

## Introduction

- Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) have seen fast growth in the U.S.
- While the use of TNC vehicles by families with young children is on the rise, state laws pertaining to child car seat use in TNC vehicles are often unclear.
- This study proposes a scoring system to assess states' safety standards for children traveling in TNCs.

## Methodology

- The scoring system is based on two parameters: (1) clarity, and (2) stringency of the state child seat laws for TNCs. The two scoring parameters are calculated using the following categories:

### (1) Clarity:

- Do state child car seat laws specifically address TNCs? (Yes=1, No=0)
- Are TNCs specifically defined in the state laws? (Yes=1, No=0)
- Do the state laws clearly state who is responsible for child car seat use? (Yes=1, No=0)

### (2) Stringency:

- Do the state laws require the use of a child car seat in TNCs? (Yes=1, No=0)
- Do TNC companies (Uber, Lyft, etc.) offer car seat programs anywhere in the state? (Yes=1, No=0)
- How strict are the monetary penalties for the first offense for each state? (<\$50=0, >=\$50=1)

- Equal weight of 1 point is assigned to each category, with the maximum possible score of 6 points for each state. A higher score implies higher standards for child safety.
- Scoring of categories a)-d) and f) is based on information about state laws available through the legal database Nexis Uni. To answer the question e), Lyft and Uber websites are used to identify which cities currently offer the child car seat feature.

## Results

- Indiana is the only state where child seat laws specifically mention TNCs.
- The remaining states, with the exception of Oregon, define TNCs and distinguish them from for-hire vehicle and taxis.
- All states except for Indiana and Washington require child car seat use in TNC vehicles.
- Only in New York NY, Philadelphia PA, and Washington D.C., Uber and Lyft offer child seat mode.

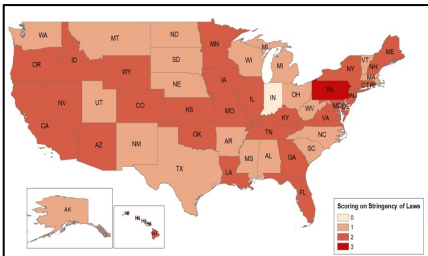


Figure 1: Scores for stringency of state laws pertaining to child seat use in TNCs

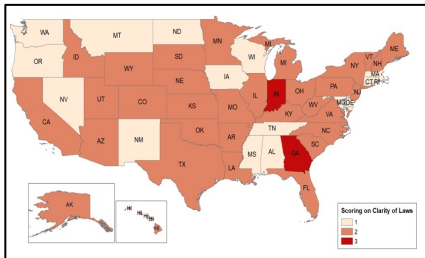


Figure 2: Scores for clarity of state laws pertaining to child seat use in TNCs

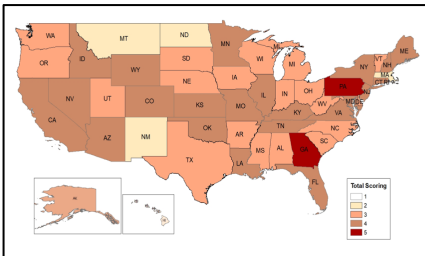


Figure 3: Total scores for state child seat laws in TNC vehicles