



U.S. Child Hot Car Death Data Analysis from the Kids and Car Safety National Database (1990-2023)



Table of Contents

Figure 1: Child hot car deaths by year (page 3)

- Figure 1a: Child hot car deaths by year & state (page 4)
- Figure 1b: Airbag vs. heatstroke deaths (page 5)

Figure 2: Child hot car deaths by state U.S. Map (page 6)

- Figure 2a: Child hot car deaths by state ranked by # of deaths (page 7)

Figure 3: All Child hot car deaths by circumstance (page 8)

- Figure 3a: Unknowingly left child hot car deaths by circumstance (page 8)
- Figure 3b: Child hot car deaths by circumstance for each state (page 9)

Figure 4: Child hot car death circumstances by year trend over time (page 10)

- Figure 4a: Unknowingly left child hot car deaths by year (page 10)
- Figure 4b: Gained access child hot car deaths by year (page 10)
- Figure 4c: Knowingly left child hot car deaths by year (page 10)

Figure 5: All Child hot car deaths by victim age (page 11)

- Figure 5a: Unknowingly left child hot car deaths by victim age (page 11)
- Figure 5b: Gained access child hot car deaths by victim age (page 11)
- Figure 5c: Knowingly left child hot car deaths by victim age (page 11)

Figure 6: Child hot car deaths by victim gender and circumstance (page 12)

Figure 7: Child hot car deaths by location (page 12)

Figure 8: Child hot car deaths by outside temperature (page 13)

Figure 9: Child hot car deaths by time of day the child was left or gained access (page 13)

Figure 10: Child hot car deaths by month (page 14)

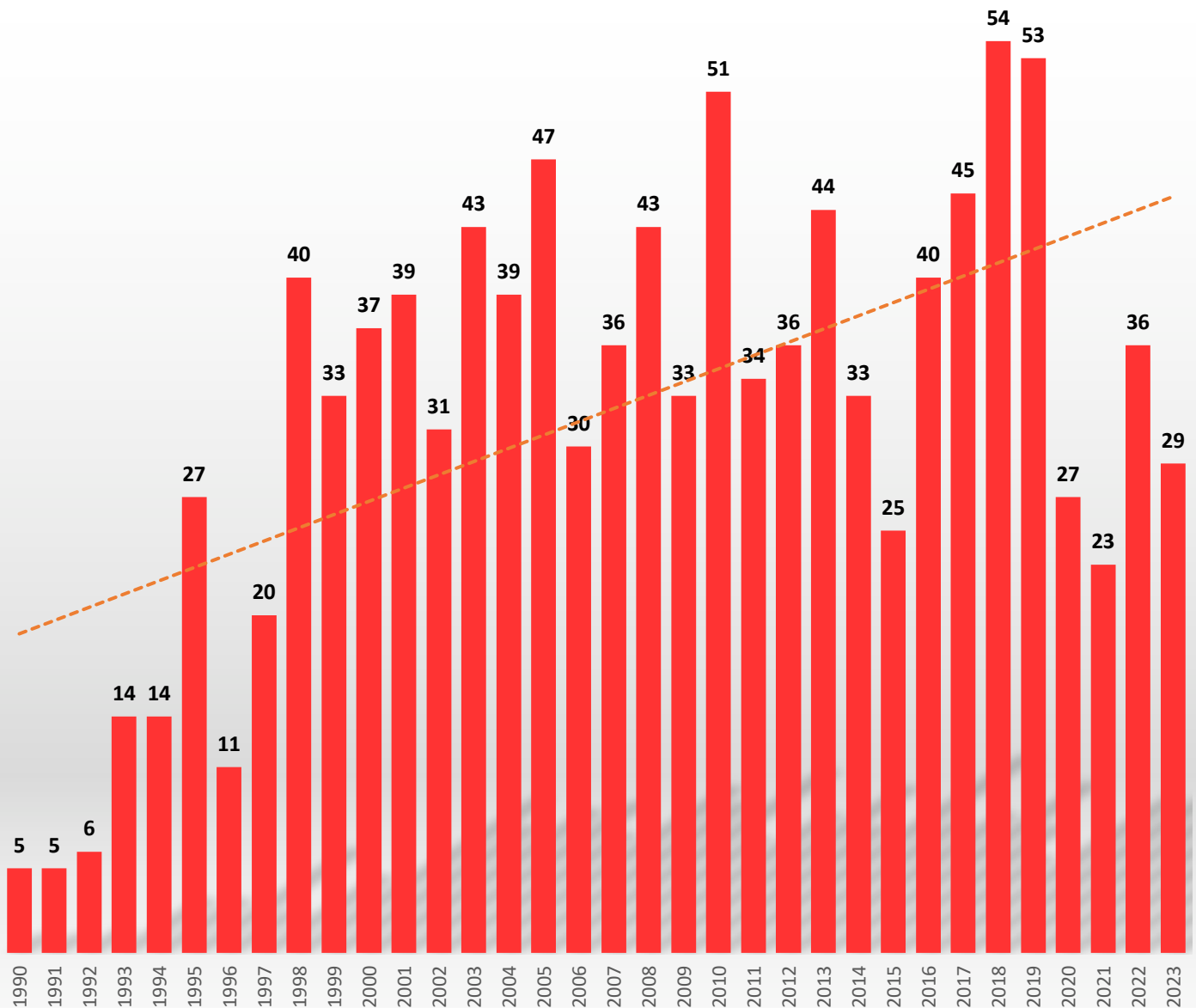
Figure 11: Child hot car deaths by day of the week (page 14)

Figure 12: Child hot car death legal outcomes (page 15)

- Figure 12a: Legal outcomes for unknowingly left cases (page 16)
- Figure 12b: Legal outcomes for gained access cases (page 16)
- Figure 12c: Legal outcomes for knowingly left cases (page 16)

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 (1990-2023)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n = 1,083

Since 1990, at least 1,083 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 (1990-2023)

	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	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	
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	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	0	1	0	1	0	19
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	47
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	65
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	8
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	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
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	0	1	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	118
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	45
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	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	21
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	16
KS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	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	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	44
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	5
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	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	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	12
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	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	2	1	5	1	0	0	1	0	28
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	22
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	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	45
ND	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
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	4
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	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	15
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	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	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	13
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	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	30
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	0	1	0	0	1	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	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	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	25
SD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	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	2	2	3	0	0	1	1	38
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	5	4	155
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	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	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	0
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	1	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	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	5
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	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	1
AL # DEATHS	5	5	6	14	14	27	11	20	40	33	37	39	31	43	39	47	30	36	43	33	51	34	36	44	33	25	40	45	54	53	27	23	36	29	1083



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

Note: Data is available by city and county upon request. Please contact email@KidsAndCars.org for more detailed geographic data.

