



In and Around Vehicle Safety

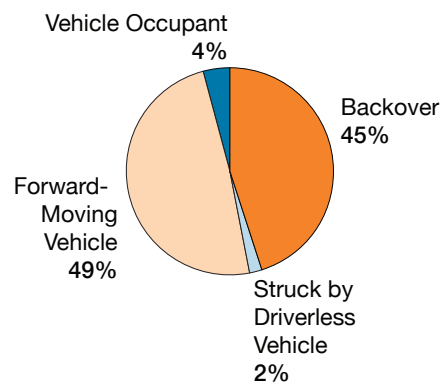


Key Facts

Non-traffic related incidents occur in places other than a public highway, street or road. They occur in driveways, parking lots or off-road locations and may involve bicyclists, pedestrians, non-moving and moving vehicles.

- In 2007, non-traffic incidents were associated with an estimated 262 fatalities and 115,000 injuries among children ages 14 and under.
- Annually, more than 9,000 children ages 14 and under are treated in emergency departments for injuries that occurred while they were unattended in or around motor vehicles.

2007 Nontraffic-Related Deaths Among Children
(United States, Ages 14 and under)



Vehicle Frontovers

- In 2007, 106 children who were 14 and under were struck and killed and 3,000 were injured by vehicles moving forward in non-traffic incidents.
- Deaths and injuries occurred in driveways, parking lots and off- road mostly to pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Non-traffic deaths from this type of incident account for 49 percent of all fatalities and are the leading cause of nontraffic related deaths.

Vehicle Backovers

- In 2007, motor vehicle backovers were associated with an estimated 99 deaths and 2,000 injuries among children ages 14 and under.
- Approximately 39 percent of backover deaths occurred at home in the driveway, an apartment parking lot or in a townhome complex.
- It is estimated that backovers account for 45 percent of nontraffic crash fatalities and 20 percent of non-traffic crash injuries to children.
- Sport utility vehicles and trucks are involved in more backovers than cars.

Heat Related Incidents

- From 1998 to 2011, 527 hyperthermia deaths were reported as a result of an unattended child in a hot vehicle.
- On average, 38 children die annually from hyperthermia or heat stroke when they are unattended in a vehicle.
- A child's body lacks the same internal temperature control that adults have. Their bodies heat up 3-5 times faster than an adult's body. A child's body temperature may rise to 106 degrees Fahrenheit within 10-15 minutes.
- Without emergency treatment, heat stroke can lead to death or permanent injury.
- Within 10 minutes, the inside temperature of a vehicle can be 20 degrees hotter than the outside temperature; after 30 minutes the vehicle's temperature can be up to 34 degrees hotter.
- Approximately 50 percent of hyperthermia deaths among children in vehicles occurred when the child was "forgotten" by a distracted parent or caregiver; 30 percent of deaths occur when young children gain access to an unlocked, unattended vehicle or trunk and 17 percent occurred when a child was intentionally left in a vehicle.

Laws and Regulations

- Nineteen states have laws that prohibit leaving children unattended in an automobile. Penalties for leaving children alone range from noncriminal traffic infractions to second-degree manslaughter.
- As of September 2001, all new vehicles are required to be equipped with a "glow in the dark" trunk release.

"Traffic Safety Facts: Not-in-Traffic Surveillance 2007- Children." NHTSA's National Center for Crash Statistics. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, June 2009.