



U.S. Child Hot Car Death Data Analysis from the Kids and Car Safety National Database (1990-2024)

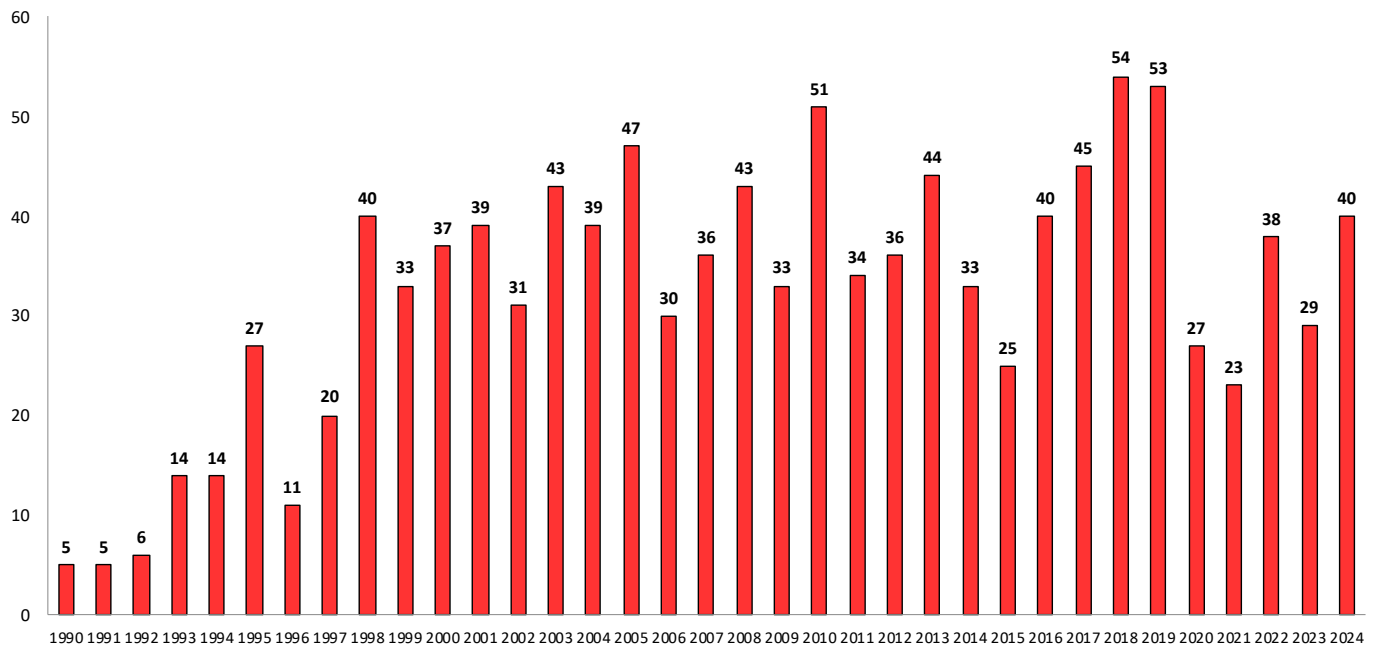


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Note: All data contained in this report was derived from the national Kids and Car Safety database.

Figure 1: Child Hot Car Deaths by Year (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125

Since 1990, at least 1,125 children have died in hot cars.

On average, 38 children die in hot cars every year in the U.S.

2018 & 2019 = worst 2 years in history for child hot car deaths

Figure 1a: Child Hot Car Deaths by Year for Each State (1990-2024)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL	
AK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
AL	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	4	0	0	2	4	2	3	4	1	4	1	0	36	
AR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	20		
AZ	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	4	3	3	1	2	4	0	3	0	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	4	1	1	0	0	3	50	
CA	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	3	4	4	7	4	3	3	2	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	4	3	2	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	4	69	
CO	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	
CT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7		
DC	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5		
DE	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3		
FL	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	4	4	6	10	2	3	3	2	9	6	2	4	5	3	4	6	7	5	5	3	3	4	7	4	122	
GA	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	3	3	0	0	2	2	3	4	1	3	0	0	4	1	2	47	
HI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6		
IA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	9		
ID	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	11	
IL	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	5	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	24	
IN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	16	
KS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	15	
KY	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	28	
LA	0	0	0	4	0	2	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	3	3	2	2	1	0	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	1	0	2	46	
MA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	
MD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	
ME	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
MI	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
MN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	8	
MO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	29
MS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	24	
MT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
NC	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	0	4	1	0	0	1	2	2	0	3	1	1	2	1	3	4	1	1	46	
ND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
NE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	5	
NH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
NJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	17	
NM	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	13	
NV	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	17	
NY	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	14	
OH	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	24	
OK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	3	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	2	32	
OR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
PA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	15	
RI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
SC	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	6	2	0	3	0	1	1	26	
SD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	
TN	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	1	1	1	39
TX	0	1	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	4	4	5	4	11	3	4	7	1	9	6	13	9	5	5	4	5	7	7	5	7	6	2	7	4	3	160	
UT	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	15	
VA	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	2	2	1	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	4	1	2	1	1	2	0	38	
VT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8
WI	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
WV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	
WY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
XY	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
AL # DEATHS	5	5	6	14	14	27	11	20	40	33	37	39	31	43	39	47	30	36	4																		