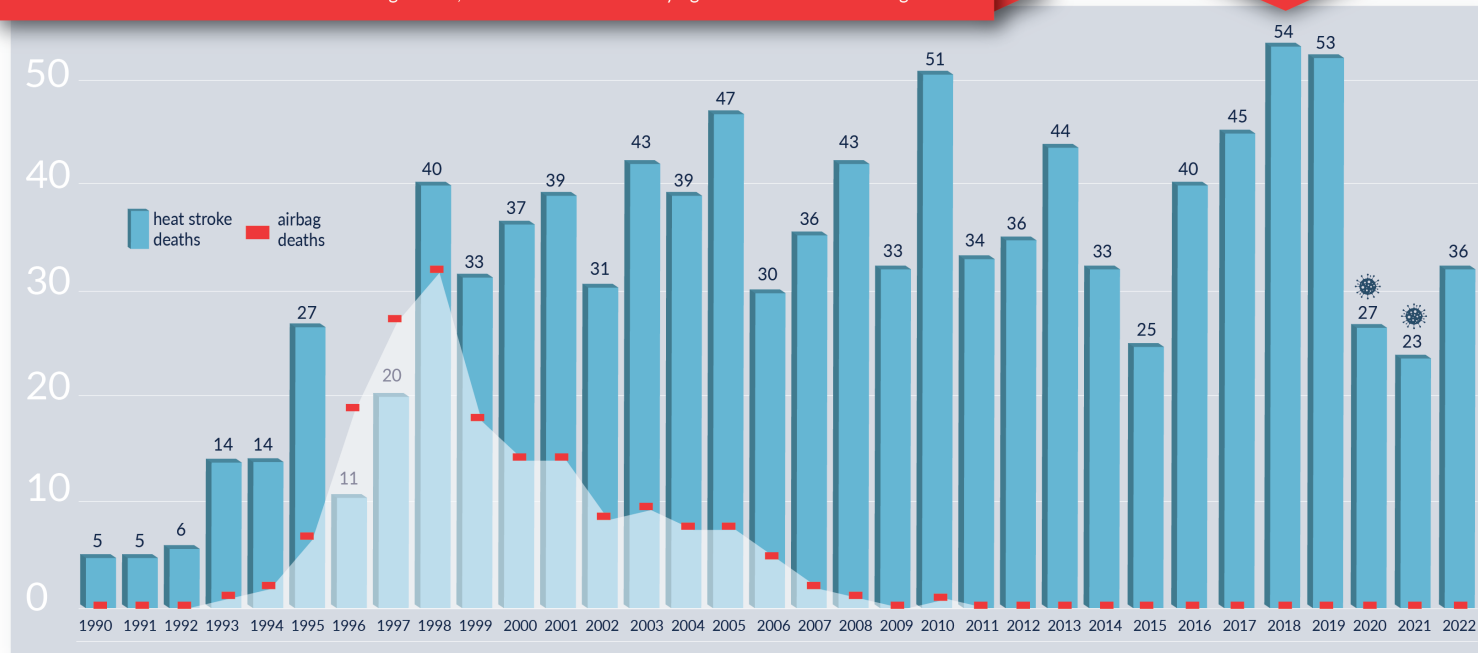
Figure 1b: Child Vehicular Heatstroke Deaths

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 1990-2022, 186 children were killed by over-powered air bags in the front passenger seat. During that same time-frame at least 1,054 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.'



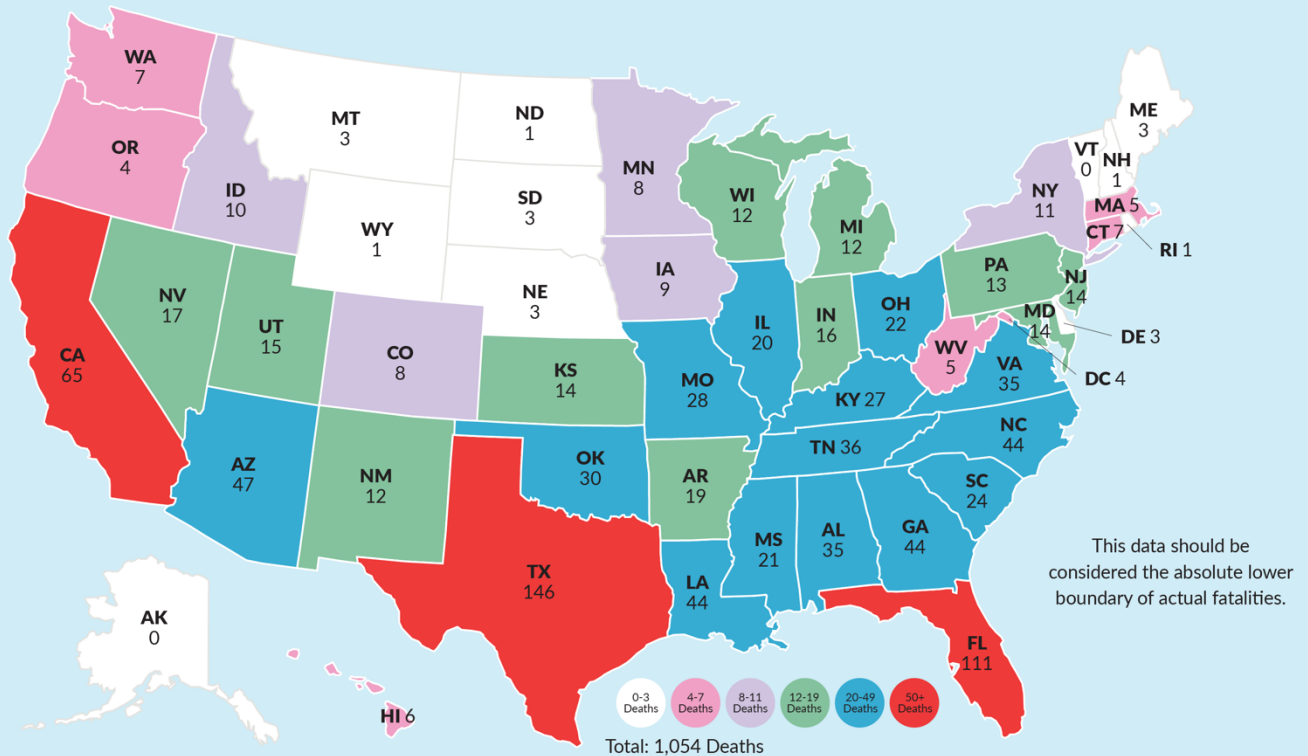
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February 2023, n = 1,054

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 1,051 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 (1990-2022) Involving U.S. Children Age 14 and Under



Data Source: KidsAndCarSafety.org as of February, 2023

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 (1990-2022)

Below are the specific date ranges for the fatalities that Kids and Car Safety documented in each state between 1990 and 2022.

Rank	State	# Fatalities	Date Range	# Fatalities < 1990
1	TX	146	1991-2021	7
2	FL	111	1992-2022	8
3	CA	64	1990-2022	11
4	AZ	47	1994-2021	3
5	LA	44	1995-2022	2
6	GA	44	1993-2022	
7	NC	44	1991-2022	2
8	TN	36	1990-2019	
9	VA	35	1990-2021	4
10	AL	35	1995-2022	1
11	OK	30	1997-2020	
12	MO	28	1998-2022	2
13	KY	27	1993-2022	2
14	SC	24	1995-2021	1
15	OH	22	1994-2021	1
16	MS	21	1994-2019	1
17	IL	20	1990-2014	2
18	AR	19	1998-2022	
19	NV	17	1996-2020	1
20	IN	16	1997-2019	2
21	MD	14	1998-2015	3
22	NJ	14	1998-2019	1
23	UT	15	1996-2021	1
24	KS	14	2000-2022	
25	PA	13	1995-2021	4
26	MI	12	1995-2014	2

Rank	State	# Fatalities	Date Range	# Fatalities < 1990
27	NM	12	1995-2019	1
28	WI	12	1991-2013	2
29	NY	11	1994-2019	2
30	ID	10	1995-2022	1
31	IA	9	1997-2019	1
32	CO	8	1992-2012	
33	MN	8	2001-2021	
34	CT	7	1997-2018	1
35	WA	7	1996-2013	
36	HI	6	1997-2014	
37	MA	5	1995-2012	
38	WV	5	2004-2017	
39	OR	4	2000-2018	1
40	DC	4	1995-2022	
41	DE	3	1995-2019	1
42	ME	3	1993-2010	
43	MT	3	2000-2018	
44	NE	3	1999-2019	
45	SD	3	2005-2010	1
46	ND	1	2006	
47	NH	1	1997	
48	RI	1	2009	
49	WY	1	2017	
50	AK	0		
51	VT	0		
52	Unknown	1	1994	

