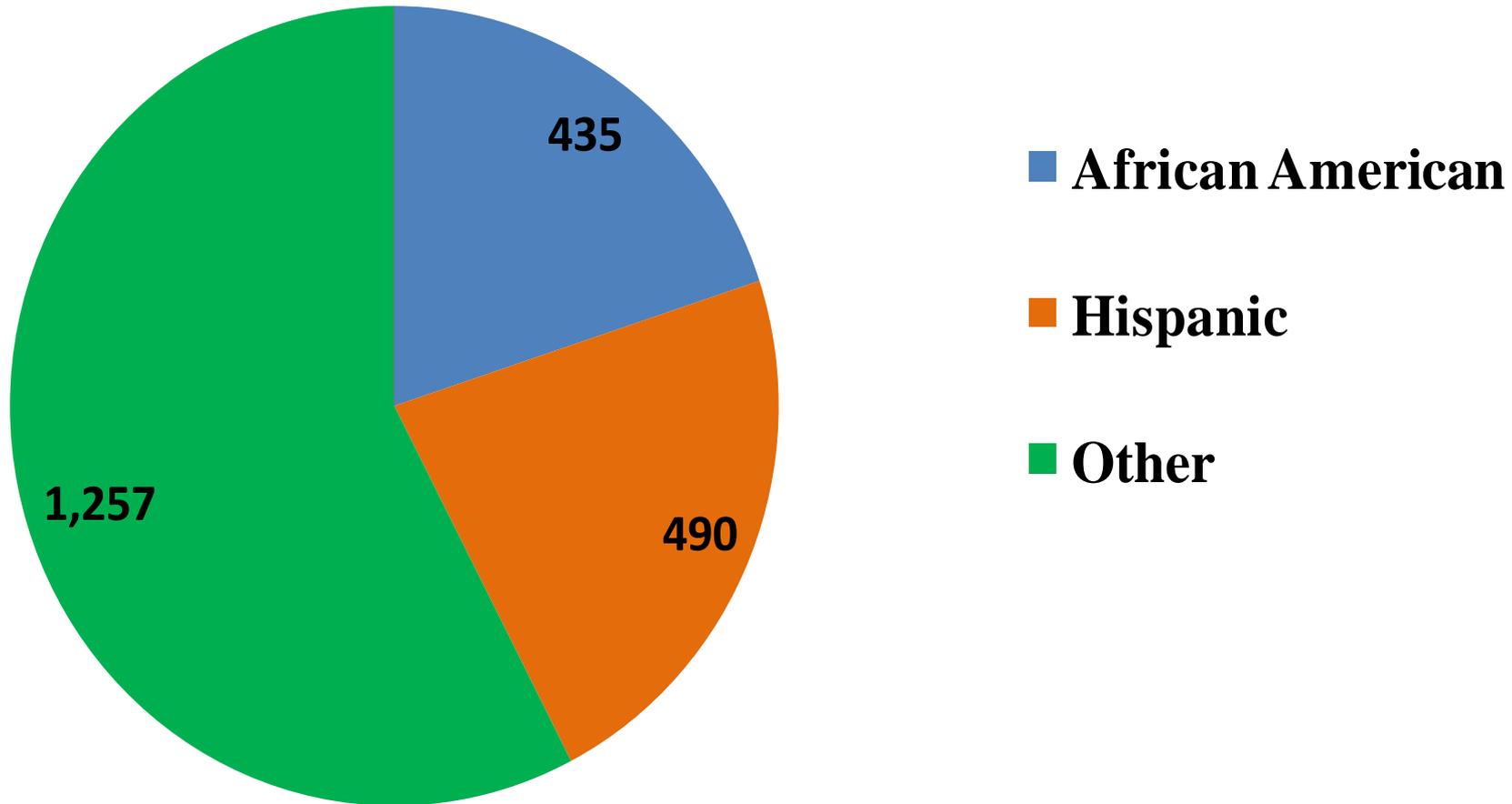
Child Restraint Use Among African American Children Compared to the National Average, 12 Years of Age and Under by Age Group, 2008