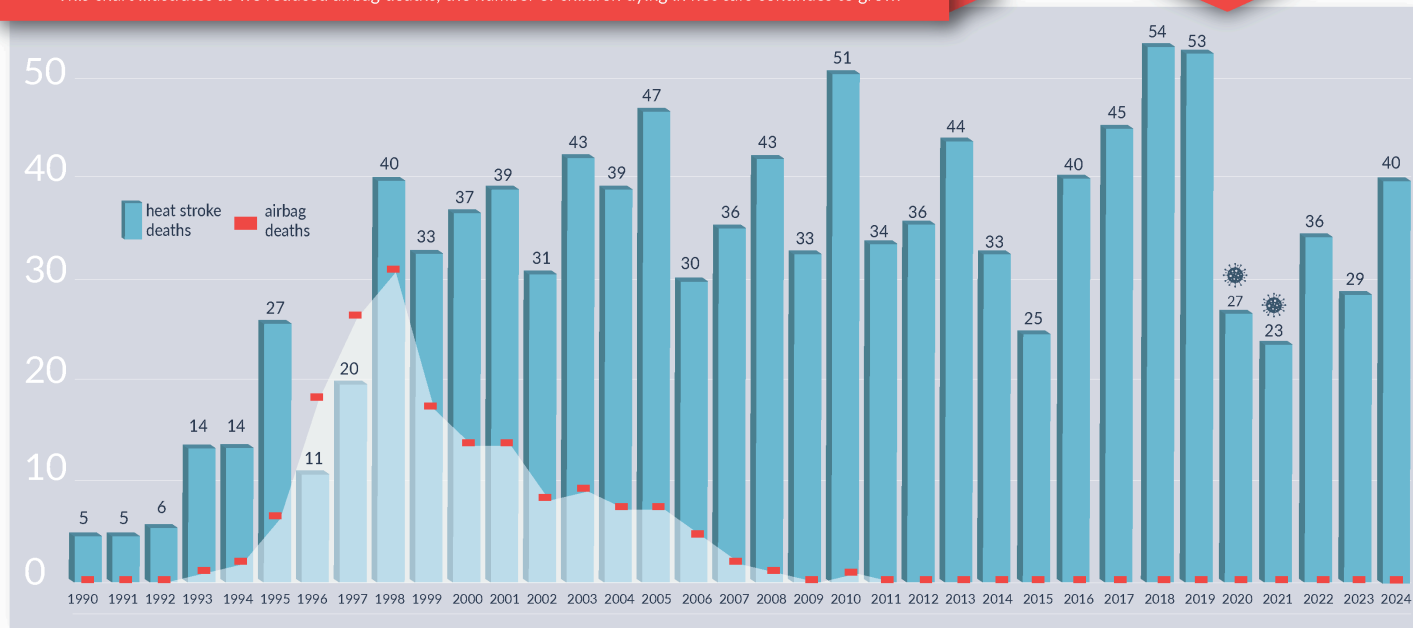
Figure 1b: Child Vehicular Heatstroke Deaths

vs

Child Front Seat Passenger Deaths

Children should never ride in the front seat; they are **MUCH** safer, properly restrained in the back seat.

This chart illustrates as we reduced airbag deaths, the number of children dying in hot cars continues to grow.



From 1990-2024, 186 children were killed by over-powered air bags in the front passenger seat. During that same time-frame at least 1,125 children died in hot vehicles. Children can be unknowingly left behind in the back seat by even the most responsible parents and caregivers. Always remember to open the back car door after parking your vehicle and 'Look Before You Lock.'



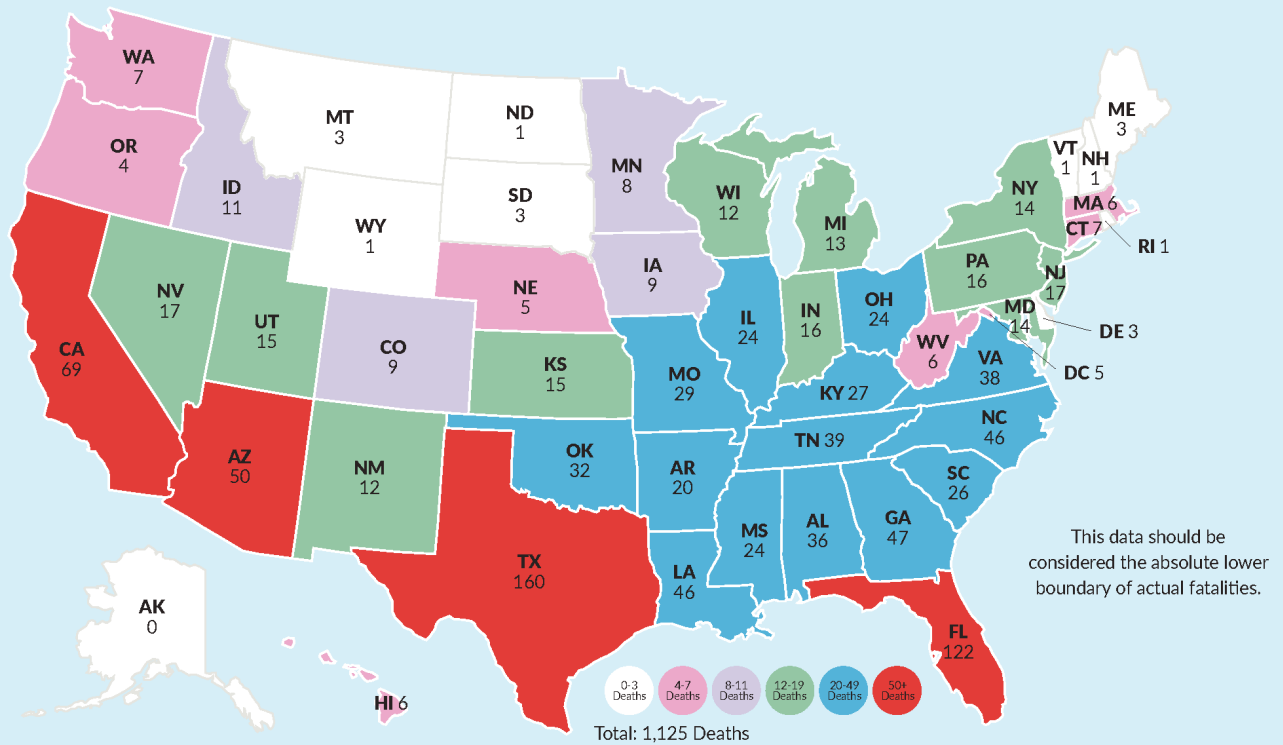
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January 2025, n = 1,125

Changes in the way we transport children in vehicles appear to have caused deadly unintended consequences. In the mid-1990's, children were being killed by overpowered airbags, when traveling in the front passenger seat. Safety advocates, government, and the auto industry all worked together to ensure children would ride in the back seat to prevent these unthinkable tragedies.