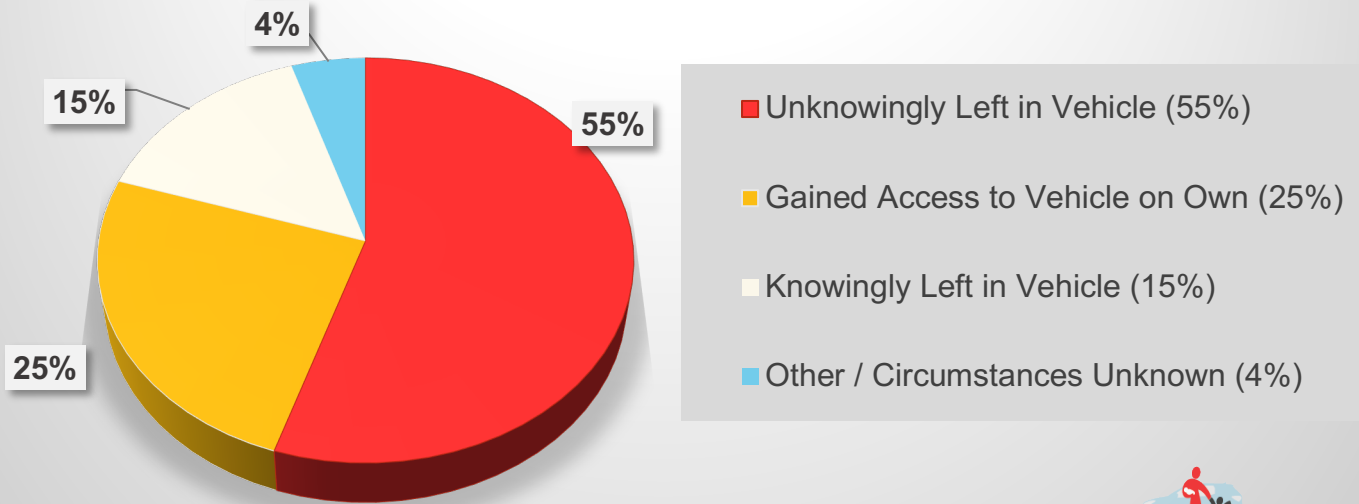
Total Deaths: 1,054

*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 February, 2023



Child Hot Car Deaths by Circumstance (1990-2023)

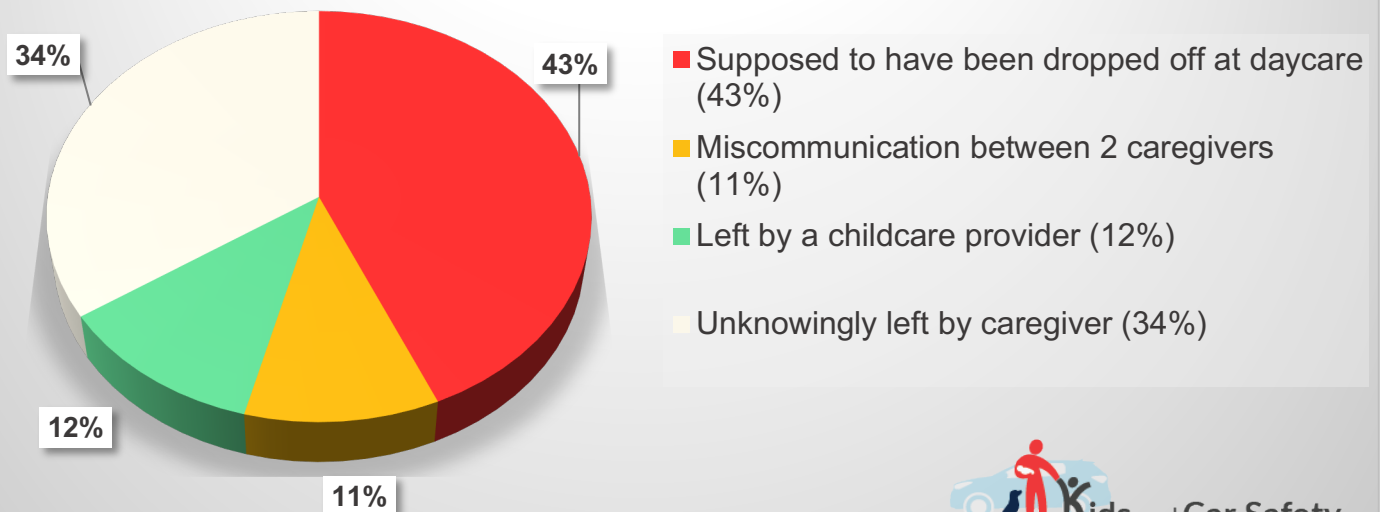


Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024



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** (1990-2023)



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

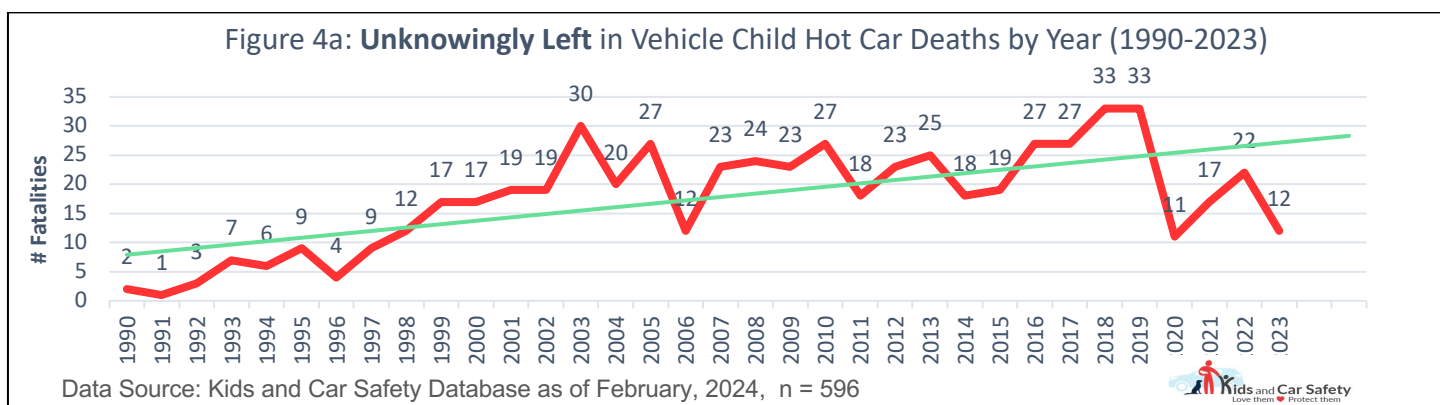
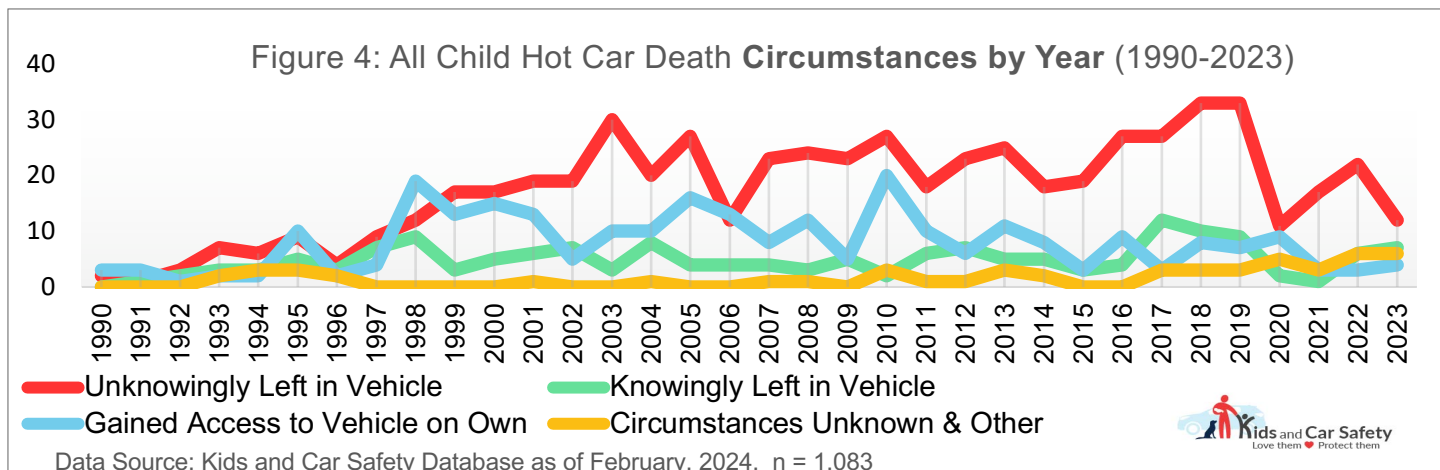


