



U.S. Child Hot Car Death Data Analysis from the Kids and Car Safety National Database (1990-2021)

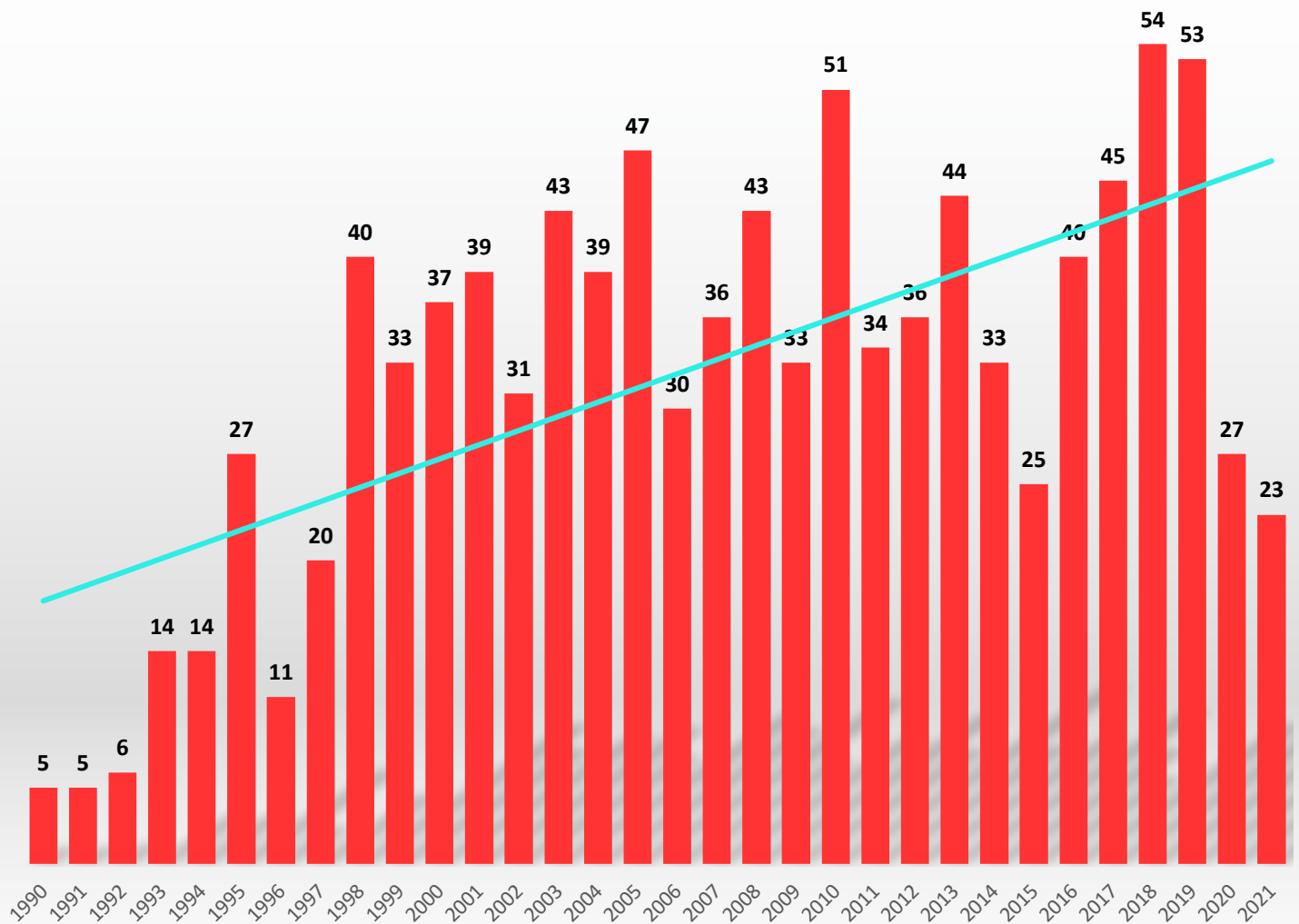


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Note: All data contained in this report was derived from the national Kids and Car Safety database.

Figure 1: Child Hot Car Deaths by Year (1990-2021)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of April, 2021, n = 1,018

Since 1990, nearly 1,000 children have died in hot cars.

On average, 39 children die in hot cars every year in the U.S.

2018 & 2019 = worst 2 years in history for child hot car deaths with 54 & 53 fatalities respectively

Figure 1a: Child Hot Car Deaths by Year for Each State (1990-2021)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
AK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AL	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	4	0	0	2	4	2	3	4	1	31
AR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	18
AZ	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	4	3	3	1	2	4	0	3	0	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	4	1	1	47
CA	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	3	4	4	7	4	3	3	2	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	4	3	2	1	1	3	3	1	1	64
CO	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
CT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7
DC	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
DE	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
FL	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	4	4	6	10	2	3	3	2	9	6	2	4	5	3	4	6	7	5	5	3	3	107
GA	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	3	3	0	0	2	2	3	4	1	3	0	0	40
HI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
IA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	9
ID	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	9
IL	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	5	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
IN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	16
KS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	13
KY	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	1	0	28
LA	0	0	0	4	0	2	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	3	3	2	2	1	0	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	43
MA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
MD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
ME	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
MI	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
MN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	8
MO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	5	1	0	0	27
MS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	21
MT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
NC	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	0	4	1	0	0	1	2	2	0	3	1	1	2	1	3	40
ND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
NH	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	14
NM	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	12
NV	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	17
NY	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	11
OH	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	22
OK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	3	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	0	4	0	30
OR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
PA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	13
RI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SC	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	6	2	0	3	24
SD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
TN	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	36
TX	0	1	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	4	4	5	4	11	3	4	7	1	9	6	13	9	5	5	4	5	7	7	5	7	6	2	146
UT	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	14
VA	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	2	2	1	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	4	1	2	1	35
VT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
WI	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
WV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
WY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
XY	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL # DEATHS:	5	5	6	14	14	27	11	20	40	33	37	39	31	43	39	47	30	36	43	33	51	34	36	44	33	25	40	45	54	53	27	23	1018



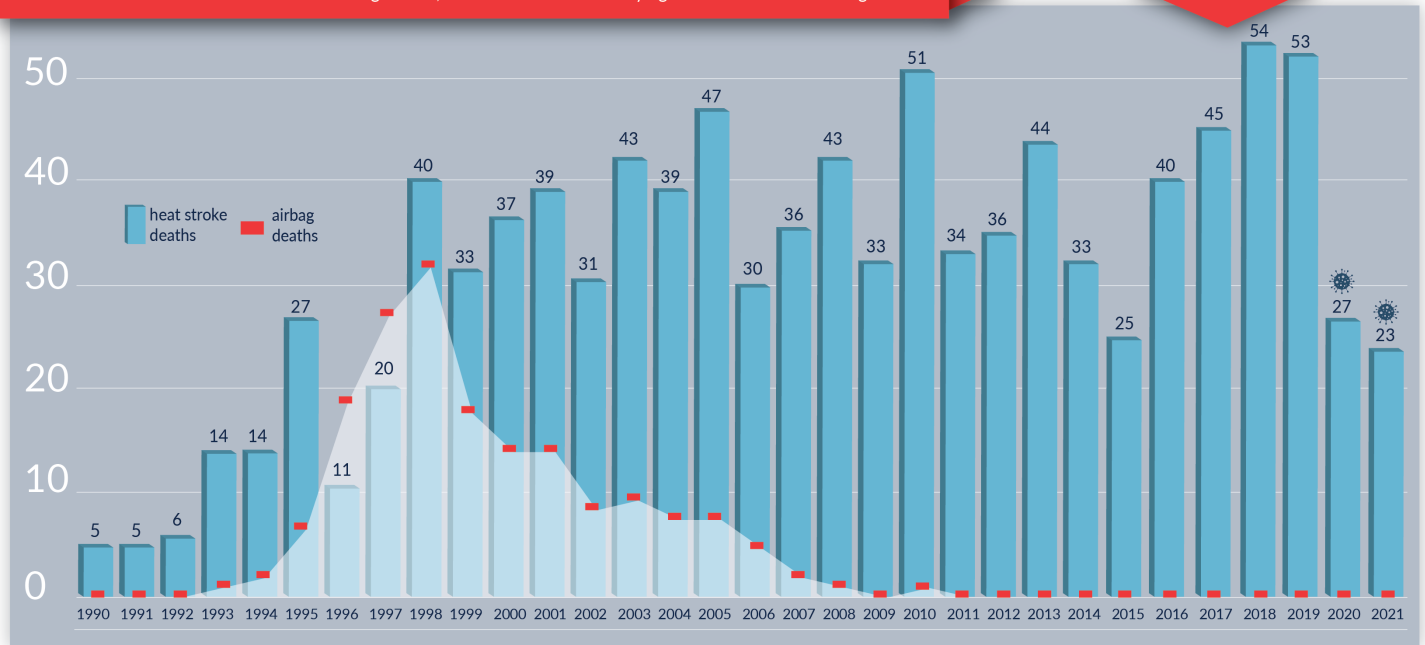
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database

