

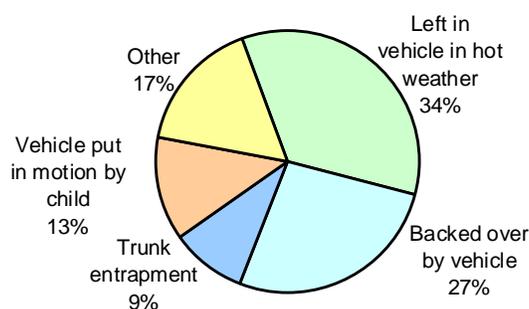
# In and Around Vehicle Safety

**Key Facts:** Non-traffic related vehicle incidents are incidents that occur in places other than a public highway, street, or road.<sup>1</sup> These incidents occur in driveways, parking lots, or off-road locations and may involve bicyclists, pedestrians, non-moving vehicles, or vehicles backing up.

- During July 2000–June, 2001, an estimated 78 fatal injuries occurred among children less than 14 years who were left unattended in or around motor vehicles that were not in traffic.<sup>2</sup>

## Deaths from incidents in or around motor vehicles (N=78)<sup>3</sup>

Ages 0-14, United States, July 2000 – June 2001



## Backover Injuries

From 2001 to 2003 approximately 7,475 children (2,492 per year) aged 1 to 14 years were treated for non-fatal motor vehicle backover injuries in emergency departments.<sup>4</sup>

- Nearly 50 percent of the children injured in backover incidents were 1 to 4 years old; 55 percent were males.
- Most backovers occurred at either home or in driveways or parking lots; 47 percent occurred at home, and 40 percent occurred in driveways or parking lots.

## Heat-Related Incidents

From 1998-2007, 339 hyperthermia deaths have been reported as a result of a child being left in a hot vehicle, an average of 34 a year.<sup>5</sup>

- Each year, an average of 36 children dies from hyperthermia after being left unattended in a vehicle.

- Since March 17<sup>th</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007, there have been at least 26 hyperthermia deaths of children who were left in a hot vehicle. Ages of the children ranged from 3 months to 8 years old.<sup>6</sup>
- A child's body does not have the same internal temperature control as an adult's, and can warm three times to five times faster. Heatstroke occurs when the body core temperature reaches 104 degrees F, and a body core temperature of 107 degrees F is usually fatal.
- Within 10 minutes, the inside temperature of a vehicle will be almost 20 degrees hotter than the outside temperature, after 30 minutes the vehicle's temperature will be 34 degrees hotter.<sup>7</sup>

### **Trunk Entrapment**

- Nine incidents of fatal car trunk entrapments were reported from 1987 to 1998, resulting in 19 deaths to children less than 7 years of age. All of the incidents occurred in hot weather.<sup>8</sup>

### **Laws and Regulations**

- Only 11 states have laws prohibiting leaving a child unattended in a vehicle. Currently 15 states have proposed legislation making it a crime to leave a child unattended in a car, van, truck, or SUV.
- Currently 15 states have proposed legislation that will make it a crime to leave a child unattended in a vehicle (car, van, truck or SUV).<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Incidents include non-traffic motorcycle riders, pedal cyclists, pedestrians, ATV riders, animal riders, railway train occupants, streetcar occupants, and a few other specified and unspecified transport-related injuries involving a collision with a motor vehicle (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injuries and Deaths Among Children and Youth Left Unattended in or Around Motor Vehicles – United States, July 2000-June 2001," *MMWR Weekly* 51, no. 26 (July 5, 2002): 570-572.

<sup>3</sup> IBID.

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nonfatal Motor-Vehicle--Related Backover Injuries Among Children --- United States, 2001—2003. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, February 18, 2005 / 54(06);144-146.

<sup>5</sup> Null, Jan. San Francisco State University, Department of Geosciences. Hyperthermia Deaths of Children in Vehicles. July 2007.

<sup>6</sup> Null, Jan. San Francisco State University, Department of Geosciences. Hyperthermia Deaths of Children in Vehicles. July 2007.

<sup>7</sup> Null, Jan. San Francisco State University, Department of Geosciences. Never leave your child alone in a car Fact Sheet. August 2007.

<sup>8</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Fatal Car Trunk Entrapment Involving Children – United States, 1987-1998," *MMWR Weekly* 47, no. 47 (December 4, 1998): 1019-1022.

<sup>9</sup> Null, Jan. San Francisco State University, Department of Geosciences. Hyperthermia Deaths of Children in Vehicles. July 2007.