Figure 3b: Child Hot Car Death Circumstances by State (1990-2023)

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	2	0	0	19
AZ	29	12	3	1	2	47
CA	37	14	11	1	2	65
CO	4	2	2	0	0	8
CT	2	5	0	0	0	7
DC	1	3	0	0	0	4
DE	2	1	0	0	0	3
FL	79	18	18	0	3	118
GA	23	10	8	0	4	45
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	0	21
IN	8	5	2	1	0	16
KS	9	4	1	0	0	14
KY	15	11	2	0	1	29
LA	22	10	5	0	7	44
MA	5	0	0	0	0	5
MD	6	2	4	2	0	14
ME	0	1	2	0	0	3
MI	4	4	3	0	1	12
MN	4	2	1	0	1	8
MO	11	9	5	1	2	28
MS	13	5	4	0	0	22
MT	0	1	2	0	0	3
NC	21	13	8	0	3	45
ND	1	0	0	0	0	1
NE	2	2	0	0	0	4
NH	0	0	1	0	0	1
NJ	10	4	1	0	0	15
NM	7	6	0	0	0	13
NV	10	3	3	0	1	17
NY	11	0	1	0	1	13
OH	12	7	5	0	0	24
OK	14	10	4	1	1	30
OR	3	0	1	0	0	4
PA	8	5	1	0	0	14
RI	0	1	0	0	0	1
SC	14	5	6	0	0	25
SD	3	1	0	0	1	5
TN	15	11	11	0	1	38
TX	93	39	15	1	8	156
UT	6	8	0	0	1	15
VA	24	2	9	3	0	38
VT	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	3	3	2	0	0	8
WI	5	2	4	1	0	12
WV	4	0	1	0	0	5
WY	1	0	0	0	0	1
XY	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	595	271	158	12	47	1083



a Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n = 1,083



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](#).

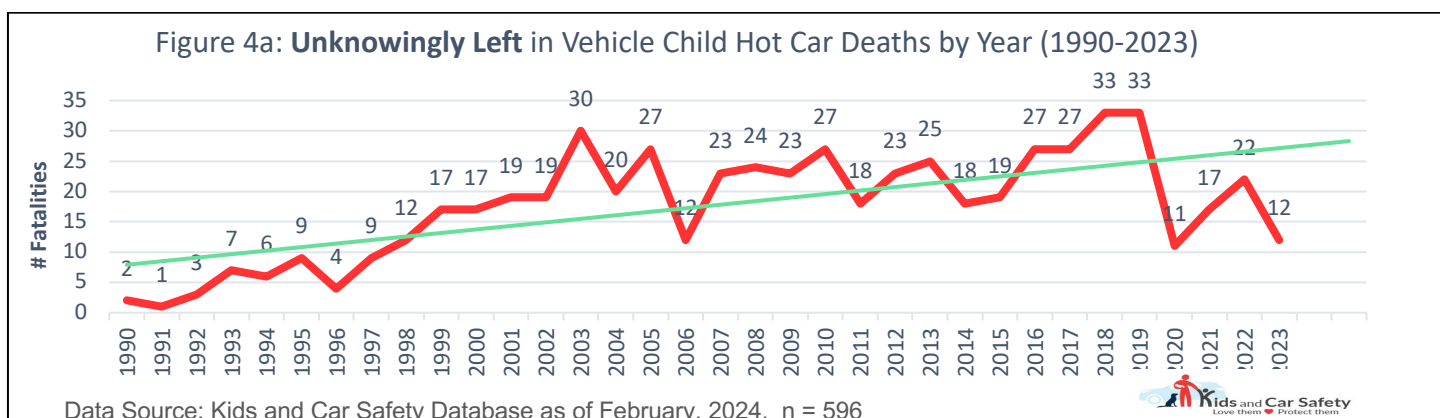
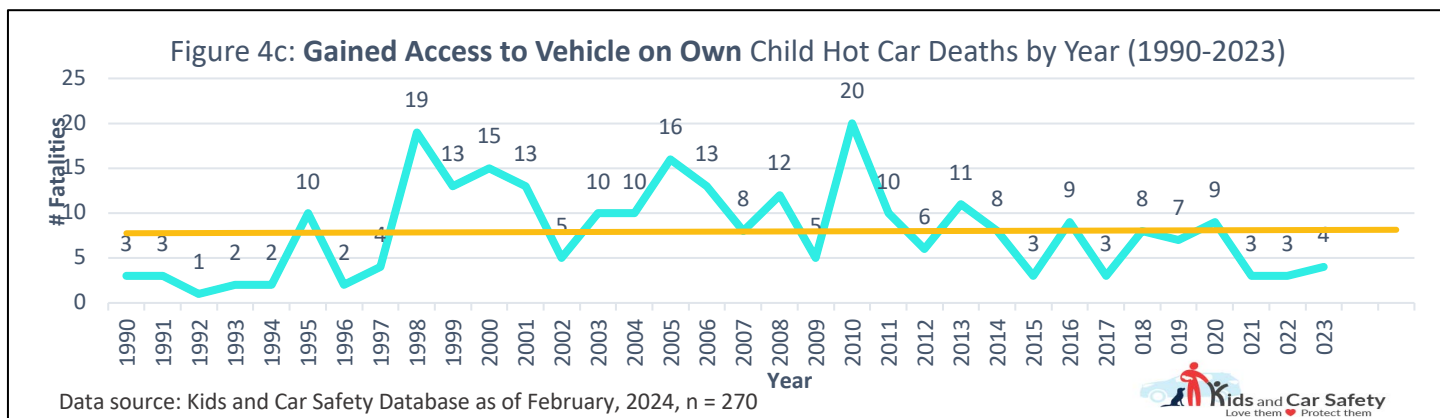
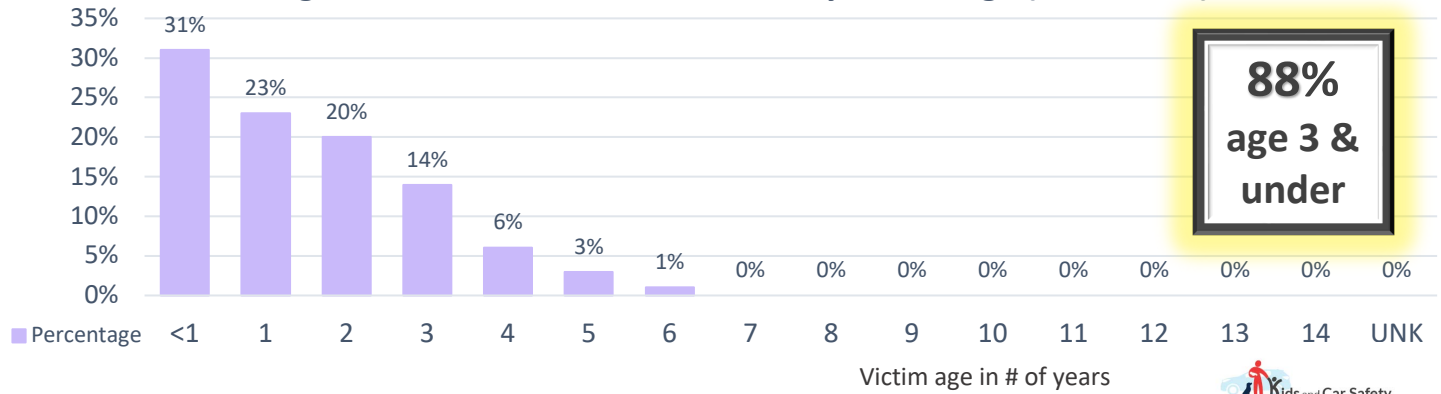