Unfortunately, no modifications were put in place to compensate for this change. This has resulted in at least 1,125 hot car deaths (compared to approx. 186 child front seat passenger airbag deaths).

The addition of technology to vehicles to end these predictable and preventable hot car deaths is long overdue.

Figure 2: Child Hot Car Deaths (1990-2024) Involving U.S. Children Age 14 and Under



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety as of January, 2025

NOTE: Figure 2a (next page) contains the back of this chart that ranks each state by number of fatalities and provides the date range for when the hot car deaths took place in each state.

Figure 2a: Child Hot Car Deaths (1990-2024)

Below are the specific date ranges for the fatalities that Kids and Car Safety documented in each state between 1990 and 2024.

Rank	State	# Fatalities	Date Range	# Fatalities < 1990	Rank	State	# Fatalities	Date Range	# Fatalities < 1990
1	TX	160	1991-2024	7	27	MI	13	1995-2024	2
2	FL	122	1992-2024	8	28	NM	13	1995-2022	1
3	CA	69	1990-2024	11	29	WI	12	1991-2013	2
4	AZ	50	1994-2024	3	30	ID	11	1995-2023	1
5	GA	47	1993-2024		31	CO	9	1992-2024	
6	LA	46	1995-2024	2	32	IA	9	1997-2019	1
7	NC	46	1991-2024	2	33	MN	8	2001-2019	
8	TN	39	1990-2024		34	WA	8	1996-2023	
9	VA	38	1990-2023	4	35	CT	7	1997-2018	1
10	AL	36	1995-2023	1	36	HI	6	1997-2014	
11	OK	32	1997-2024		37	MA	6	1995-2024	
12	MO	29	1998-2024	2	38	WV	6	2004-2024	
13	KY	27	1993-2020	2	39	DC	5	1995-2024	
14	SC	26	1995-2024	1	40	NE	5	1999-2024	
15	IL	24	1990-2024	2	41	SD	5	2005-2023	1
16	MS	24	1994-2024	1	42	OR	4	2000-2018	1
17	OH	24	1994-2023	1	43	DE	3	1995-2019	1
18	AR	20	1998-2024		44	ME	3	1993-2010	
19	NJ	17	1998-2024	1	45	MT	3	2000-2018	
20	NV	17	1996-2020	1	46	ND	1	2006	
21	IN	16	1997-2019	2	47	NH	1	1997	
22	PA	16	1995-2023	4	48	RI	1	2009	
23	KS	15	2000-2023		49	VT	1	2024	
24	UT	15	1996-2019	1	50	WY	1	2017	
25	MD	14	1998-2015	3	51	AK	0		
26	NY	14	1994-2024	2	52	unkown	1	1994	

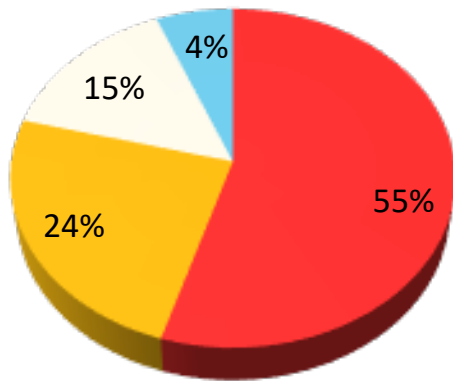
Total Deaths: 1,125

*There were 72 additional fatalities that Kids and Car Safety was able to document that happened prior to 1990 that are noted in a separate column above.

Data Source: KidsAndCarSafety.org as of January, 2025



Child Hot Car Deaths by Circumstance (1990-2024)



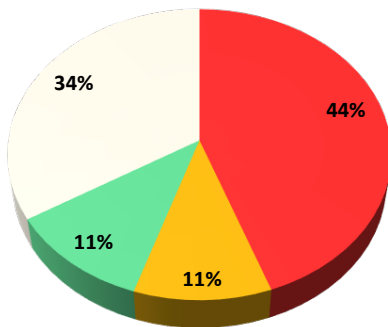
- Unknowingly Left in Vehicle (55%)
- Gained Access to Vehicle on Own (25%)
- Knowingly Left in Vehicle (15%)
- Other / Circumstances Unknown (4%)

Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125



The overwhelming majority of hot car tragedies involve a child who was unknowingly left or gained access to the vehicle on their own. Contrary to public opinion, very few cases involve drugs, alcohol, prior CPS involvement or neglect.

Figure 3a: Child Hot Car Deaths by Unknowingly Left Circumstances (1990-2024)



- Supposed to have been dropped off at daycare (43%)
- Miscommunication between 2 caregivers (11%)
- Left by a childcare provider (12%)
- Unknowingly left by caregiver (34%)

Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024



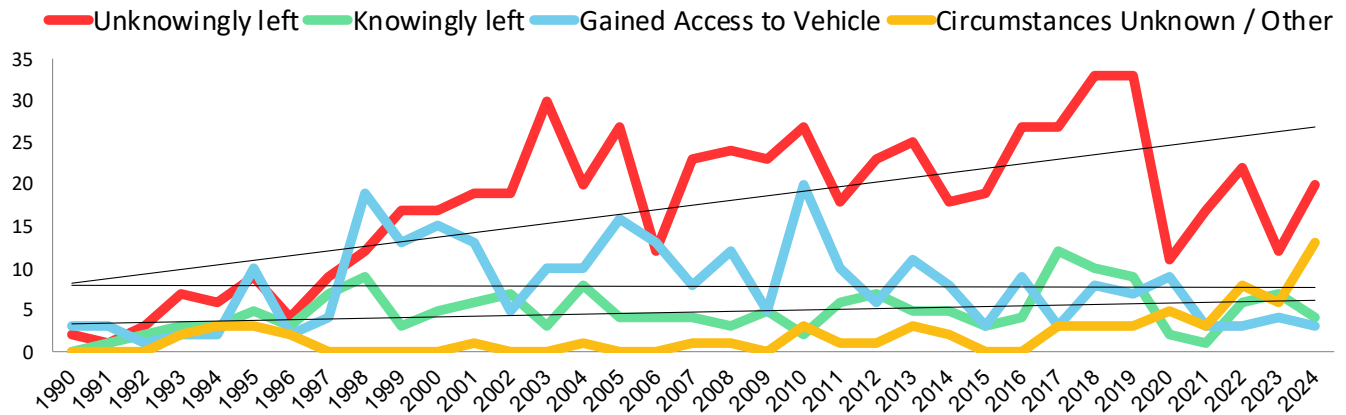
Figure 3b: Child Hot Car Death Circumstances by State (1990-2024)