Note: Data is available by city and county upon request. Please contact email@KidsAndCars.org for more detailed geographic data.

Figure 1b: Child Vehicular HEATSTROKE DEATHS VS Child Front Seat PASSENGER DEATHS

Children should never ride in the front seat; they are **MUCH** safer properly restrained in the back seat.

This chart illustrates as we reduced airbag deaths, the number of children dying in hot cars continues to grow.



From 1990-2021, 186 children were killed by over-powered air bags in the front passenger seat. During that same time-frame over 1,000 children died in hot vehicles. Children can be unknowingly left behind in the back seat by even the most responsible parents and caregivers. Always remember to open the back car door after parking your vehicle and 'Look Before You Lock.'



Airbag deaths: Special Crash Investigations, DOT HS 811 261 January 2010

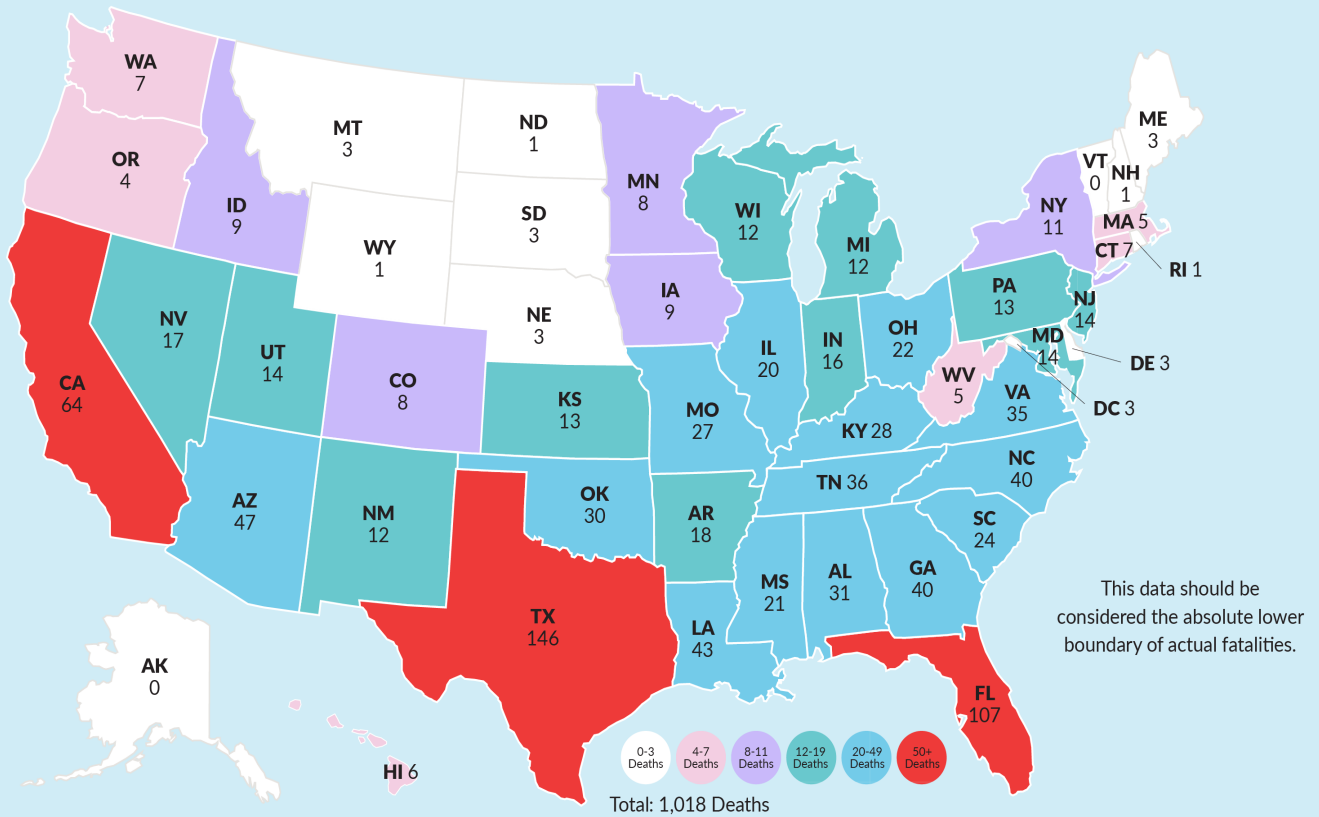
Heatstroke deaths: KidsAndCarSafety.org database (as of February, 2022)

Changes in the way we transport children in vehicles appear to have caused deadly unintended consequences. In the mid-1990's, children were being killed by overpowered airbags, when traveling in the front passenger seat. Safety advocates, government, and the auto industry all worked together to ensure children would ride in the back seat to prevent these unthinkable tragedies.

Unfortunately, no modifications were put in place to compensate for this change. This has resulted in at least 1,018 hot car deaths (compared to approx. 186 child front seat passenger airbag deaths).

The addition of technology to vehicles to end these predictable and preventable hot car deaths is long overdue.

Figure 2: **Child Hot Car Deaths (1990-2021)**
Involving U.S. Children Age 14 and Under



Data Source: KidsAndCarSafety.org as of February, 2022

NOTE: Figure 2a (next page) contains the back of this chart that ranks each state by number of fatalities and provides the date range for when the hot car deaths took place in each state.

Child Hot Car Deaths (1990-2021)

Below are the specific date ranges for the fatalities that Kids and Car Safety documented in each state between 1990 and 2021.