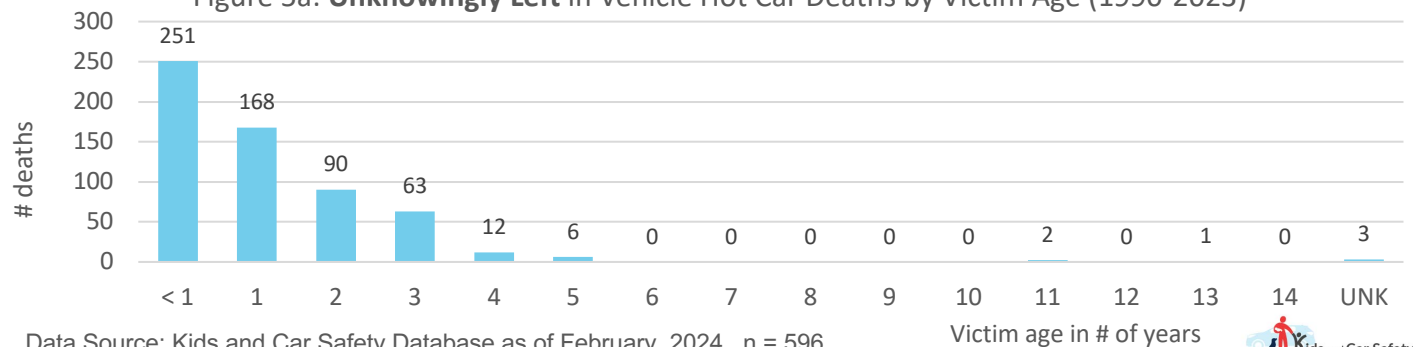
Figure 5: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by Victim Age (1990-2023)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n = 1,083



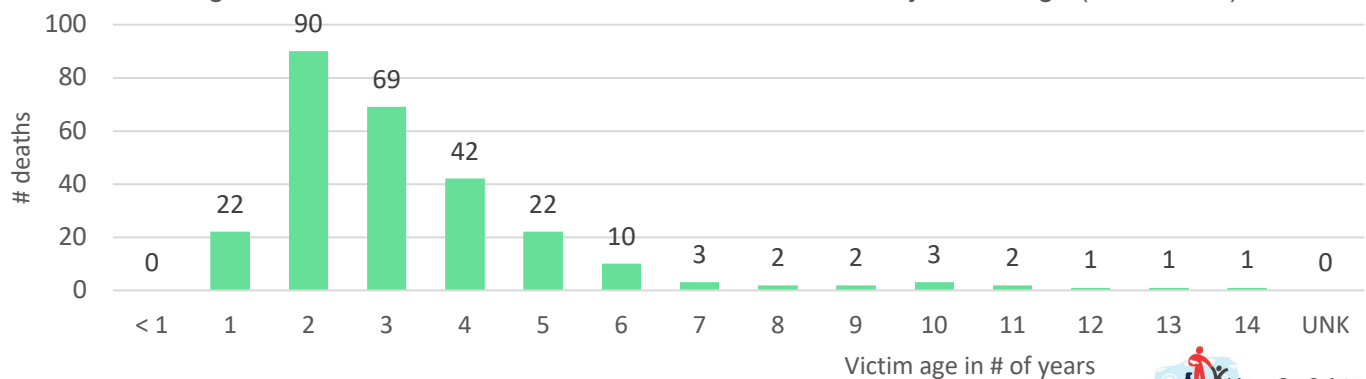
Figure 5a: Unknowingly Left in Vehicle Hot Car Deaths by Victim Age (1990-2023)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n = 596



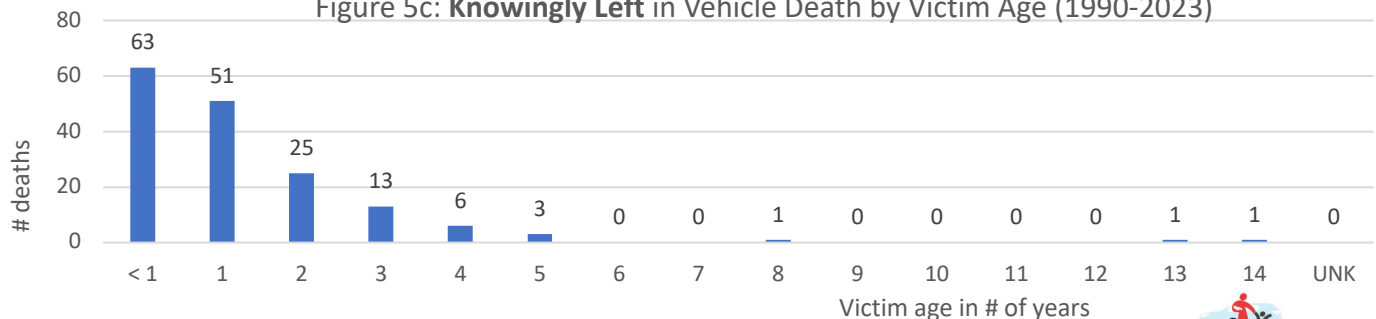
Figure 5b: Gained Access to Vehicle on Own Death by Victim Age (1990-2023)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n = 270



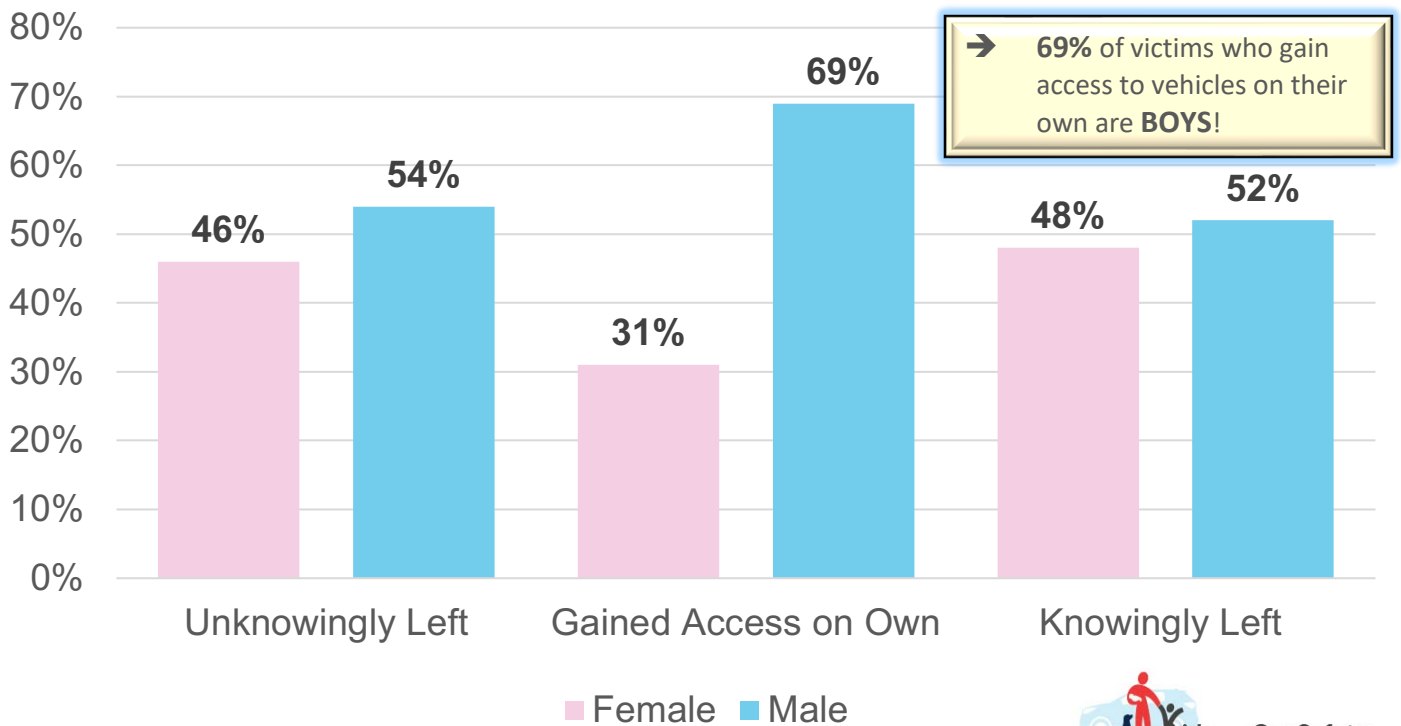
Figure 5c: Knowingly Left in Vehicle Death by Victim Age (1990-2023)



