

VEHICULAR HEATSTROKE PREVENTION



Why We CARE

#1 Georgia ranked #1 in child vehicular heatstroke deaths in 2022, tying with Texas and North Carolina.

54 children died of vehicular heatstroke in the U.S. in 2018, a record high. The annual average is 38.

25% of vehicular heatstroke deaths occur when children have accessed vehicles by themselves.

DID YOU KNOW?



A child left inside a car can die of heatstroke even when it's only 60°F outside.

How to PLAY IT SAFE

Talk with parents and caregivers about preventing vehicular heatstroke:



“It's hard to believe, but a nice 60°F day can become deadly for a child alone in a hot car. The interior temperature gets 20°F hotter in just 10 minutes and keeps rising.”

“Do you have a hectic morning routine—kids off to school, baby to daycare, yourself to the office? I have suggestions for making sure one task never gets forgotten: getting your child out of the car.”

“Never, ever leave your child unattended in a vehicle. Not even if it's a nice day. Not even if it's just for a few minutes. Not even if you leave the windows open or the air-conditioning on.”



Discuss these safety habits with parents and caregivers:

Suggest saying "Where's Baby?" or "Park. Look. Lock." when leaving their vehicle.

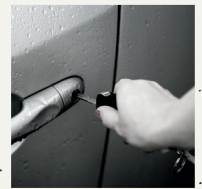
Describe how putting an essential in the back seat—such as a shoe, phone, purse, etc.—will force them to check the area after parking.



Urge them to pay attention to breaks in routine—a change in who drives that day, a weather delay, a new work schedule, or extra stress. That's when mistakes often happen.

Recommend asking the daycare or school to call if their child doesn't arrive as expected.

Explain that vehicular heat stroke happens to older children as well as babies: 25% of pediatric vehicular heatstroke deaths are children who get into vehicles on their own. That's why they should lock the car and trunk and lock up their keys.



Give them the Toolkit sheet for Parents and Caregivers—and point out the sections on How to Play It Safe and Safety Habits.



URGE THEM TO CALL 911

if they see an unattended child in a vehicle. If they appear in distress or unconscious, get them out immediately. The 911 dispatcher can advise on how to proceed until help arrives.

PLAY IT SAFE

with poison prevention, safe sleep, firearms, teen driving, and more with the Georgia AAP Toolkit—<https://www.gaaap.org/new-play-it-safe-injury/>

