



Heatstroke Prevention Newsletter – May 13, 2020

Thank you for joining [Safe Kids Worldwide](#), [KidsAndCars.org](#), [noheatstroke.org](#) and the [National Safety Council](#) in our mission to prevent hot car deaths.

This month's newsletter is focused on the dangers of young children gaining access to vehicles. As parents and caregivers focus on several priorities at once during these unprecedented times, supervision can be more difficult than ever. Young children climb into unlocked cars and trunks to play, but they can't always get out. On April 25, a 4-year-old boy died this way in Tomball, TX.

Let's keep working together to prevent another tragedy. Please share this newsletter with others in your network and encourage them to [subscribe today](#).

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TAKE ACTION: NATIONAL DAYS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us on the third Wednesday of every month for a national day of social media to raise awareness about the dangers of heatstroke. Here are a few sample posts and images that you can use or share on **May 20**. Please schedule today and help amplify the message.

Sample Posts / Images

On April 25, a 4-year-old boy died when he got into a parked car and couldn't get out. Remember to keep car doors and trunks locked, and key fobs out of reach. #CheckForBaby #HeatstrokeKills
<https://www.safekids.org/blog/ask-expert-leaving-young-child-alone-car-during-coronavirus-pandemic>

More than 25 percent of child heatstroke deaths occur because a child gets into a car or trunk and can't get out. Help prevent another tragedy by locking car doors and trunks and putting key fobs out of reach. #CheckForBaby #HeatstrokeKills
<https://www.safekids.org/heatstroke>

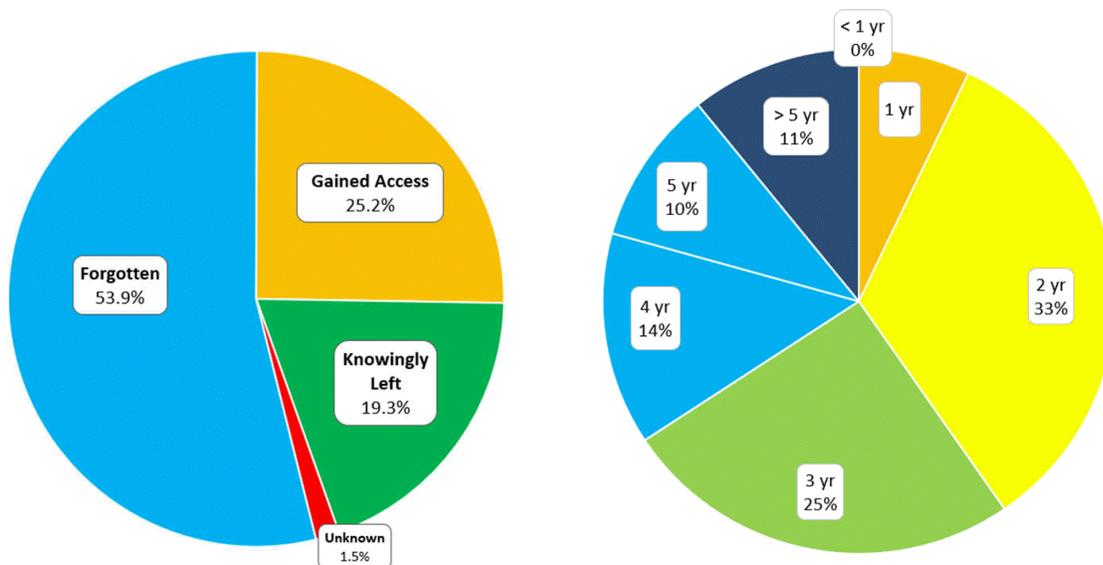


During these unprecedented times, supervision can be difficult. Young kids climb into unlocked cars and trunks to play, but they can't always get out. Help prevent a heatstroke tragedy by following these life-saving tips. #CheckForBaby #HeatstrokeKills <https://www.safekids.org/infographic/steps-prevent-heatstroke>

Submitted by [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)