Rank	State	# Fatalities	Date Range	# Fatalities < 1990
1	TX	146	1991-2021	7
2	FL	107	1992-2021	8
3	CA	64	1990-2021	11
4	AZ	47	1994-2021	3
5	LA	43	1995-2021	2
6	GA	40	1993-2020	
7	NC	40	1991-2021	2
8	TN	36	1990-2019	
9	VA	35	1990-2021	4
10	AL	31	1995-2021	1
11	OK	30	1997-2020	
12	KY	28	1993-2020	2
13	MO	27	1998-2019	2
14	SC	24	1995-2021	1
15	OH	22	1994-2021	1
16	MS	21	1994-2019	1
17	IL	20	1990-2014	2
18	AR	18	1998-2020	
19	NV	17	1996-2020	1
20	IN	16	1997-2019	2
21	MD	14	1998-2015	3
22	NJ	14	1998-2019	1
23	UT	14	1996-2021	1
24	KS	13	2000-2021	
25	PA	13	1995-2021	4
26	MI	12	1995-2014	2

Rank	State	# Fatalities	Date Range	# Fatalities < 1990
27	NM	12	1995-2019	1
28	WI	12	1991-2013	2
29	NY	11	1994-2019	2
30	IA	9	1997-2019	1
31	ID	9	1995-2017	1
32	CO	8	1992-2012	
33	MN	8	2001-2021	
34	CT	7	1997-2018	1
35	WA	7	1996-2013	
36	HI	6	1997-2014	
37	MA	5	1995-2012	
38	WV	5	2004-2017	
39	OR	4	2000-2018	1
40	DC	3	1995-2013	
41	DE	3	1995-2019	1
42	ME	3	1993-2010	
43	MT	3	2000-2018	
44	NE	3	1999-2019	
45	SD	3	2005-2010	1
46	ND	1	2006	
47	NH	1	1997	
48	RI	1	2009	
49	WY	1	2017	
50	AK	0		
51	VT	0		
52	Unknown	1	1994	

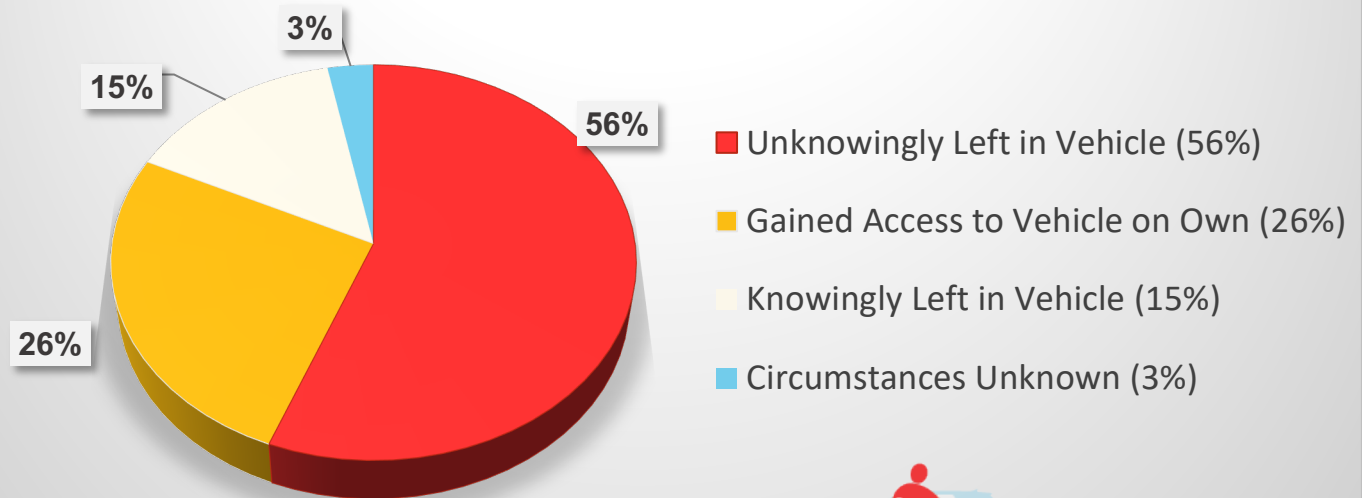
Total Deaths: 1,018

*There were 72 additional fatalities that Kids and Car Safety was able to document that happened prior to 1990 that are noted in a separate column above.

Data Source: KidsAndCarSafety.org as of February, 2022



Figure 3: **ALL** Child Hot Car Deaths by **Circumstance** (1990-2021)

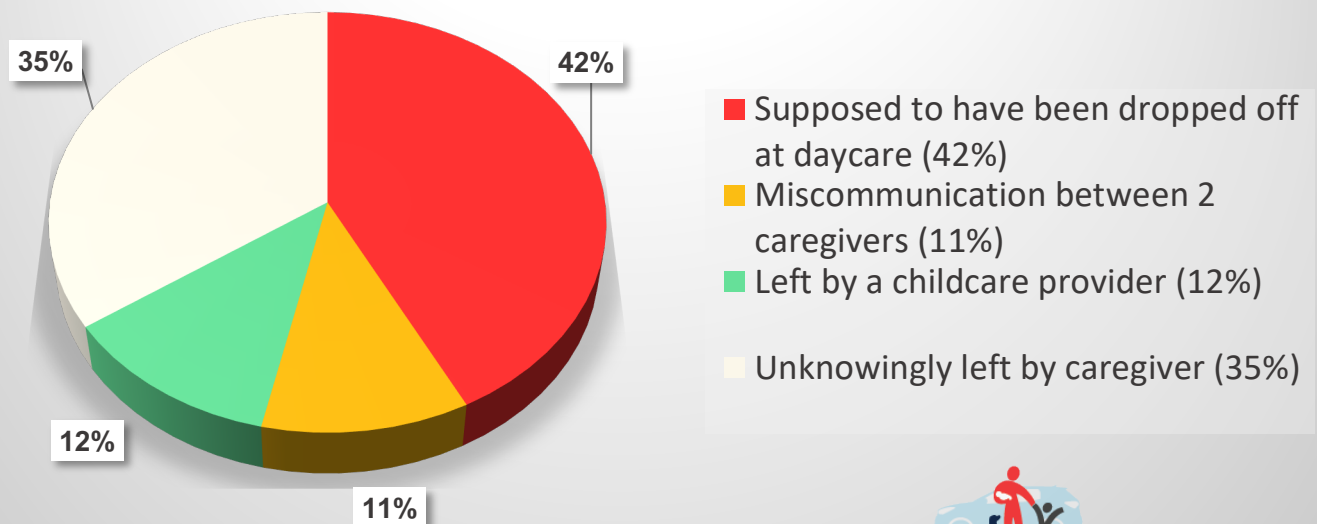


Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022



The overwhelming majority of hot car tragedies involve a child who was unknowingly left or gained access to the vehicle on their own. Contrary to public opinion, very few cases involve drugs, alcohol, prior CPS involvement or neglect.

Figure 3a: Child Hot Car Deaths by **Unknowningly Left Circumstances** (1990-2021)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022