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



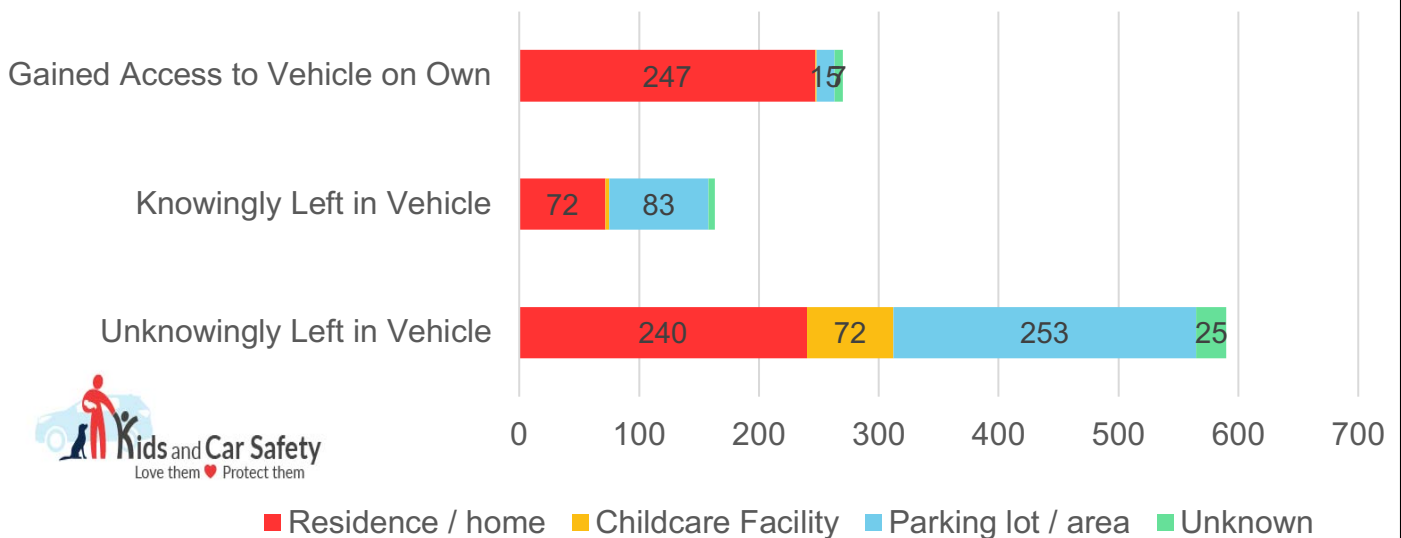
Figure 6; Child Hot Car Deaths:
Victim Gender & Circumstance (1990-2023)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n = 1,018

