5 ways you can save a child from dying in a hot parked car this summer.

Never leave your car without checking the backseat. Put your wallet or phone in back as a reminder.

Call 9-1-1 if you see a child alone in a car. Every minute counts.

Never leave your child in a parked car. Never. Not even for a minute.

If your child is missing, check the pool, car, and trunk of car immediately.

Arrange for your childcare provider to call if your child doesn’t arrive on time.

When it’s hot outside, the temperature inside a parked car can rise to fatal heatstroke levels within minutes, even if the windows are partially open. Learn more at parking-mobility.org
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)

U.S. Child Vehicular Heatstroke Deaths

Average Temperature Rise

Enclosed Vehicle
Ambient temperatures 72 to 96 deg F

10 min. = 19 degrees
20 min. = 29 degrees
30 min. = 34 degrees
60 min. = 43 degrees

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