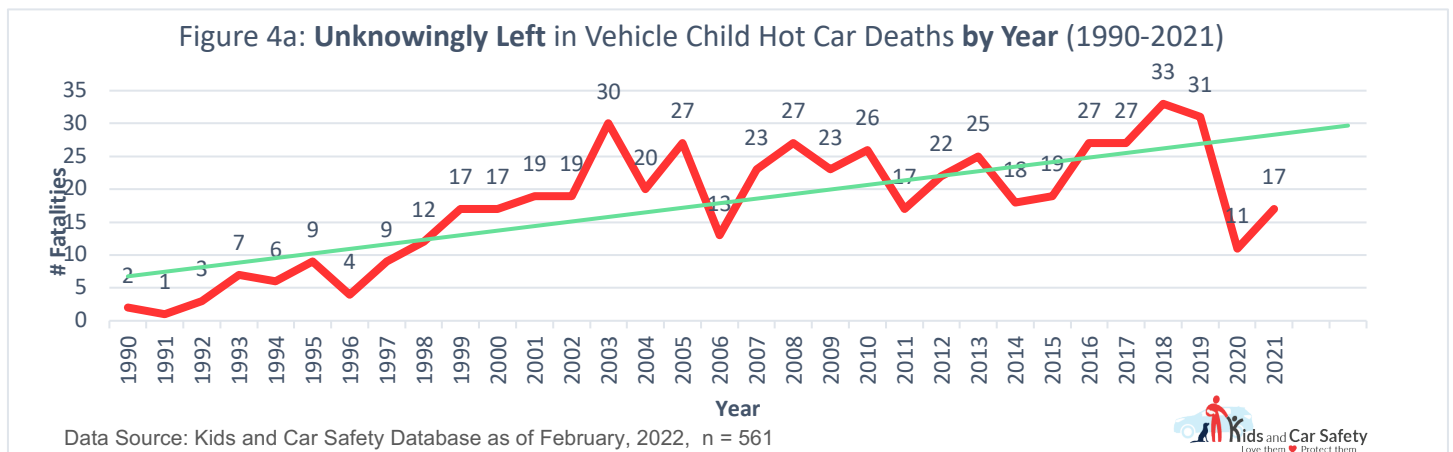
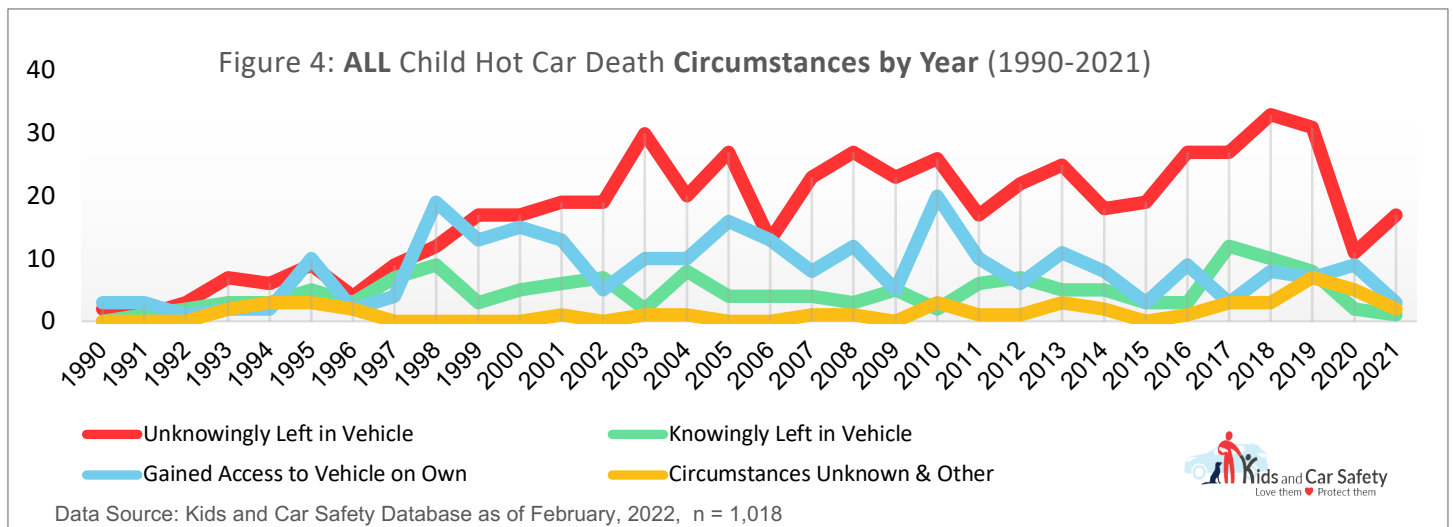
Figure 3b: Child Hot Car Death Circumstances by State (1990-2021)

State	Unknowingly Left	Gained Access	Knowingly Left	Other	UNK	Total
AK	0	0	0	0	0	0
AL	19	9	1	0	2	31
AR	10	6	2	0	0	18
AZ	29	12	3	1	2	47
CA	37	14	11	1	1	64
CO	4	2	2	0	0	8
CT	2	5	0	0	0	7
DC	0	3	0	0	0	3
DE	2	1	0	0	0	3
FL	70	18	17	0	2	107
GA	21	10	7	0	2	40
HI	3	2	1	0	0	6
IA	5	2	1	0	1	9
ID	3	2	3	0	1	9
IL	8	8	4	0	0	20
IN	8	5	2	1	0	16
KS	9	4	0	0	0	13
KY	15	10	2	0	1	28
LA	22	10	4	0	7	43
MA	5	0	0	0	0	5
MD	6	2	4	2	0	14
ME	0	1	2	0	0	3
MI	4	4	3	0	1	12
MN	4	2	1	0	1	8
MO	11	8	5	1	2	27
MS	13	5	3	0	0	21
MT	0	1	2	0	0	3
NC	20	12	6	0	2	40
ND	1	0	0	0	0	1
NE	1	2	0	0	0	3
NH	0	0	1	0	0	1
NJ	9	4	1	0	0	14
NM	6	6	0	0	0	12
NV	10	3	3	0	1	17
NY	10	0	1	0	0	11
OH	12	7	3	0	0	22
OK	14	10	4	1	1	30
OR	3	0	1	0	0	4
PA	8	5	0	0	0	13
RI	0	1	0	0	0	1
SC	13	5	6	0	0	24
SD	2	1	0	0	0	3
TN	14	11	11	0	0	36
TX	89	36	13	1	7	146
UT	5	8	0	0	1	14
VA	23	2	7	3	0	35
VT	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	2	3	2	0	0	7
WI	5	2	4	1	0	12
WV	4	0	1	0	0	5
WY	1	0	0	0	0	1
XY	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	562	264	144	12	36	1018



Kids and Car Safety
 Love them Protect them

Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022, n = 1,018



Note: Cases involving children being unknowingly left in vehicles have had a drastic increase starting in the mid-late 1990s and have been increasing ever since. Learn more about why [HERE](#).

