



California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Vehicle Occupant Safety Program (VOSP)

e-Newsletter for California's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Community (Spring 2022)

This quarterly e-Newsletter provides a summary of CPS laws and programmatic support for the California community of local health departments, instructors, technicians, and advocates.

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I. CA CPS Technicians and Instructors – We are down 1,000 Technicians – Let's REBOOT our Technician Pool!

As you probably can tell, or feel, the numbers of CPS Technicians is down statewide. Overall, we're down 1,000 CPS Technicians through pandemic-related attrition but on the upside, we've maintained the majority of Instructors! We are so lucky to have such a dedicated pool of CPS Instructors. Thank you to all of our instructors!

Luckily, there are plenty of CPS Technician and Renewal courses coming up -again, thank you CA CPS Instructor Teams! Please go to **Safe Kids Certification** and click on "find a course" in the top right corner, and then with the drop down menu all you have to do is choose "California" and click "Search" and you will see all the approved courses that have registered with Safe Kids Certification. Courses are listed at least 8 weeks in advance, and sometimes much further out.

A. Maps by County for 2019, 2021, 2020

In this notification, we've included the California Technician/Instructor maps for 2019, 2020, and 2021! As you might be able to guess, the first number is the number of technicians, and the second number is the number of instructors within each county's borders. If you want a listing of the contact names of the Technicians in your county, please reach out to

Kate.Bernacki@cdph.ca.gov

II. What is Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) CPS/OP Conviction Data?

CDPH/VOSP receives conviction data from CA DMV for convictions to Vehicle Codes (VC) [27360](#) (ages 0-8 in the rear seat), [27360.5](#) (ages 8-16), [15620](#) if children are left unattended in vehicles, as well as the adult seat belt code [27315](#). As you can see in the California table there has been a drop in convictions across all vehicle codes over the years (table includes 2010-2022, except 2016 and 2017), as our adult seat belt use goes up, and we hope that CPS use is also increasing, but more likely there is less funding and ability/commitment to citing for CPS violations.

As you know, parents (or the driver in the absence of a parent in the vehicle) are cited for CPS violations by California Highway Patrol (CHP) or local law enforcement (police or sheriff) ticket. A conviction yields a \$500 ticket; the violator may choose to pay the fine, attend traffic school (to eliminate the point), and also may take a CPS violator education class (to waive or reduce the fine) if a class is offered within 50 miles of their residence (and if a class is not offered then this component is waived). CPS Violator Education programs exist in several California counties; please check the [Who's Got Car Seats? resource](#) for a program in your county. After a conviction, the courts will send this information to the DMV, and the local public health program receives the \$100 base fine (or portion of it) for its CPS program. These fees help keep CPS prevention activities going in these counties.

A. How do I use the data?

DMV conviction data can help in identifying trends in CPS activity in your county. Review the data for total numbers of convictions (in each of the vehicle codes) to see if they have gone up or down or remained constant. Compare across several years and think about factors to attribute to any variations. Changes in the law usually mean that law enforcement will take a renewed interest in citing during the first year to gain public compliance.

Use the information in all the vehicle codes provided to compare between years and across counties. Review counties with similar population size or neighboring counties for comparisons. In addition, you can review your fine monies, secured through the courts to your local public health jurisdiction and evaluate if the fine monies trends correspond to the number of convictions. Although not an exact correlation because fines may be reduced or waived, you may determine it is time to ask for a meeting with your court clerk or judge.

You can use all this information to direct your program efforts by better informing your anticipated fine money coming in, taking action to support local law enforcement to cite CPS violators, or deciding if you want to offer a violator education program in your county.

B. How to get my County's Conviction Data?

You can contact Kate.Bernacki@cdph.ca.gov for assistance or go directly to the CDPH/VOSP [website](#).

III. Healthy Places Index

[Healthy Places Index](#) (HPI)– The HPI summarizes the conditions and the levels of key resources in a community that foster a healthy population and contribute to health equity. We

encourage you to click on it and play around with the information to learn more about your county/area/region. The HPI is comprised of 25 individual indicators organized in 8 policy action areas of economy, education, healthcare access, housing, neighborhoods, clean environment, transportation, and the social environment. The Technical Report provides additional information on the development and use of the Health Places Index.

To participate in the upcoming webinar Wednesday, April 6, 2022, from 10:00-11:30am (PST), to learn about the newest version (3.0) [register here](#) – registration closes on Monday, April 4, at 5:00 pm (PST). This version's features will help advance California's public health, health equity, racial justice, and equitable fund allocation data, these include:

- Tracking indicator changes over time,
- Conducting side-by-side map comparisons,
- Viewing data by ZIP codes and unincorporated areas,
- Getting policy recommendations tailored to the needs of their community within the platform.

IV. We are here to support you!

Please contact VOSP staff if you have any CPS Technician Training requests or questions, need CPS educational materials, or want to be on the list to receive future VOSP e-Newsletters. We appreciate your efforts to improve vehicle occupant safety even during these trying and uncertain times. We will strive to provide you with the best customer service and support possible. Please reach out [to our team](#) with any questions you may have.



Kate Bernacki, M.P.H.

Kate.Bernacki@cdph.ca.gov



Claudia Angel

Claudia.Angel@cdph.ca.gov

If you have any CPS programmatic questions, please contact **Mitch Zehnder**, the Office of Traffic Safety Occupant Protection and CPS State Coordinator, at (916) 509-3026 or Mitch.Zehnder@ots.ca.gov.

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