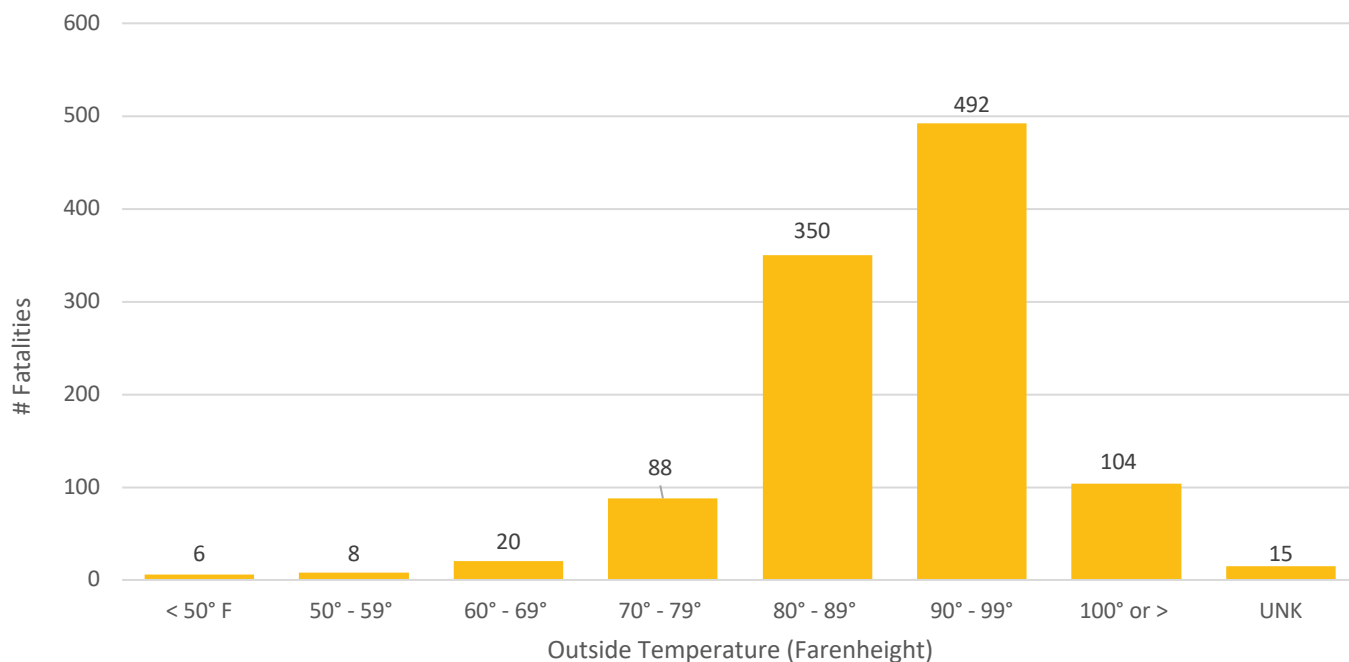


Figure 7: Child Hot Car Deaths by Location & Top 3 Circumstances



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

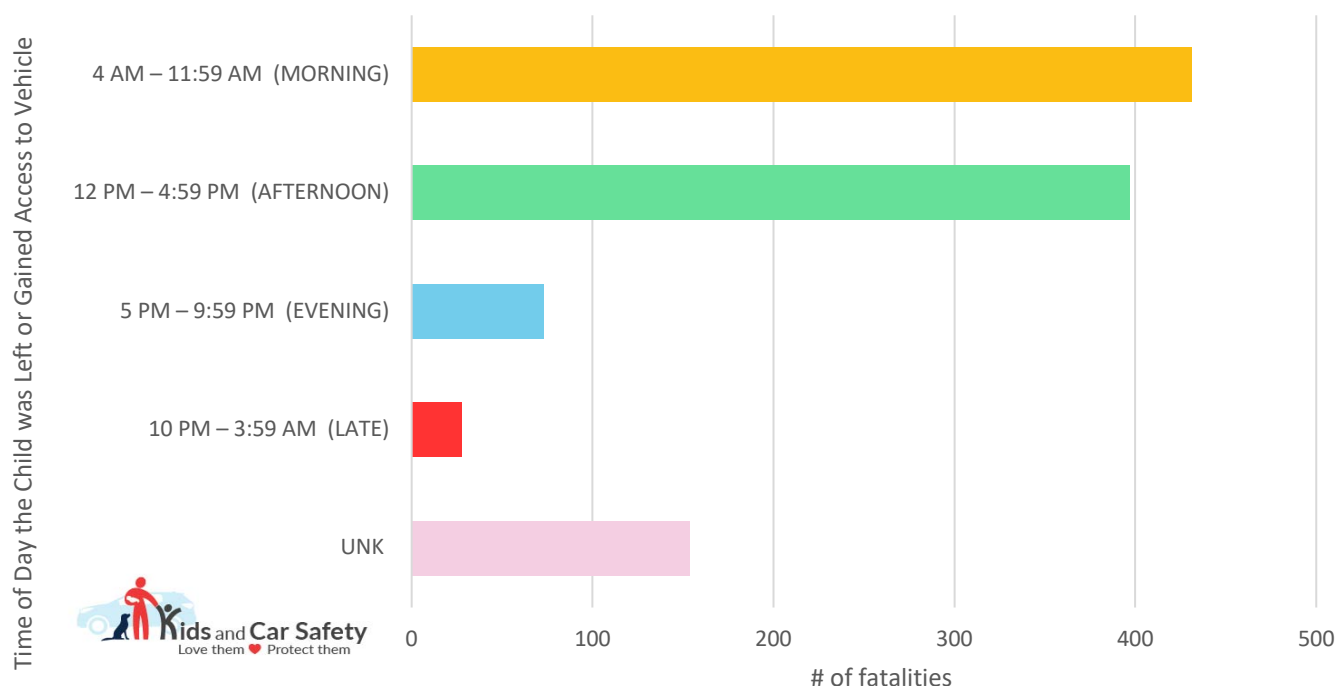
Figure 8: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by **Outside Temperature** (1990-2023)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n= 1,083



Figure 9: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by **Time of Day** the Child was Left or Gained Access to Vehicle (1990-2023)



Data Source: KidsAndCars.org Database as of February 2024, n = 1,083



Figure 10: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by **Month** (1990-2023)

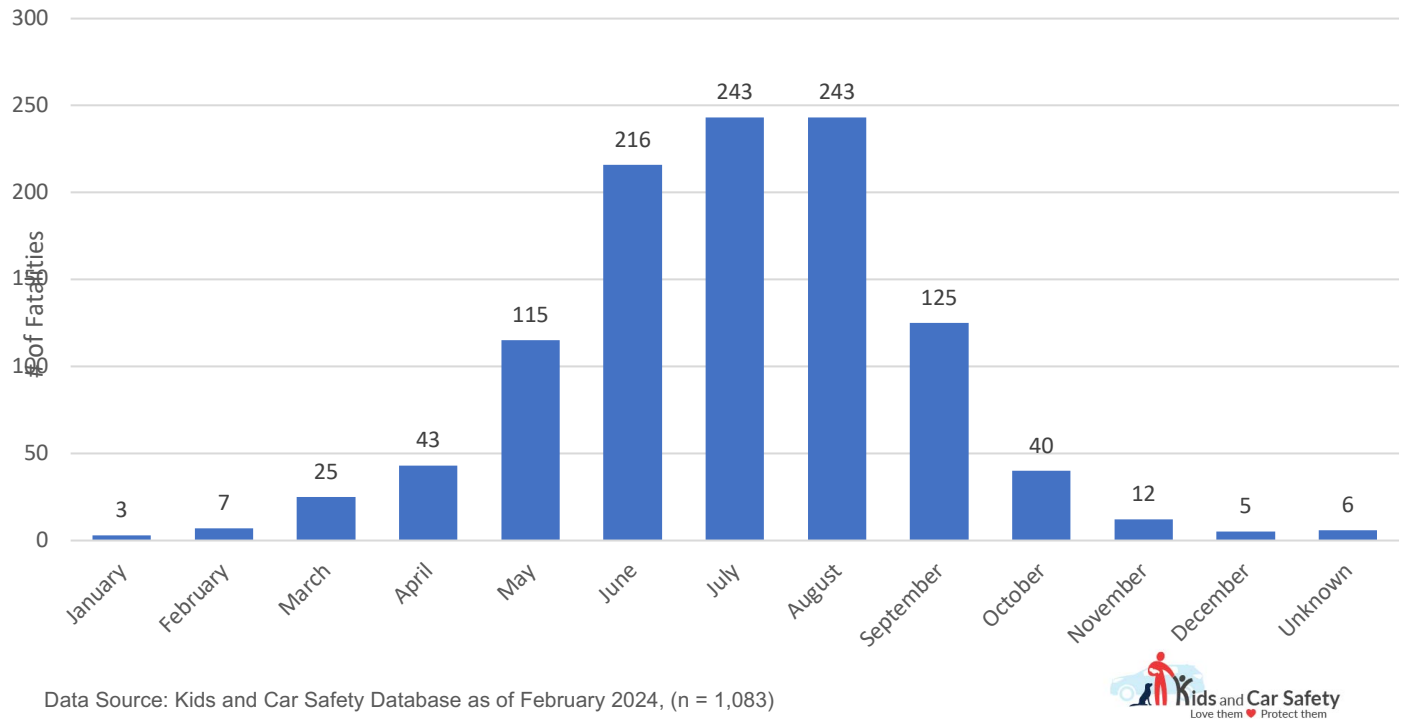
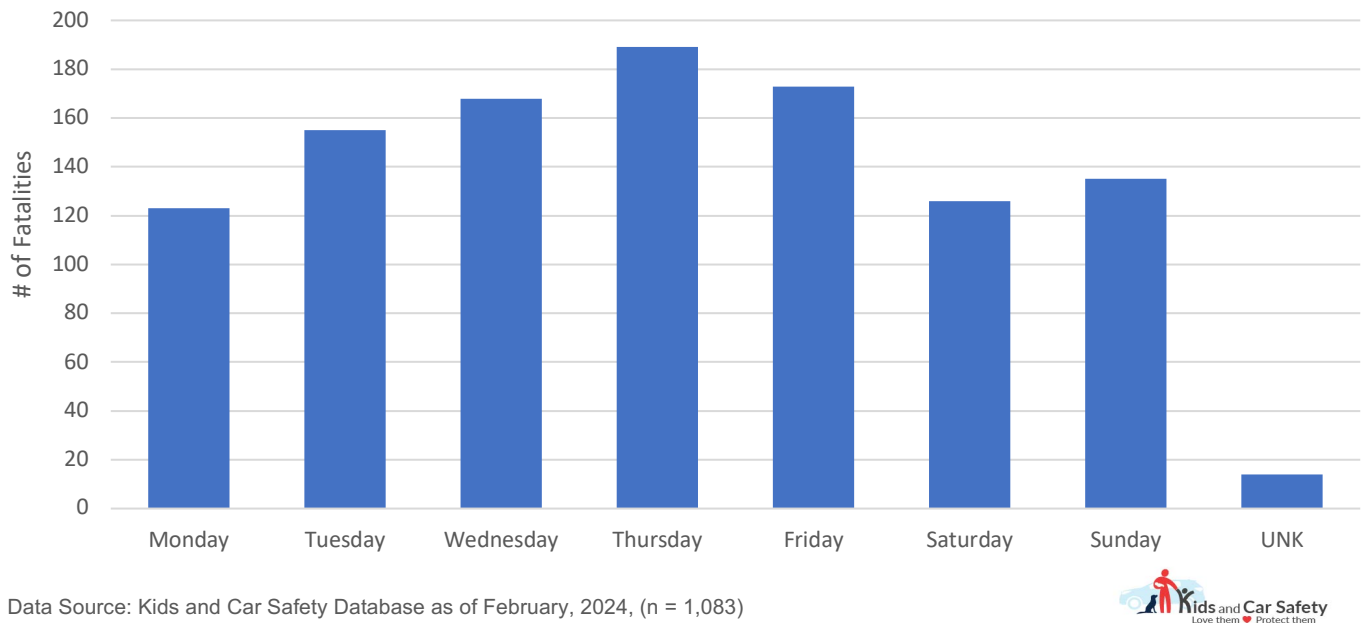