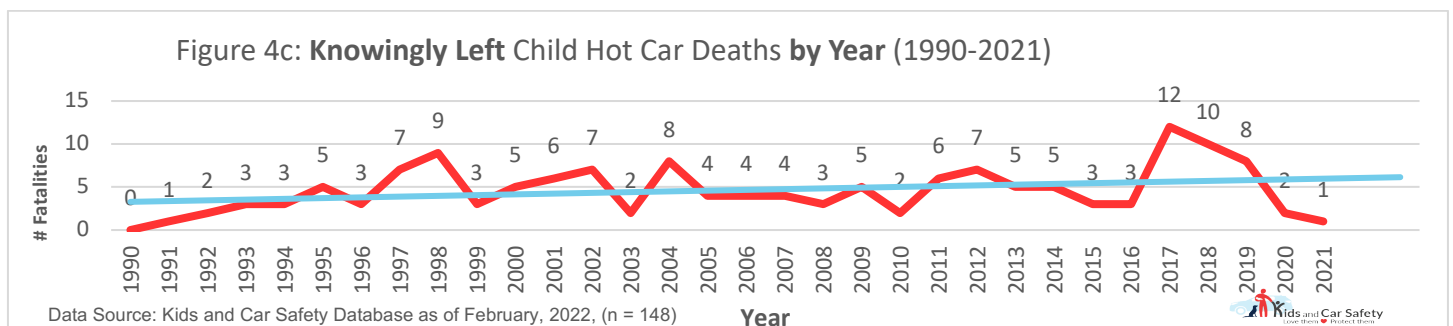
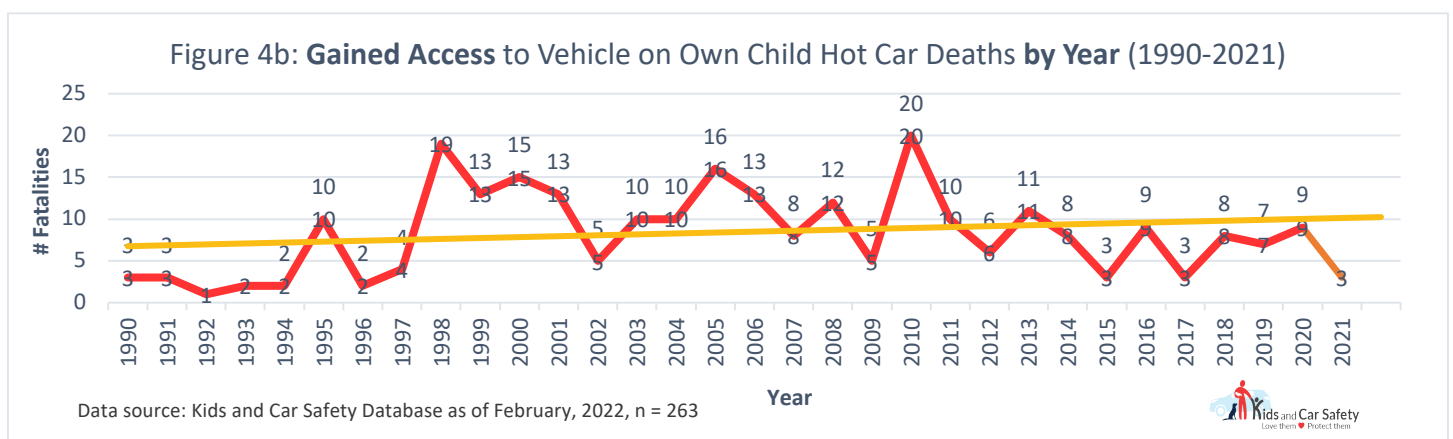
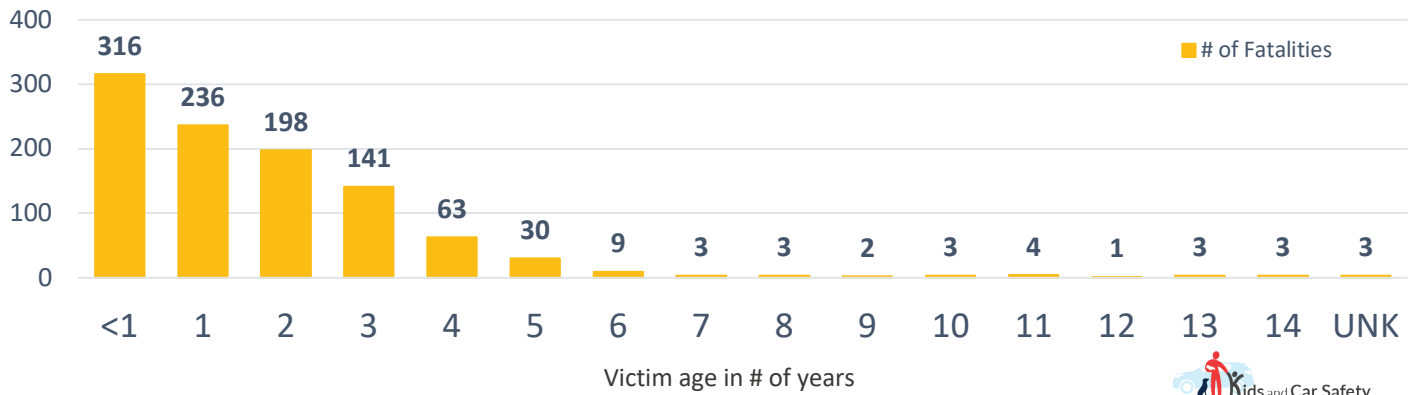


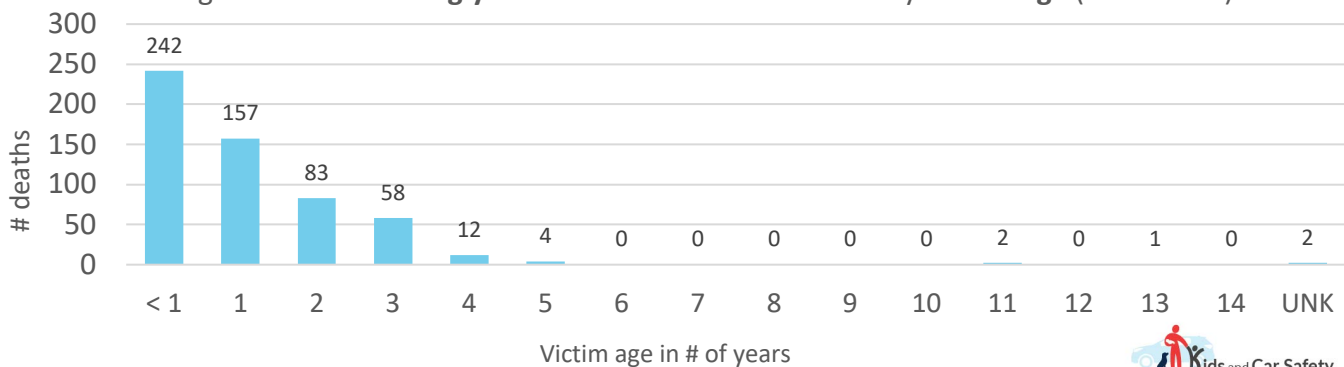
Figure 5: ALL Child Hot Car Deaths by Victim Age (1990-2021)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022, n = 1,018



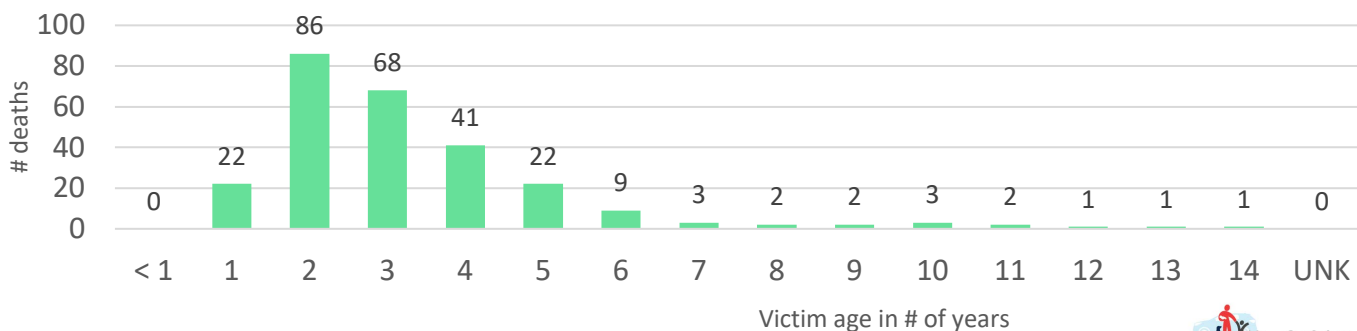
Figure 5a: Unknowingly Left in Vehicle Hot Car Deaths by Victim Age (1990-2021)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022, n = 561



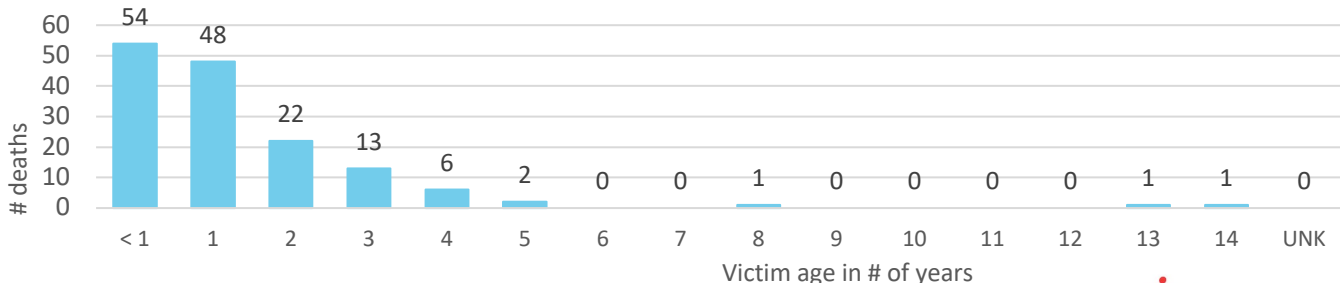
Figure 5b: Gained Access to Vehicle on Own Death by Victim Age (1990-2021)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022, n = 263



