

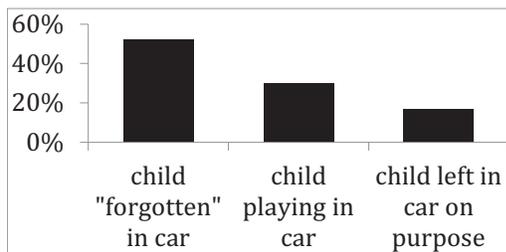
# ACT

# AVOID. CREATE REMINDERS. TAKE ACTION.

## Never leave your child alone in a car.

### Fact Sheet

- » Since 1998, more than 920 children across the United States have died from heat stroke when unattended in a vehicle. This has happened in nearly all 50 states and all months of the year.
- » Of these deaths, **over 50% were because a child was “forgotten” in the vehicle**, 26% were because a child was playing in an unattended vehicle and became trapped, and 20% when the child was knowingly 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 ability to regulate their body temperature is 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 and/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.
- » Keeping vehicle doors and trunks locked at all times, even in the driveway or garage. Ask home visitors and neighbors to do the same.

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

- » Always open the back door to check the back seat before leaving your vehicle.
- » 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.

For more information on childhood injury prevention, contact Safe Kids Grand Forks at [safekids@altru.org](mailto:safekids@altru.org) or visit [www.safekidsgf.com](http://www.safekidsgf.com)

