



Preventing Child Heat Stroke Deaths in Vehicles

Due to the increase in temperatures, it is extremely important for parents and caregivers of young children to recognize that leaving children unattended in a parked car, even for short periods, can cause heat strokes that can often be fatal.

Heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle related deaths for children under the age of 14. There was a total of 891 child heat stroke deaths from 1990 – 2018. In 2018, 52 children died from heatstroke in hot cars across the United States. The average number of U.S. child vehicular heat stroke deaths is 38 per year (one every 9 days).

According to Kars for Kids, parents of every class and every background forget their babies in their cars. Even great parents can forget a child in the back seat. Other risk factors include caregivers who are not used to driving kids or whose routine suddenly changes. Whether you are a parent, child care provider or bystander of a child left in a car, it is vitally important to understand children are more vulnerable to heatstroke than adults.

Vehicles heat up very quickly, and that heat can be fatal to young children. Children are at a higher risk than adults of dying from heat stroke in a vehicle because their bodies heat up three to five times faster than adults. It only takes ten minutes for a car to reach deadly temperatures on an 80-degree day. Leaving car windows open does not slow the heating process or decrease the maximum temperature.

Future tragedies can be prevented by increase awareness and education. Follow and share these important rules and tips to protect children from heatstroke.

Click below to read – **Heatstroke Prevention Tips for Parents and Caregivers:**
http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/8042_Hyperthermia-SafetyTips_8-9-11.pdf

Click below to read – **Look Before You Lock; Make it a habit to look before you lock, and try these tips to avoid putting children at risk of heatstroke:**
<http://www.kidsandcars.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Heatstroke-fact-sheet-2019.pdf>

Click below to read - **Safety Tips from Kids and Cars:**
<http://www.kidsandcars.org/userfiles/dangers/heat-stroke/heat-stroke-safety-tips.pdf>

Click below to read – **Prevent Child Heat Stroke in Cars:**
<http://www.safercar.gov/parents/InandAroundtheCar/heatstroke.htm>

Click below to read – **Never Leave a Child Alone in a Car; Think heat stroke can happen on a cloudy day? Find out – Take this quiz:**
<http://www.safercar.gov/parents/InandAroundtheCar/Heatstroke-Quiz.htm>



Click below to read – **Take Action if you Notice a Child Alone in a Car; Protecting children is everyone's business – Learn what to do if you see a child alone in a car:**
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/child-safety/preventing-heatstroke-what-do-if-you-see-child-alone-car>