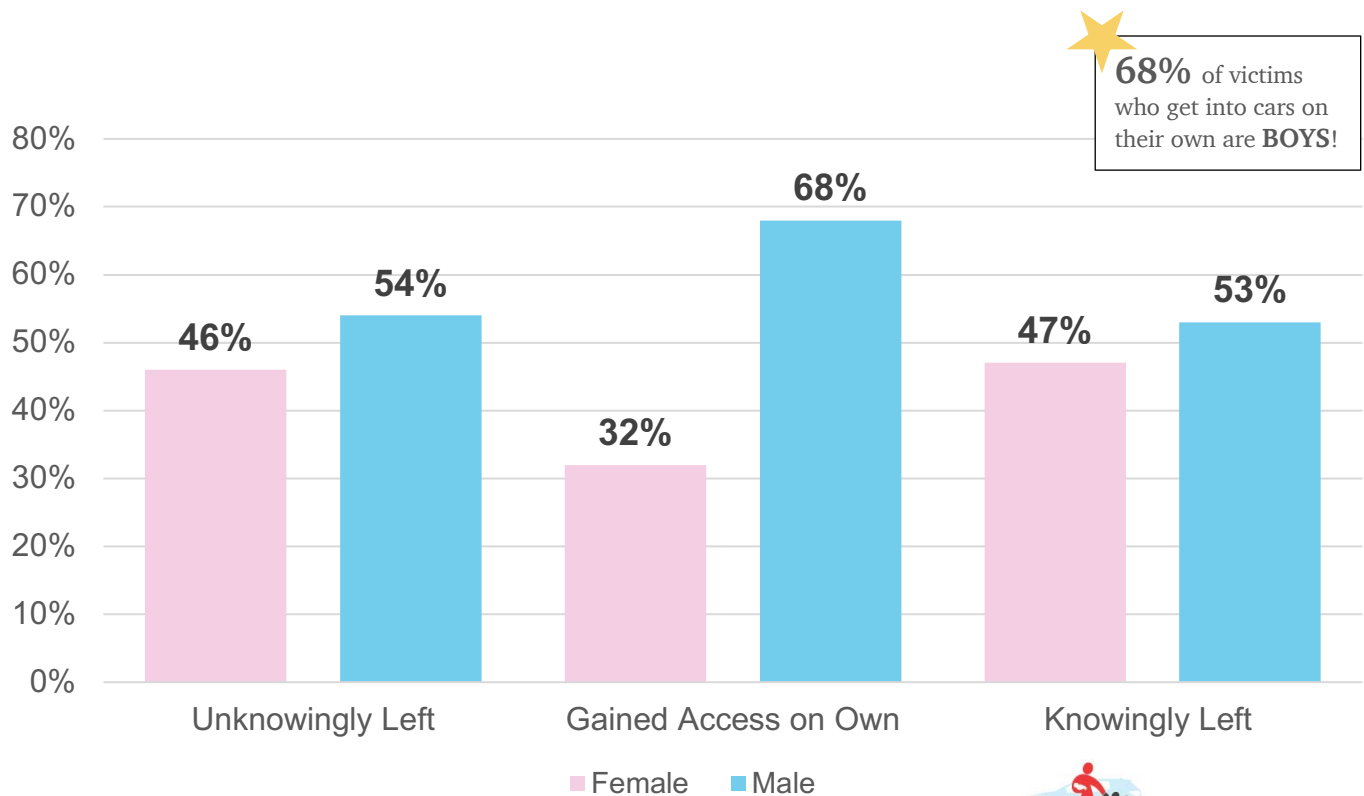
Figure 5c: Knowingly Left in Vehicle Death by Victim Age (1990-2021)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022, n = 148



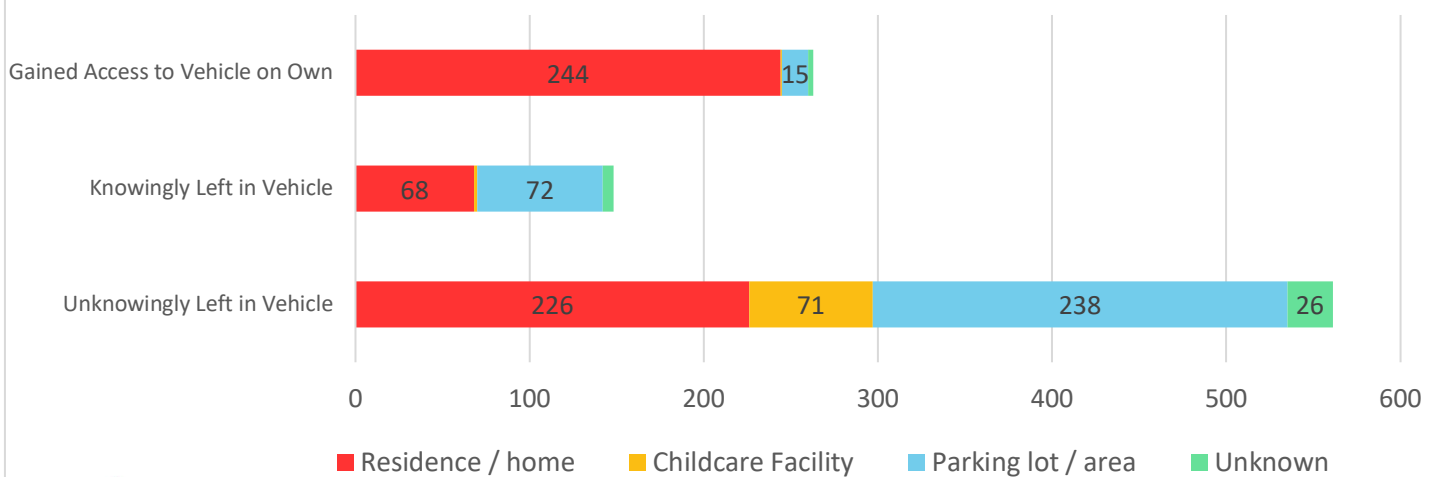
Figure 6: Child Hot Car Deaths by **Victim Gender & Circumstance** (1990-2021)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022



