

# Child heatstroke deaths from being left in vehicles on the rise

[CHILD SAFETY](#) JUNE 2, 2013 BY: [RICHARD WEBSTER](#)

May 2013 nearly doubles average number of child heatstroke deaths in vehicles. 7 children die in hot cars in 4 states in 16-day period.



Credits: KidsAndCars

Summer is still three weeks away; but already in 2013, seven young children have died of heat stroke after being left in vehicles. All of the children were left unattended in the car by a family member. All but one of the children was under the age of 2.

According to a May 31 report from our friends at [KidsAndCars.org](#), the following unnecessary child deaths occurred in a 16-day period in May:

- A girl, 5 months, died May 10 in El Paso, Texas, after her mother, a high school teacher, unknowingly left her behind in her SUV.
- A boy, 4, died May 15 in Transylvania County, N.C., after his grandmother forgot to drop him off at daycare.
- A boy, 11 months, died May 16 in Miami, Fla., died after being left behind in his mother's car.
- A girl, 1, died May 17 in Dallas, Texas, after her mother, an elementary school teacher, unknowingly left her behind in her vehicle.
- A boy, 1, died May 24 in Corpus Christi, Texas, after his uncle forgot to drop him off at daycare.
- A boy, 18 months, and girl, 2 months died May 26 in Glen Allen, Va., when they were left in the car while the mother was at work.

*"The worst thing any parent or caregiver can do is think that this could never happen to them, that they are not capable of inadvertently leaving their child behind," says Janette Fennell, founder and president of KidsAndCars.org.*

*"This can and does happen to the most loving, responsible and attentive parents." Since the group began tracking data, more than 675 children have died in these preventable tragedies.*

KidsAndCars.org provided the following safety tips to help parents "[Look Before You Lock](#)" BE SAFE tips:

- **B**ack seat - Put something in the back seat so you have to open the back door when leaving the vehicle - cell phone, employee badge, handbag, etc.
- **E**very child should be correctly restrained in the back seat.
- **S**tuffed animal - Move it from the car seat to the front seat to remind you when your baby is in the back seat.
- **A**sk your babysitter or childcare provider to call you within 10 minutes if your child hasn't arrived on time.
- **F**ocus on driving - Avoid cell phone calls and texting while driving.
- **E**very time you park your vehicle open the back door to make sure no one has been left behind.

Through the "Look Before You Lock" educational campaign, the first of its kind, KidsAndCars.org has distributed more than 300,000 [information cards](#) to birthing hospitals nationwide.

For additional information, visit the [KidsAndCars website](#).

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<http://www.examiner.com/article/child-heatstroke-deaths-from-being-left-vehicles-on-the-rise>