State	Unknowingly Left	Gained Access	Knowingly Left	Other	UNK	Total
AK	0	0	0	0	0	0
AL	22	9	1	0	4	36
AR	11	6	3	0	0	20
AZ	31	12	3	1	3	50
CA	37	14	13	2	3	69
CO	5	2	2	0	0	9
CT	2	5	0	0	0	7
DC	1	3	0	0	1	5
DE	2	1	0	0	0	3
FL	82	18	18	0	4	122
GA	23	12	8	0	4	47
HI	3	2	1	0	0	6
IA	5	2	1	0	1	9
ID	4	3	3	0	1	11
IL	9	8	4	0	3	24
IN	8	5	2	1	0	16
KS	9	4	1	0	1	15
KY	15	11	2	0	1	29
LA	23	10	5	0	8	46
MA	6	0	0	0	0	6
MD	6	2	4	2	0	14
ME	0	1	2	0	0	3
MI	5	4	3	0	1	13
MN	4	2	1	0	1	8
MO	11	9	5	1	2	28
MS	13	5	4	0	2	24
MT	0	1	2	0	0	3
NC	21	14	8	0	3	46
ND	1	0	0	0	0	1
NE	2	2	0	0	1	5
NH	0	0	1	0	0	1
NJ	12	4	1	0	0	17
NM	7	6	0	0	0	13
NV	10	3	3	0	1	17
NY	12	0	1	0	1	14
OH	12	7	5	0	0	24
OK	16	10	4	1	1	32
OR	3	0	1	0	0	4
PA	8	5	1	0	0	14
RI	0	1	0	0	0	1
SC	14	6	6	0	0	26
SD	3	1	0	0	1	5
TN	16	11	11	0	1	39
TX	96	39	15	3	8	161
UT	6	8	0	0	1	15
VA	24	2	9	3	0	38
VT	1	0	0	0	0	1
WA	3	3	2	0	0	8
WI	5	2	4	1	0	12
WV	5	0	1	0	0	6
WY	1	0	0	0	0	1
XY	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	615	275	161	15	59	1125



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2025, n = 1,125

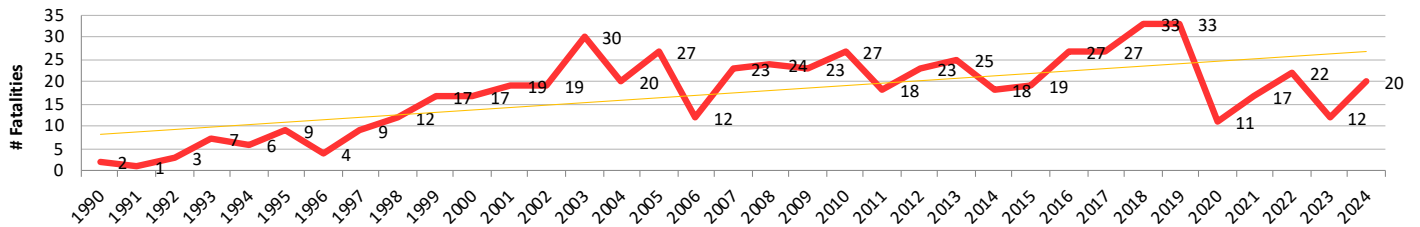
Figure 4: All Child Hot Car Death Circumstances by Year (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125



Figure 4a: Unknowingly Left in Vehicle Child Hot Car Deaths by Year (1990-2024)

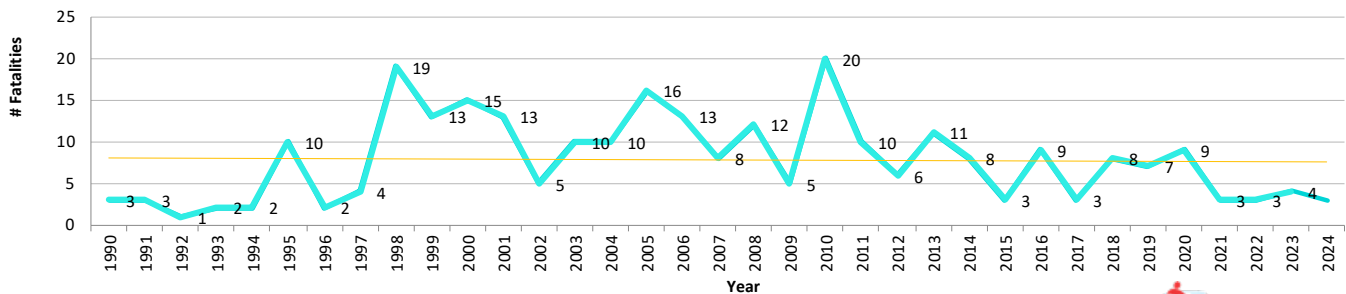


Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125



Note: Cases involving children being unknowingly left in vehicles have had a drastic increase starting in the mid-late 1990s and have been increasing ever since. Learn more about why [HERE](#).

