

# Never leave your child alone in a car.

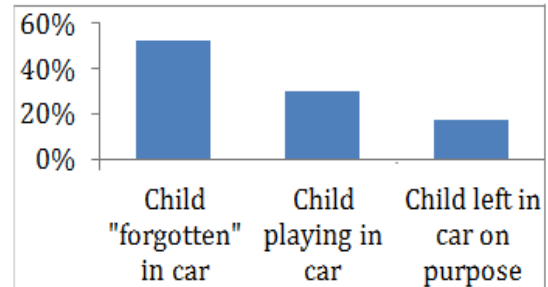
## Fact Sheet

Since 1998, more than 550 children across the United States have died from heatstroke 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 a vehicle, 29 percent were because a child was playing in an unattended vehicle and became trapped, and 18 percent were because a child was intentionally left alone.

The number of near misses – children who were rescued before a fatality – is significantly higher.

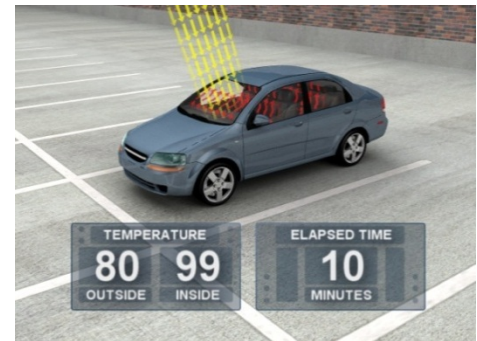
In fact, there were nearly 500 near misses in Palm Beach County alone in one year.



Temperatures inside a car can rise 19 degrees in only 10 minutes. Leaving windows slightly open can have little effect on the inside temperature of a vehicle.

A child’s body heats up three to five times faster than an adult’s body. Children’s internal systems to regulate body temperature are not fully developed, and they absorb heat and generate heat under stress more quickly than adults.

When body temperature reaches 104 degrees, 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.

- **A:** Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving your child alone in a car, not even for a minute. And make sure to keep your car locked when you’re not in it so kids don’t get in on their own.
- **C:** Create reminders by putting something in the back of your car next to your child such as a briefcase, a purse or a cell phone that is needed at your final destination. This is especially important if you’re not following your normal routine.
- **T:** Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They are trained to respond to these situations. One call could save a life.