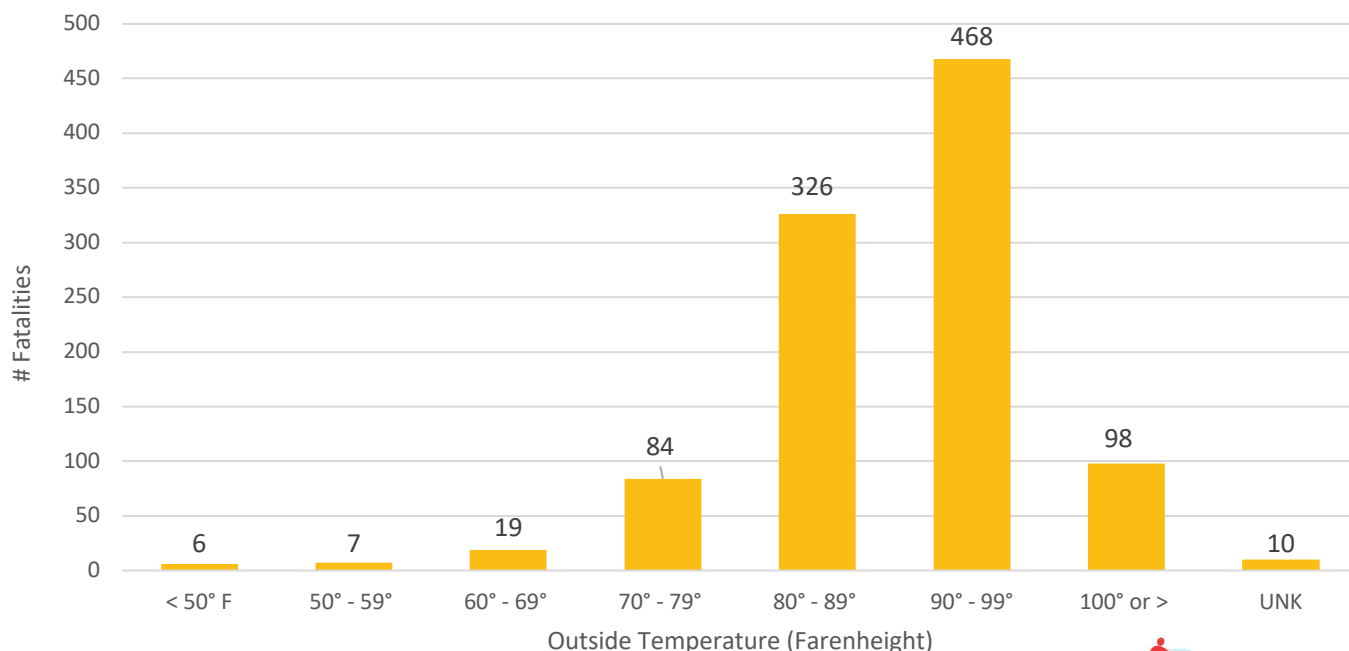
Figure 7: Child Hot Car Deaths by **Location & Circumstance** (1990-2021)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022, n = 972



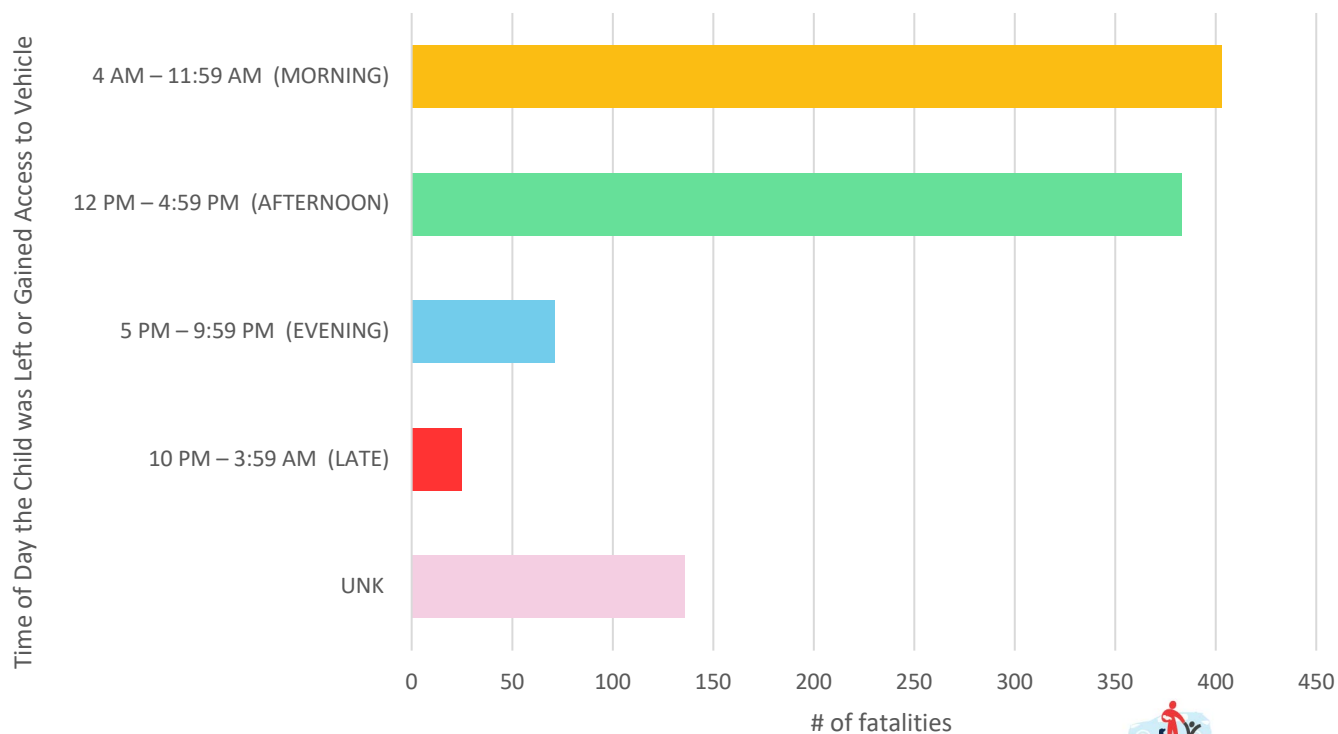
Figure 8: **ALL** Child Hot Car Deaths by **Outside Temperature** (1990-2021)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022, n = 1,018



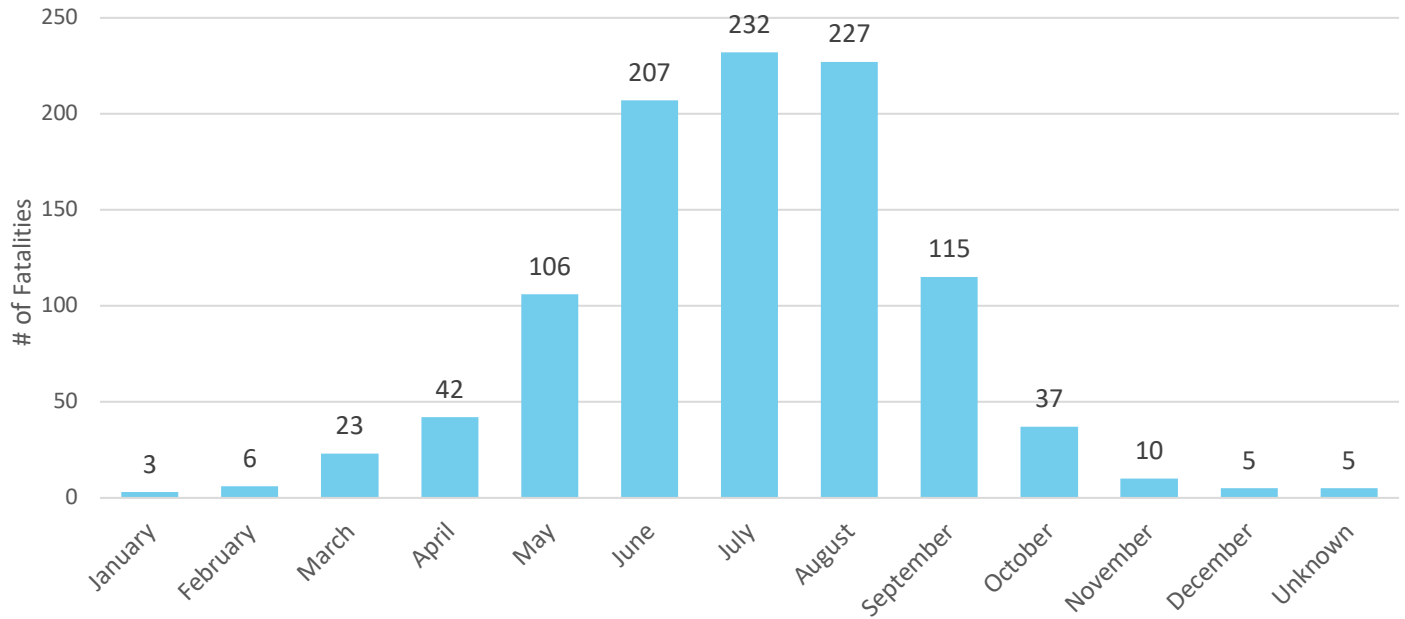
Figure 9: **ALL** Child Hot Car Deaths by **Time of Day** the Child was Left or Gained Access to Vehicle (1990-2021)