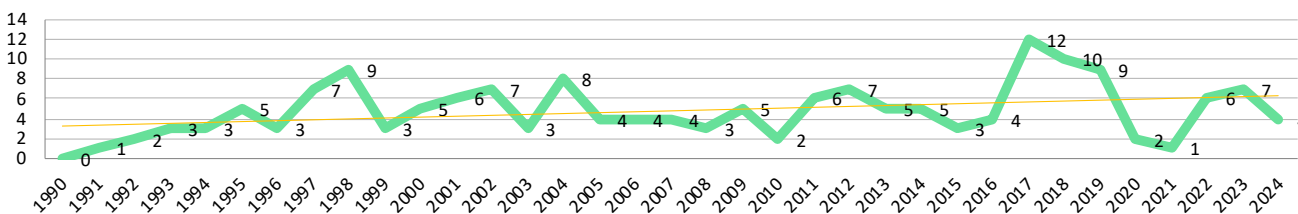
Figure 4c: Gained Access to Vehicle on Own Child Hot Car Deaths by Year (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 273



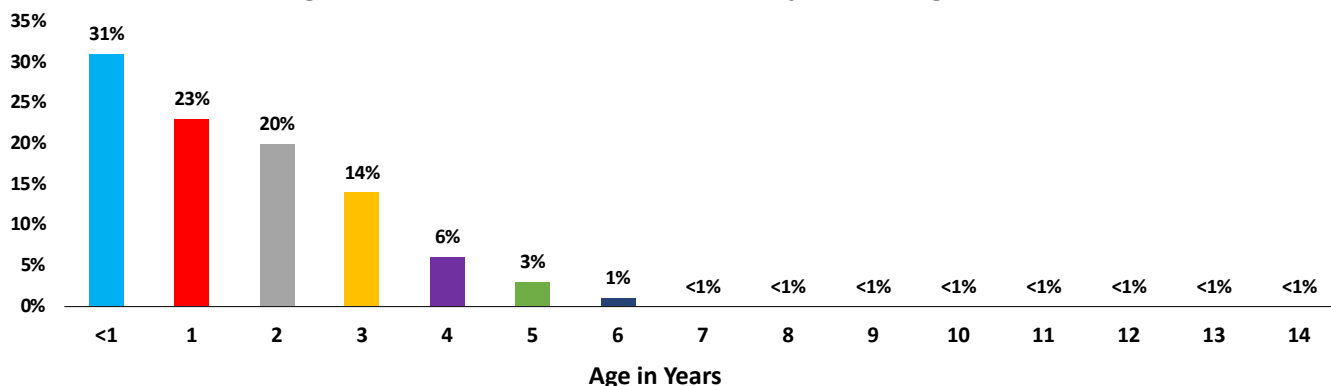
Figure 4b: Knowingly Left in Vehicle Child Hot Car Deaths by Year (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 168

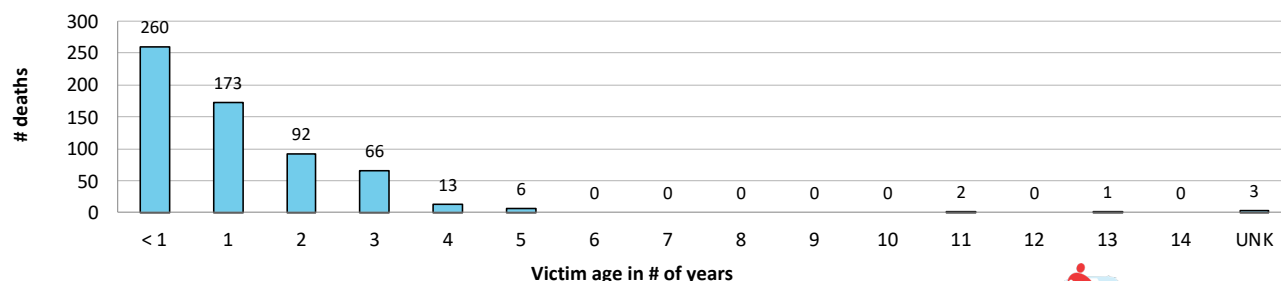


Figure 5: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by Victim Age (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125

Figure 5a: Unknowingly Left in Vehicle Hot Car Deaths by Victim Age (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 616



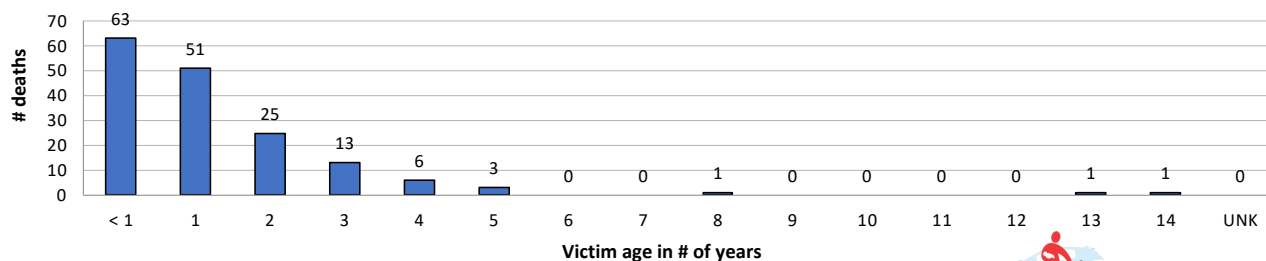
Figure 5b: Gained Access to Vehicle on Own Death by Victim Age (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 273



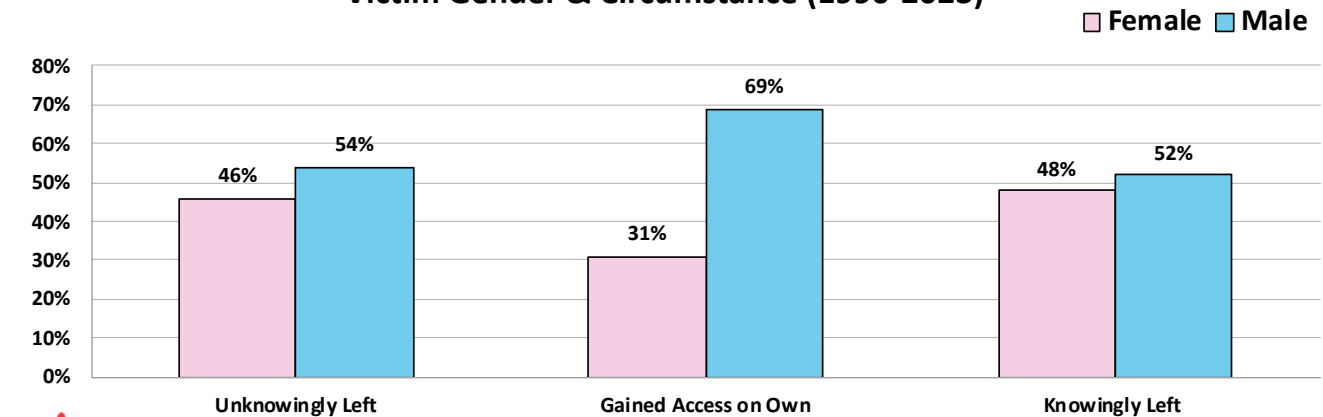
Figure 5c: Knowingly Left in Vehicle Death by Victim Age (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 164

