

PREVENT HOT CAR DEATHS

More than 1,000 children have died of heatstroke, because they were left or became trapped in a hot car over the past 25 years. It's important for everyone to understand these tragedies can happen to anyone — but are always preventable.

Know the Facts

- **A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's.** When a child is left in a vehicle, that child's temperature can rise quickly, and the situation can quickly become dangerous.
- **Heatstroke begins when the core body temperature reaches about 104 degrees.** Death occurs at a core body temperature of 107 or above.
- **In 2025, 31 children died of heatstroke in vehicles.**
- **In 2018 and 2019, there were a record number of hot car deaths — 53 children died each year —** the most in at least 25 years, according to [NoHeatstroke.org](https://www.noheatstroke.org).

Everyone Can Help Prevent Hot Car Deaths

- **Never leave a child in a vehicle unattended for any length of time.** Rolling windows down or parking in the shade does little to change the interior temperature of the vehicle.
- **Make it a habit to check your entire vehicle** — especially the back seat — before locking the doors and walking away. Over 50% of pediatric vehicular heatstroke deaths are a result of a parent or caregiver forgetting a child in a car.
- **Ask your childcare provider to call if your child doesn't show up for care as expected.**
- **Place a personal item like a purse or briefcase in the back seat,** as another reminder to look before you lock. Write a note or place a stuffed animal in the passenger's seat to remind you that a child is in the back seat.
- **Store car keys and fobs out of a child's reach** and teach children that a vehicle is not a play area.

Everyone — Including Bystanders

- **Secure Your Car**
 - Always lock your car when you aren't using it. Even if you don't have a child of your own, a child in your neighborhood could get into your unlocked vehicle.
- **Act Fast. Save a Life.**
 - If you see a child alone in a locked car, act immediately and call 911. A child in distress due to heat should be removed from the vehicle as quickly as possible and rapidly cooled.

Source: [nhtsa.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov)



In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; (3) or email: program.intake@usda.gov.