

# Eight kids have already died in hot cars this year before the summer heat has even started

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Eight children have already died this spring after being left or trapped in hot cars. The most fatal month was May, when seven children died in their guardian's cars. That number is nearly double that of the monthly average, and child advocacy groups are concerned that the total is just going to rise as the summer heat comes.



Confusion: Schoolteacher Vibha Marks (left), 42, of Milch Springs, Texas told police that she had no idea her daughter Victoria (right) was inside the vehicle when she parked outside her school  
Overlooked: Lance Duncan, 4, was left in his grandmother's hot van in North Carolina for four hours after she dropped other children off at school but then didn't notice he was still in the car  
The latest case was that of 2-year-old Hezekiah Brooks, who went missing on Sunday after he apparently crawled into his grandfather's car in Florida.  
He was found dead four hours later on the floorboards of the car.



Tragic: 2-year-old Hezekiah Brooks, who went missing on Sunday after he apparently crawled into his grandfather's car in Florida

In most of the tragic incidences, the parents accidentally leave the children inside while they are distracted.

'It has everything to do with our brains letting us down at the worst possible moment,' Janette Fennell, the president of Kids and Cars advocacy group, said to [NBC News](#).

That seems to be the case for Vibha Marks, 42, of Milch Springs, Texas who told police that she had no idea her daughter Victoria was inside the vehicle when she parked outside her school, and 'was certain' that she had taken her to daycare.

Ms Marks was charged with second-degree felony child abandonment - just 24 hours after her daughter had celebrated her first birthday. A similar instance was that of Bryan Osceola, an 11-month old boy whose mother Catalina Bruno left him in his car seat when she went into their Florida home.

When the baby's father Amos Osceola asked where the child was, they found him unresponsive in the car seat.

NBC News reports that the couple rushed him to a fire station and then a hospital but he died, as his body temperature was 109 degrees. Bruno was charged with aggravated manslaughter.

Ms Fennell of Kids and Cars guess that only about 10 per cent of cases involve any purposeful wrongdoing or neglect.



Different charges: Catalina Bruno (left), who left her son in his car seat after parking the car at their home and going inside, faces a charge of aggravated manslaughter. Brittney Downing (right) left her two children in the car when she worked a 7-hour shift at a motel and the both died so she faces felony neglect charges  
Police believed that to be true of 22-year-old Brittney Downing who left her two children- 20-month-old Jelani and 2-month-old Jade- in her car when she went to work a seven hour shift at a hotel. She was charged with felony child neglect as a result. Part of the danger is the fact that a door without windows rolled down acts as a hot house, as it takes only 10 minutes for the temperature in the car to raise by 20 degrees. In a half hour, the temperature would have risen by 34 degrees.

Read more: [Deaths in hot cars claim 8 children so far this spring](#)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2336071/Eight-kids-died-hot-cars-year-summer-heat-started.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>