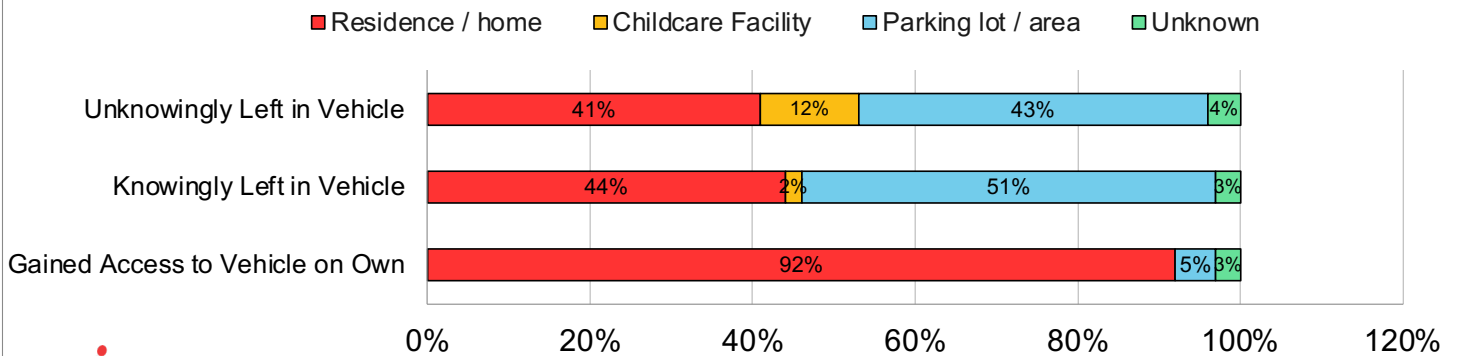


**Figure 6; Child Hot Car Deaths:
Victim Gender & Circumstance (1990-2023)**



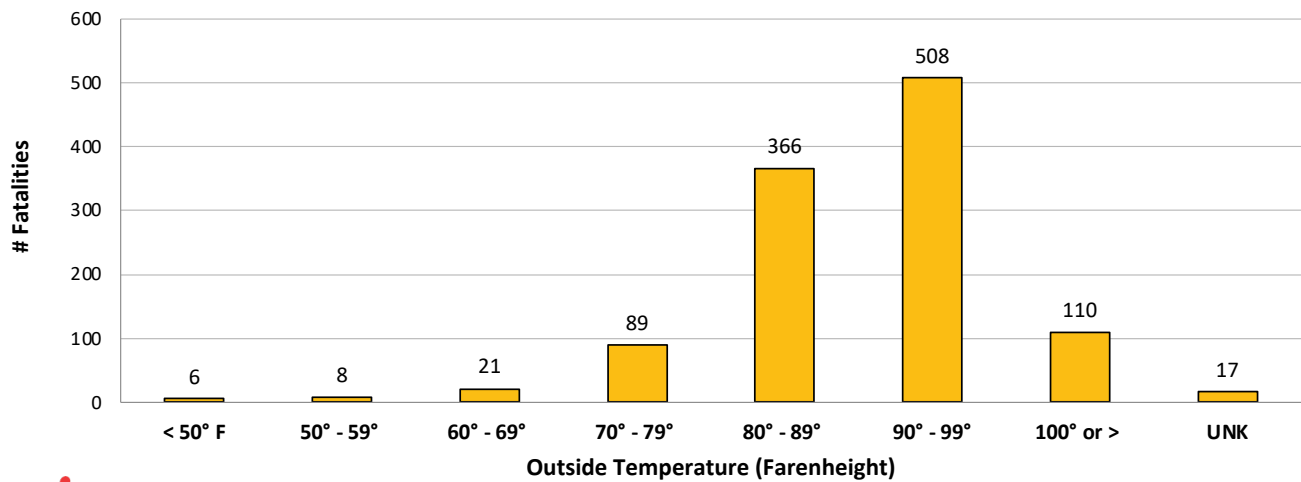
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125

Figure 7: Child Hot Car Deaths by Location & Top 3 Circumstances



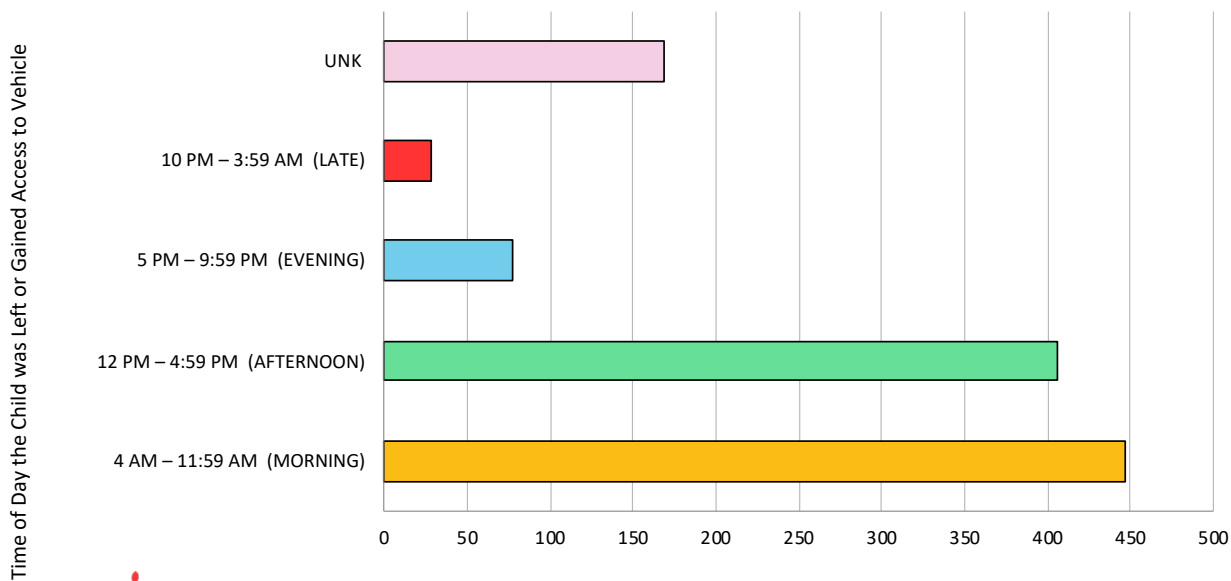
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125