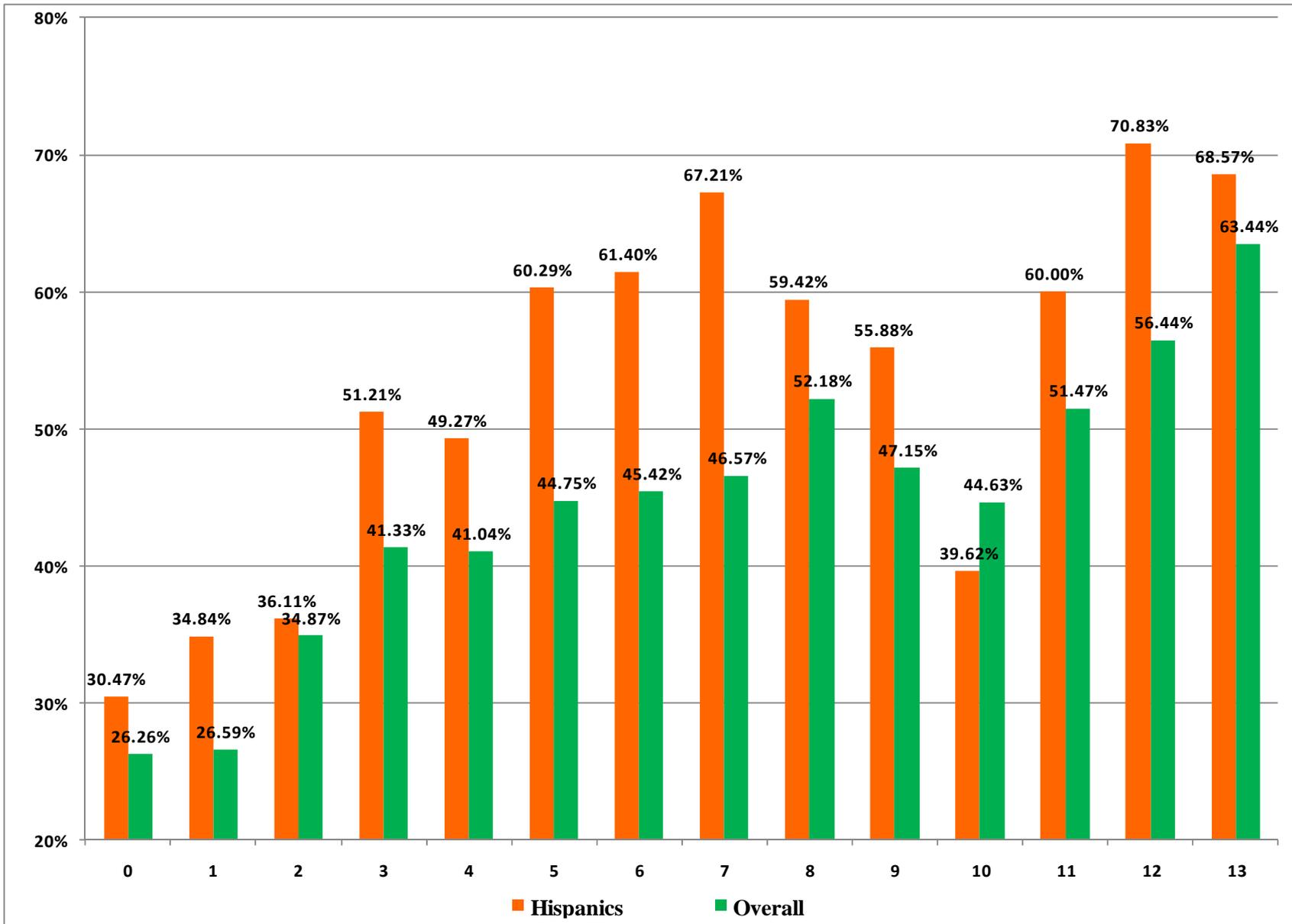
Overall Child Passenger Fatalities, Ages 13 and Under, 2004-2008 (4,972 total)



Unrestrained Child Passenger Fatalities Ages 13 and Under, 2004-2008 (2,182 total)



Percentage of Hispanic Children (13 Years of Age and Under) Who Died While Traveling **UNRESTRAINED** in Passenger Cars From 2004-2008



Percentage of African American Children (14 Years of Age and Under) Who Died While Traveling **UNRESTRAINED** in Passenger Cars From 2004-2008