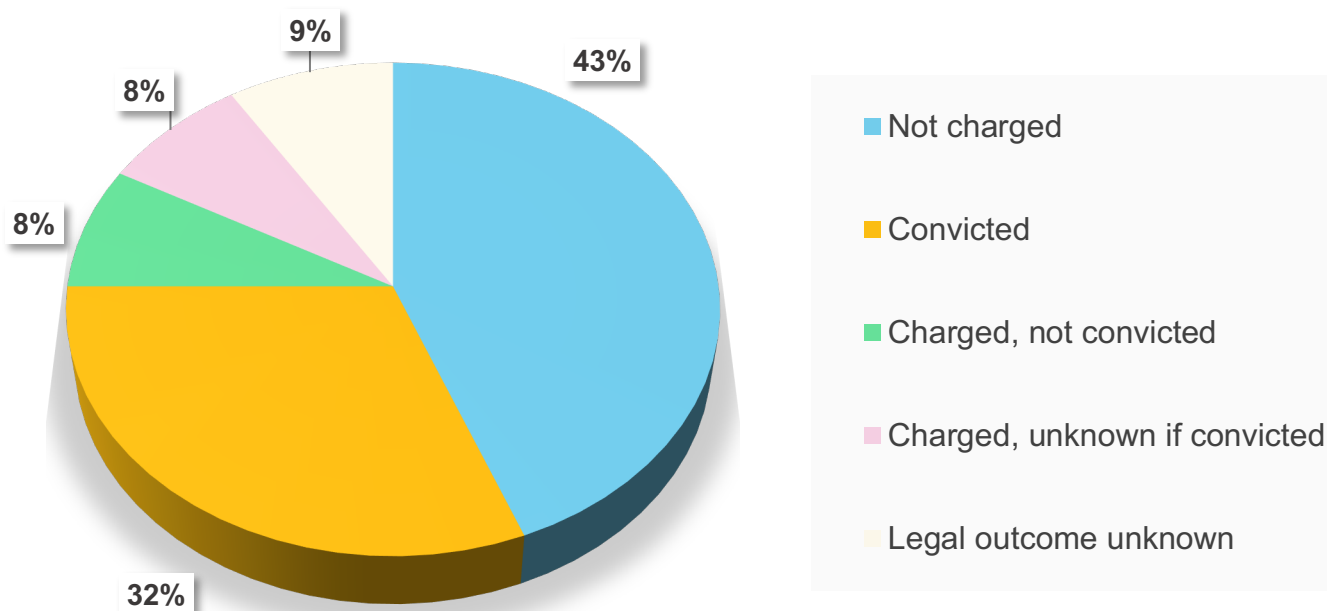
Figure 11: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by **Day of Week** (1990-2023)



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.

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

Figure 12: **ALL** Child Hot Car Death Legal Outcomes (1990-2023)



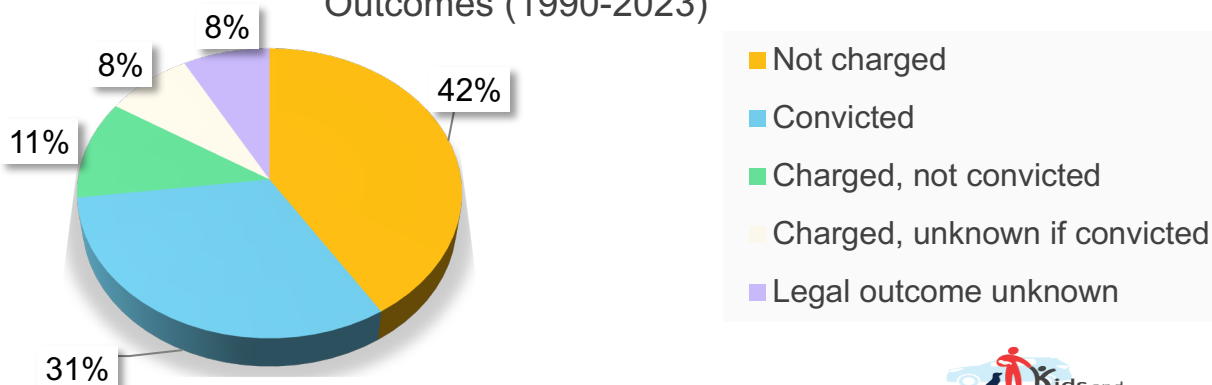
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n = 1,083



- 52% of child hot car deaths do not result in a conviction
- 31% of child hot car deaths result in a conviction of varying degrees. 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

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.”

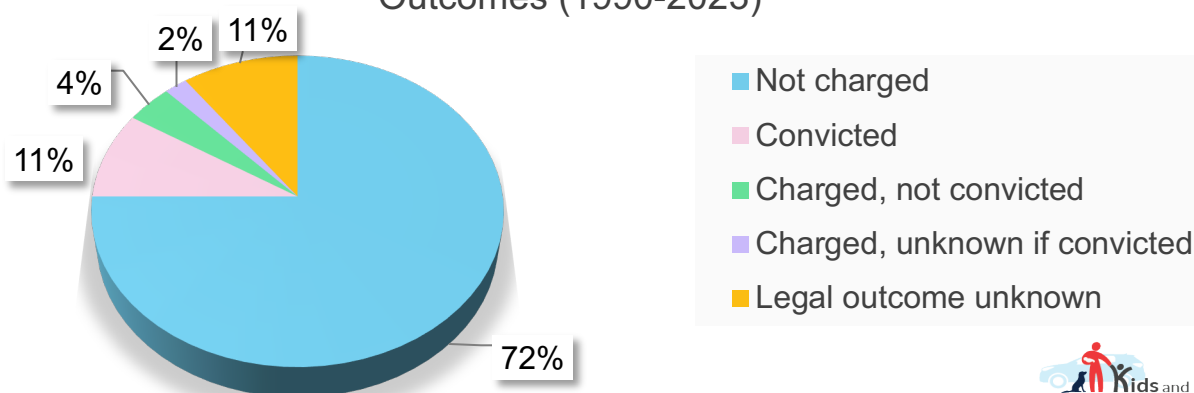
Figure 12a: **Unknowningly Left** Child Hot Car Death Legal Outcomes (1990-2023)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n = 607



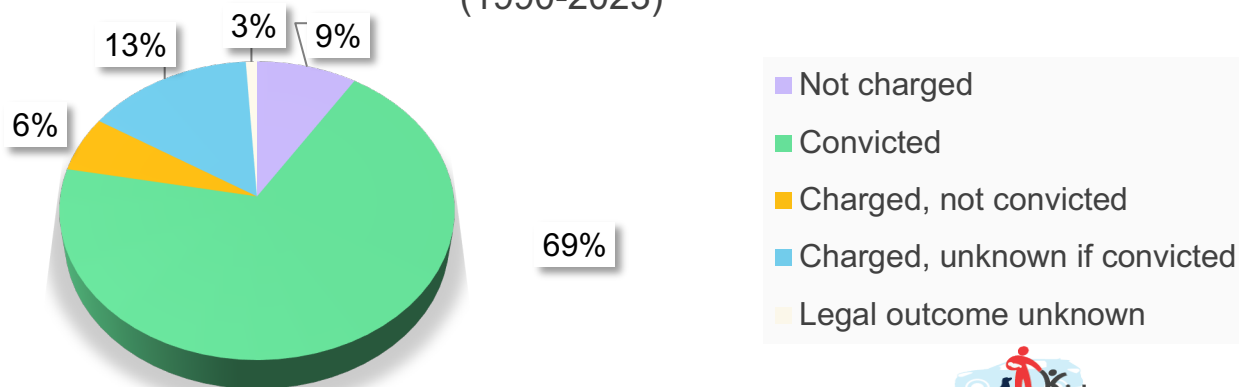
Figure 12b: **Gained Access to Vehicle** Child Hot Car Death Legal Outcomes (1990-2023)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n = 272



Figure 12c: **Knowingly Left** Child Hot Car Death Legal Outcomes (1990-2023)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2024, n = 165



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.