

Heatstroke Deaths of Children in Vehicles Fact Sheet

Updated July 2019

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Never leave your child in a parked car. Never. Not even for a minute (even with the windows partially open).
- Never leave your car without checking the backseat. Put your wallet or phone in back as a reminder.
- Always lock your car. If a child is missing, check the pool, car, and trunk of car immediately. Teach your children that vehicles are never to be used as a play area.
- Arrange for your childcare provider to call if your child doesn't arrive on time.
- Call 9-1-1 if you see a child alone in a car. Every minute counts.

HEATSTROKE DEATHS OF CHILDREN IN VEHICLES

- Total number of heatstroke deaths of children left in cars, 1998-July 2019: 815
- Average annual number of heatstroke deaths of children in cars, 1998-present: 37
- Heatstroke occurs when the body core temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A body core temperature of 107 degrees Fahrenheit is usually fatal
- A child's body warms three to five times faster than an adult's.

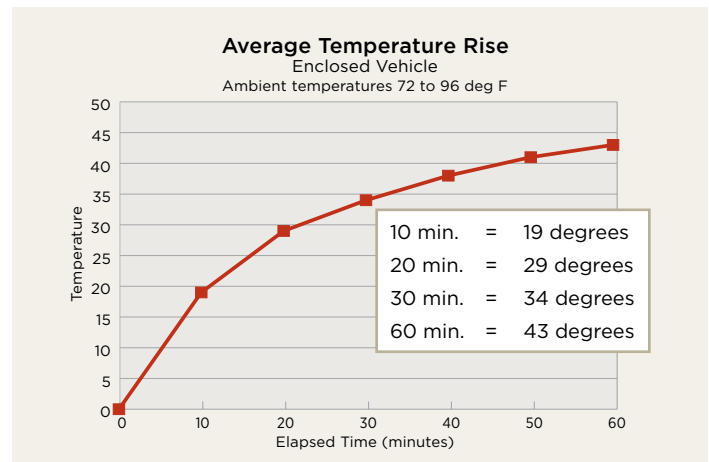
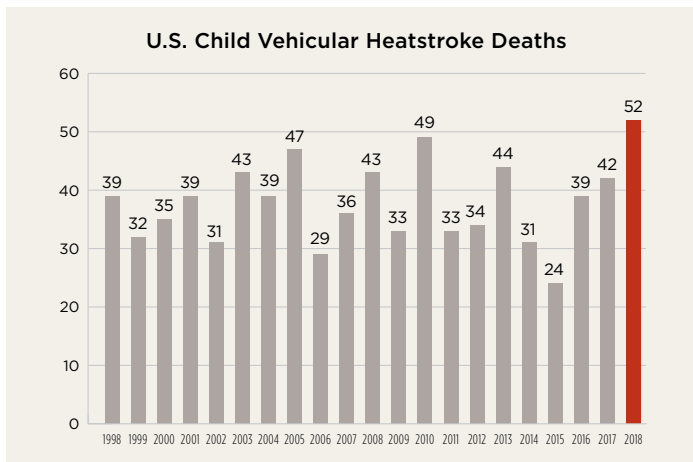
Circumstances

- An examination of media reports about the 815 child vehicular heatstroke deaths (1998 through July 2019 is 815) shows the following circumstances:
 - 54% - child forgotten by caregiver (429 Children)
 - 26% - child gained access on their own (209)
 - 19% - child intentionally left in vehicle by adult (150)
 - 1% - circumstances unknown (7)

Ages

The children who have died from vehicular heatstroke in the United States (1998-2016) have ranged in age from five days to 14 years old. More than half of the deaths are children under two years of age. Below are the percentage of total deaths (and the number of deaths) sorted by age.

Less than 1 year old	= 32% (257)	8 years old	= < 1% (3)
1 year old	= 22% (176)	9 years old	= < 1% (2)
2 years old	= 19% (151)	10 years old	= < 1% (3)
3 years old	= 14% (112)	11 years old	= < 1% (3)
4 years old	= 6% (45)	12 years old	= < 1% (1)
5 years old	= 3% (28)	13 years old	= < 1% (1)
6 years old	= 1% (8)	14 years old	= < 1% (2)
7 years old	= < 1% (3)		



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