Figure 8: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by Outside Temperature (1990-2024)



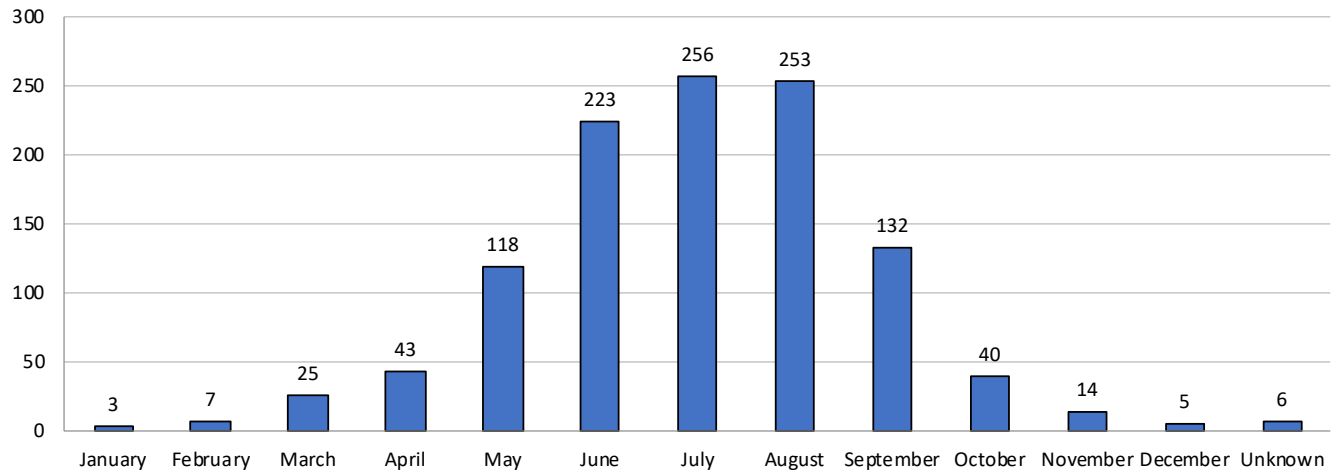
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125

Figure 9: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by Time of Day (1990-2024)



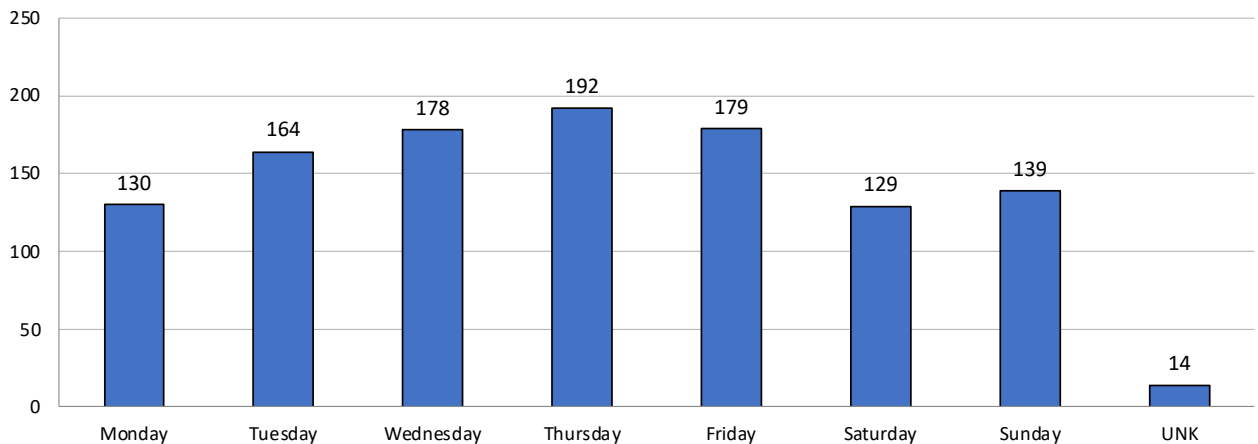
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125

Figure 10: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by Month (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125

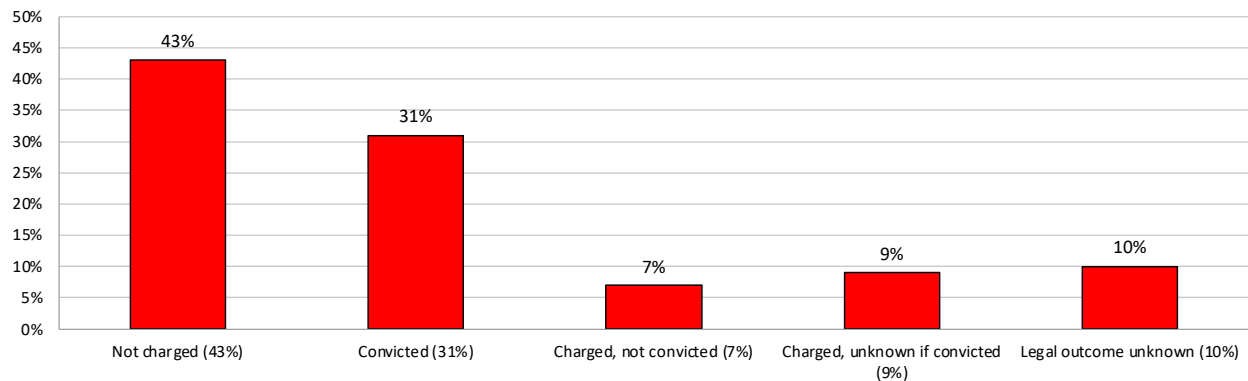
Figure 11: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by Day of Week (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125

Note: Cases involving children who are unknowingly left happen most frequently during the end of the work week while cases involving children who gain access to vehicles on their own happen most frequently over the weekend.

