



Child Hot Car Deaths by Year	
2021	1 ( <a href="#">view list</a> )
2020	25 ( <a href="#">view list</a> )
2019	53 ( <a href="#">view list</a> )
2018	54* ( <a href="#">view list</a> )
2017	43
	Average # of deaths per year: 39 (one every 9 days)
	*Year with the most fatalities: 2018 (54 deaths)

As summer approaches and temperatures start to rise, we need to be very aware of the risk of heatstroke for children who are left in cars. According to the NHTSA: Nearly 900 children died of heatstroke since 1998, because they were left or became trapped in a hot car. It's important for everyone to understand that children are more vulnerable to heatstroke and that all hot car deaths are preventable. We — as parents, caregivers, and bystanders — play a role in helping to make sure another death doesn't happen.

The AAP offers these facts about hot cars and heat stroke

- [Heat stroke](#) is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths in children under 15. Heat stroke happens when the body is not able to cool itself quickly enough.
- A child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult's does.
  - When left in a hot car, a child's major organs begin to shut down when his temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit (F).
  - A child can die when his temperature reaches 107 degrees F.
- Cars heat up quickly! In just 10 minutes, a car can heat up 20 degrees F.
- Cracking a window and/or air conditioning does little to keep it cool once the car is turned off.
- Heat stroke can happen when the outside temperature is as low as 57 degrees F.
- Because of [climate change](#), we can expect more days to be hotter. Also, hotter days can happen throughout the year.

Watch this [video](#) to see how quickly a car can heat up.



Here are some tips for parents and caregivers from the NHTSA:

1. Never leave a child in a vehicle unattended — even if the windows are partially open or the engine is running, and the air conditioning is on.
2. Make it a habit to check your entire vehicle — front and back — before locking the door and walking away. Train yourself to **Park, Look, Lock**, or always ask yourself, **"Where's Baby?"**
3. Ask your childcare provider to call if your child doesn't show up for care as expected.
4. Place a personal item like a purse or briefcase in the back seat, as another reminder to look before you lock. Write a note or place a stuffed animal in the passenger's seat to remind you that a child is in the back seat.
5. Store car keys out of a child's reach and teach children that a vehicle is not a play area.

Please take the [Children in Hot Cars e-learning Course](#) from the National Safety Council to better understand how child heat stroke deaths can occur and more importantly, how to prevent them.

**\*\*Always call a parent/guardian if a child does not show up for care as expected\*\***

Resources:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Prevent-Child-Deaths-in-Hot-Cars.aspx>

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/heatstroke>

<https://www.noheatstroke.org/index.htm>

<https://www.kidsandcars.org/how-kids-get-hurt/heat-stroke/>