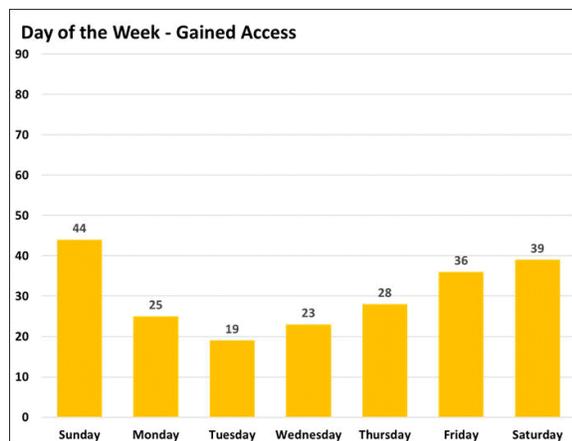
TRENDS

Sadly, April saw the first Pediatric Vehicular Heatstroke (PVH) death of 2020, when a 4-year old boy went outside on his own and got into an unlocked vehicle and died from heatstroke. This type of circumstance, where a child “gains access,” accounts for just over a quarter (25.2%) of the PVH deaths. The other categories of PVH deaths are children who are “unknowingly left” (54.2%) and those who are “knowingly left” (19.1%). Cases where the exact circumstances are unknown accounting for the remaining 1.5%.



In the “gained access” category, over half (58%) of the deaths are children ages 2 and 3. Typically, children under 2-years are not able to get into vehicles on their own, while older children are better able to get out of a car independently.

In past years, the most likely days for children to gain access to a vehicle and die because of PVH were Saturday and Sunday; when they were at home and not school. However, this year, with more kids being home schooled, the risks of these type of tragedies may be just as prevalent during the week.



Submitted by noheatstroke.org

RESOURCES

During the COVID-19 pandemic, know the THREE primary circumstances resulting in pediatric vehicular heatstroke. The NSC Hot Cars training can help!

When it comes to pediatric vehicular heatstroke, we most often hear about children who were unknowingly left in vehicles. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, children gaining access to unlocked vehicles and those knowingly left in vehicles may be of greater concern.

Since 1998, approximately [25%](#) of all pediatric vehicular heatstroke deaths have occurred at a place of work. Of all children who were unknowingly left, or forgotten, [46%](#) were on their way to childcare or preschool.

With fewer parents and caregivers traveling to work, and fewer children attending childcare and preschool, it is imperative that all drivers, even those without children, lock their unattended vehicles so children cannot gain access. In addition, while parents need to make some tough choices about keeping their children safe, there are still no safe time periods for leaving children unattended in vehicles.

Take the free NSC Hot Cars training and learn:

- WHY Cars Heat Up
- HOW children die in hot cars
- WHAT you can do to prevent further deaths



This training includes free, downloadable resources, as well as a certificate of completion at the end. Encourage anyone that will be transporting a child in a vehicle to complete this training. One more child is too many!

Find the NSC Hot Cars training and related resources at nsc.org/hotcars or cpsboard.org/heatstroke. This training is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Submitted by [National Safety Council](#)

FAMILY STORY

When Children Get into Cars on their Own, the Heartbreak Never Ends

By Jenny Stanley

August 22, 2010 was the day that every parent would describe as their greatest nightmare.

I was out running errands when I received a shocking phone call. My tears were overflowing while driving home in fear. I arrived at our home to see an ambulance in our driveway. Running inside, I was told that Sydney, our 6-year-old daughter, had gotten into the family car and died of heatstroke. It was a time that I could not and cannot even begin to describe.

That Sunday started just like every other Sunday. Sydney asked permission to go to the next-door neighbor's house to play after church. This was a common occurrence. We had no reason to consider that she wasn't there. When the neighbor was called, as it was time for Sydney to come home, I learned that her friend had not been home and Sydney was not there. I think she went to the car to retrieve a craft she

wanted to complete while waiting for her friend to arrive. ([Read our full story about the day Sydney died here](#))

Almost 10 years later, the pain is still as intense as the day it happened. I mourn the things that would have been. I mourn the milestones that will never be.

Sydney's Kindergarten graduation picture is the only one I'll ever have of her in a cap and gown.



Sydney loved to talk about her wedding. There will not be a wedding. My husband will not walk his baby girl down the aisle. I will not be the Mother of the Bride. I'll never know if she would have had children of her own or what they would have looked like.



Her brothers are mourning as well. They will not enjoy the joking with Sydney about giving her dates the third degree or threatening them with their life if they made their sister cry.

Children do not have to continue to die in hot cars. That is why I do everything I can to make sure parents know how to prevent this from happening and why I fight for technology in all vehicles to detect the presence of a child through the [Hot Cars Act of 2019](#).

Submitted by [KidsAndCars.org](#)

[WASH YOUR HANDS, WASH YOUR HANDLES](#)

As the coronavirus crisis continues, we are amazed at the resilience and dedication of our nonprofit partners. During this ever-changing landscape, we want to make sure everyone remembers that vehicles should also be thoroughly sanitized to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.



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