Figure 12: ALL Child Hot Car Death Legal Outcomes (1990-2024)



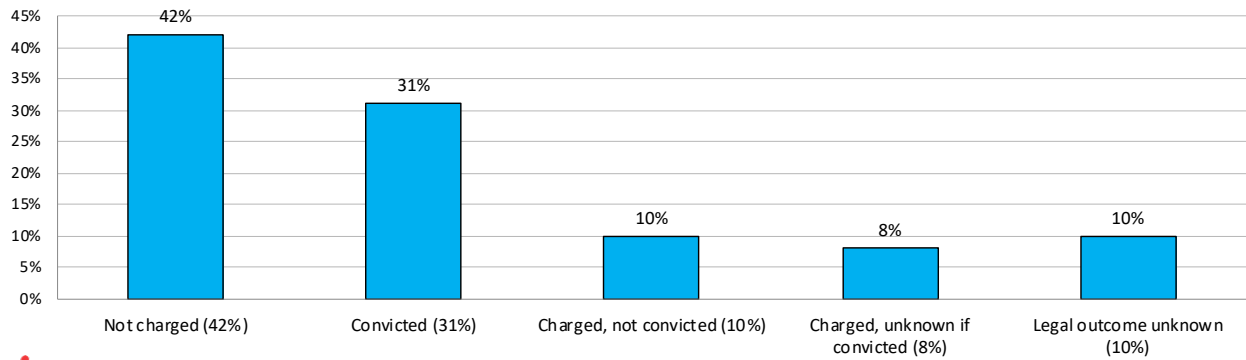
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2024, n = 1,125

- At least 50% of child hot car deaths do not result in a conviction
- 31% of child hot car deaths result in a conviction of varying degrees.
- 19% of child hot car death cases have pending legal outcomes or legal outcomes are unknown
- Many defendants take a plea deal to avoid the possibility of jail time and because they are unable to fight a legal battle after the tragic loss of a child

Note: Unknown legal outcomes are largely due to court cases that remain open in recent years. Further information is available upon request.

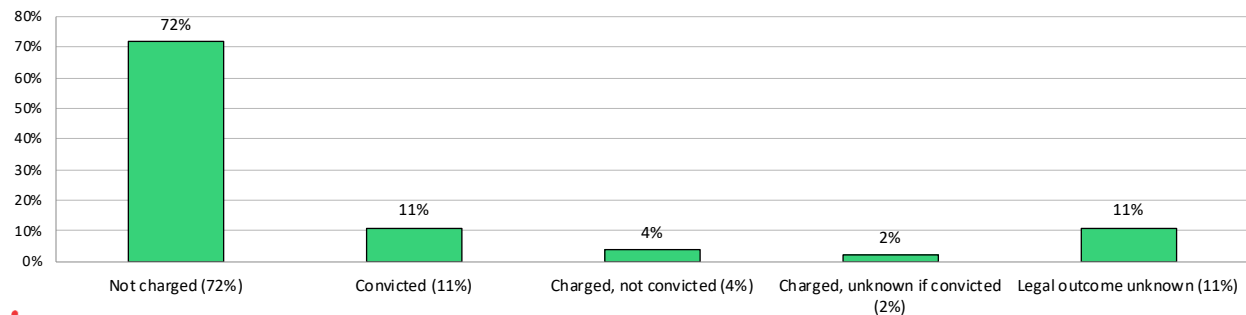
The legal outcomes of hot car deaths vary drastically even between cases with nearly identical circumstances. The overwhelming majority of hot car deaths do NOT involve abuse, neglect, prior history with CPS, drugs or alcohol. Criminalizing unintentional acts is not a deterrent for future tragedies. In fact, it serves to further enforce the idea that most parents believe, “this could never happen to me.”

Figure 12a: Unknowingly Left Child Hot Car Death Legal Outcomes (1990-2024)



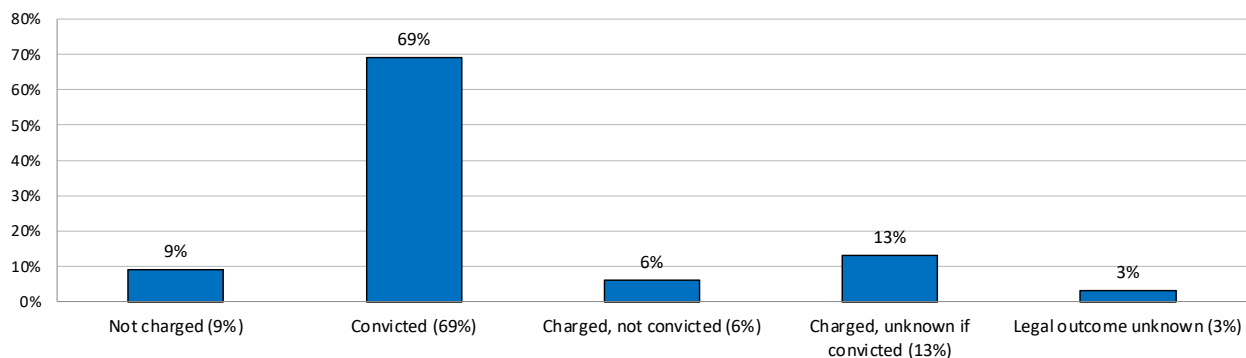
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2025, n = 616

Figure 12b: Gained Access to Vehicle Child Hot Car Death Legal Outcomes (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2025, n = 273

Figure 12c: Knowingly Left Child Hot Car Death Legal Outcomes (1990-2024)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of January, 2025, n = 164

For additional information about child hot car fatalities, fact sheets, safety tips, state laws, children's stories, videos, PSAs, additional charts, graphics, materials in several languages, pending legislation, etc. visit the [hot cars death page](#) on our website.