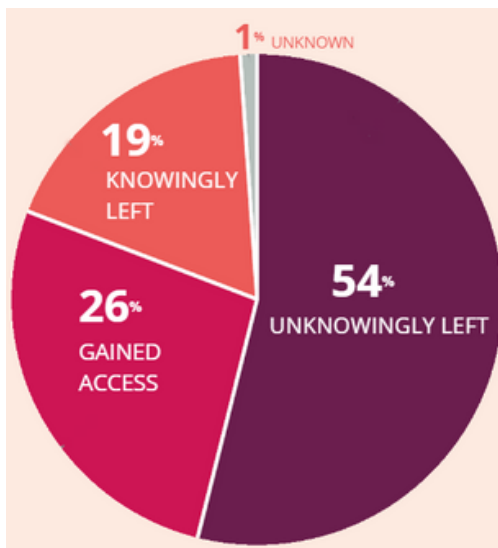


HAZARD: VEHICLES AND WARM WEATHER

Summer is here and its getting warmer outside. As the weather gets warmer, certain hazards become more likely, such as [wildfires](#) and [heat related illnesses](#). Vehicles can also become a hazard during warmer weather. While vehicles are great for traveling, running errands, and getting us to and from work and summer activities, they can also become a deadly trap in the heat. Each year in the United States, an average of 38 children die from being in enclosed vehicles (NCS, n.d.).

The following statistics and safety recommendations are provided by the National Safety Council (NCS). The chart below shows the categories and percentages of children who have died in hot vehicles from 1998 - 2018. The categories are unknowingly left, gained access, knowingly left, and unknown. For more information on preventing these tragedies, please take this 10 minute online training provided by the NCS: <https://training.nsc.org/hot-cars/>



Knowingly Left

19% of child fatalities that occur in hot vehicles are knowingly left. **NEVER** leave passengers, whether they be people or pets, in an enclosed vehicle, especially children or disabled persons. It only takes 10 minutes for an enclosed vehicle to heat up to a dangerous temperature. According to the National Safety Council, children are at highest risk of heatstroke related deaths in vehicles because a child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adults, children don't sweat as much as adults making it harder for their bodies to cool off, and children generally can't exit vehicles on their own or may not be able to alert others for help. Again, **NEVER** leave passengers in an enclosed vehicle.

Gained Access

26% of child fatalities that occur in hot vehicles gained access themselves. Children can gain access to vehicles without the owners knowledge and can get trapped in the hot vehicle in the process. Make sure vehicles are locked, even when in a garage, and place keys where children can't get them. Teach children that vehicles are not play areas and that they should ask an adult if they need something from a vehicle.

Unknowingly Left

54% of child fatalities that occur in hot vehicles are unknowingly left. This can occur when the driver is burned out and is in "auto pilot mode," when they become distracted as they exit their vehicle, or when there is a change in their usual routine. These factors can unfortunately lead to children being left or forgotten in vehicles. To help prevent this from happening, get in the habit to "[Look Before You Lock](#)," which means doing a final check that nobody is in the vehicle before it gets locked. Please view this info sheet for more information on Look Before You Lock: https://training.nsc.org/hot-cars/story_content/external_files/child_heatstroke_look_before_you_lock.pdf

Reference: National Safety Council (NCS). (n.d.). Retrieved from: <https://training.nsc.org/hot-cars/>



LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK!