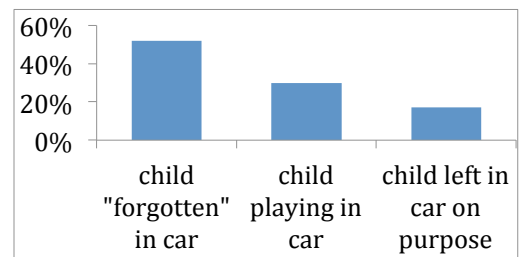




Fact Sheet

- Since 1998, more than 500 children across the United States have died from heat stroke when unattended in a vehicle. This has happened in nearly all 50 states and throughout the year.
- Of these deaths, **52 percent were because a child was “forgotten” in the vehicle**, 30 percent were because a child was playing in an unattended vehicle and became trapped, and 17 percent when the child was intentionally left alone.
- The number of near-misses – children who were rescued before a fatality – is significantly higher. “In fact, there were nearly 500 near-misses in Palm Beach County alone in one year.”
- Temperatures inside a car can **rise 20 degrees in only 10 minutes**. Leaving a window slightly open has no effect on the inside temperature of a vehicle.
- A **child’s body heats up 3-5 times faster** than an adult’s body – their internal systems to regulate body temperature are not fully-developed, and they absorb heat and generate heat under stress more quickly than adults.
- When the body temperature reaches 104 degrees, the internal organs start to shut down. When it reaches 107 degrees, the person dies. Symptoms can quickly progress from flushed, dry skin and vomiting to seizures, organ failure or death.



This tragedy can be prevented if parents, caregivers, bystanders and the public remember to **ACT**.

Avoid heat stroke-related injury and death by:

- Never leaving your child alone in the car, even for a minute.
- Consistently locking unattended vehicle doors and trunks.

Create reminders and habits that give you and your child’s caregiver a safety net:

- Establish a peace-of-mind plan. When you drop off your child, make a habit of calling or texting all other caregivers, so all of you know where your child is at all times.
- Place a purse, briefcase, gym bag, cell phone or an item that is needed at your next stop in a back seat.
- Set the alarm on your cell phone or computer calendar as a reminder to drop your child off at childcare.

Take action if you see an unattended child in a vehicle:

- Dial 911 immediately and follow the instructions that emergency personnel provide – they are trained to determine if a child is in danger.