Data Source: KidsAndCars.org Database as of February, 2022, n = 1,018



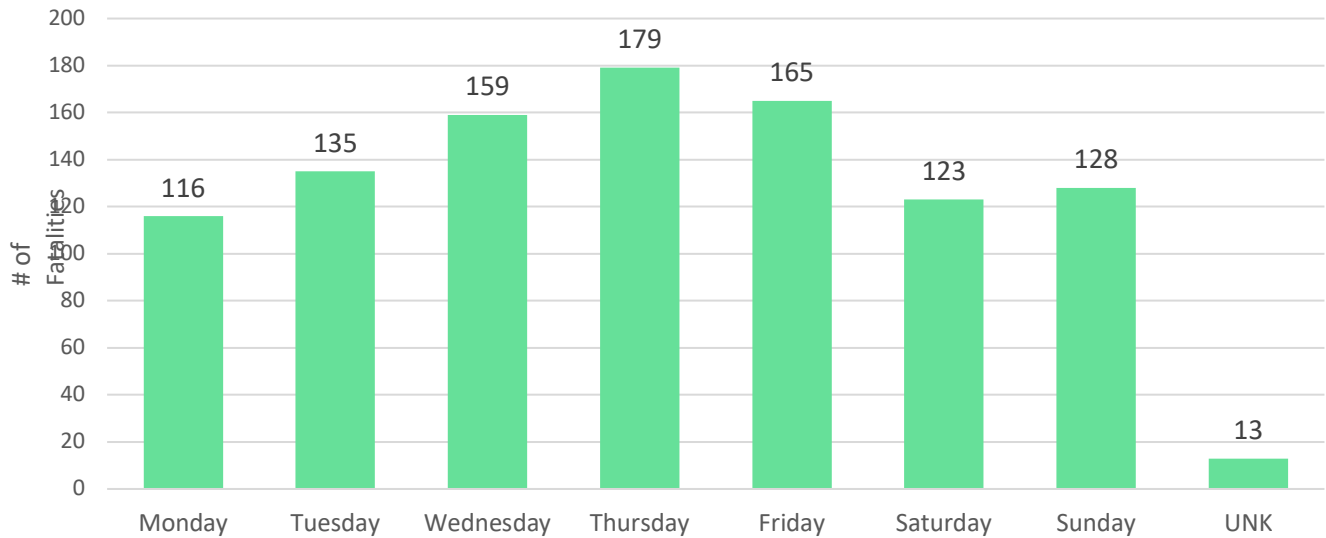
Figure 10: **ALL** Child Hot Car Deaths by **Month** (1990-2021)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022, (n = 1,018)



Figure 11: **ALL** Child Hot Car Deaths by **Day of Week** (1990-2021)



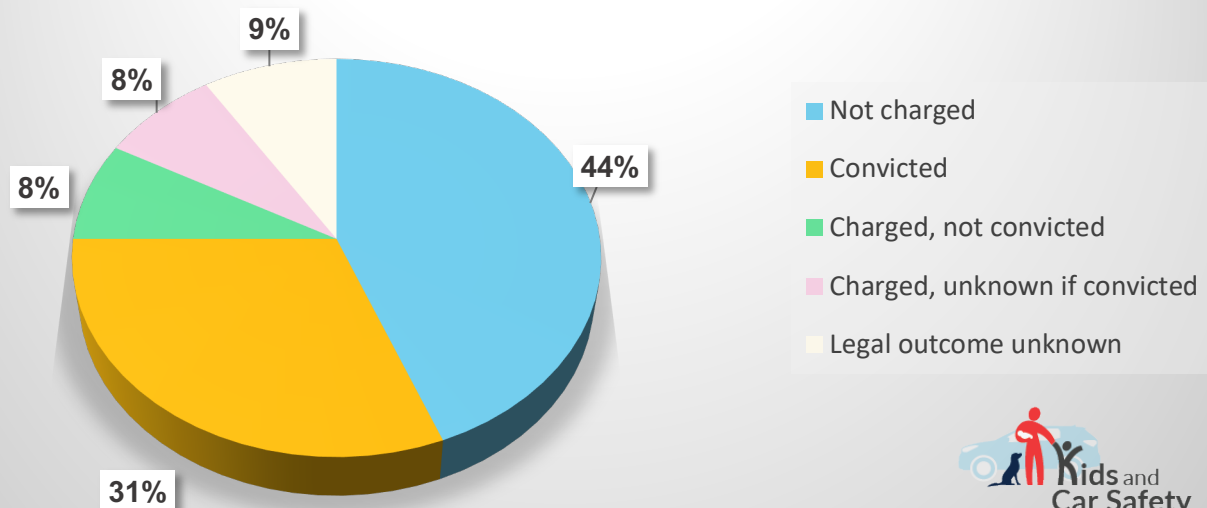
Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of February, 2022, (n = 1,018)



Note: Cases involving children who are unknowingly left happen most frequently during the end of the work week while cases involving children who gain access to vehicles on their own happen most frequently over the weekend.

Note: Legal outcomes for 2021 have not been added to the charts below due to court cases still open. Further information is available upon request.

Figure 12: **ALL** Child Hot Car Death **Legal Outcomes** (1990-2020)

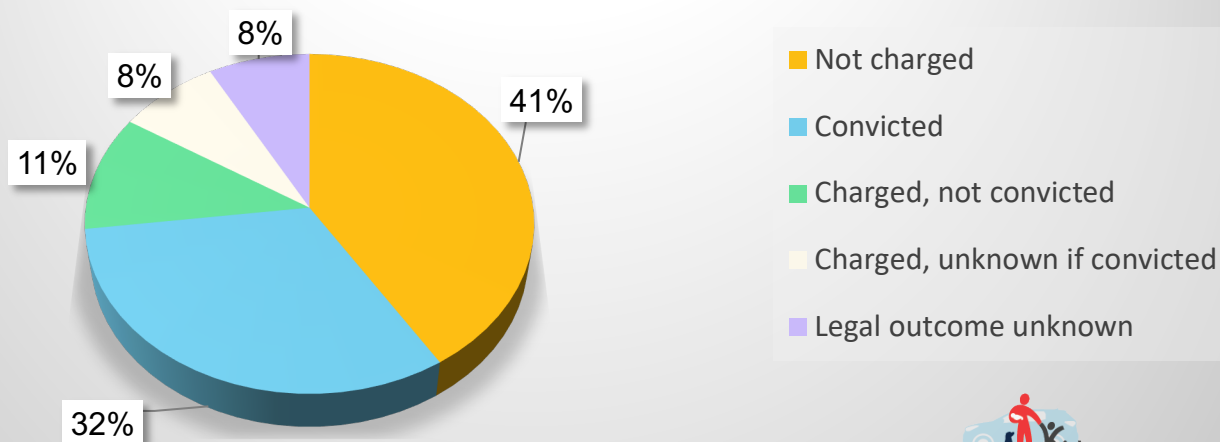


Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of April, 2022

- 52% of child hot car deaths do not result in a conviction
- 31% of child hot car deaths result in a conviction of varying degrees. Many defendants take a plea deal to avoid the possibility of jail time and because they are unable to fight a legal battle after the tragic loss of a child

The legal outcomes of hot car deaths vary drastically even between cases with nearly identical circumstances. The overwhelming majority of hot car deaths do NOT involve abuse, neglect, prior history with CPS, drugs or alcohol. Criminalizing unintentional acts is not a deterrent for future tragedies. In fact, it serves to further enforce the idea that most parents believe, “this could never happen to me.”

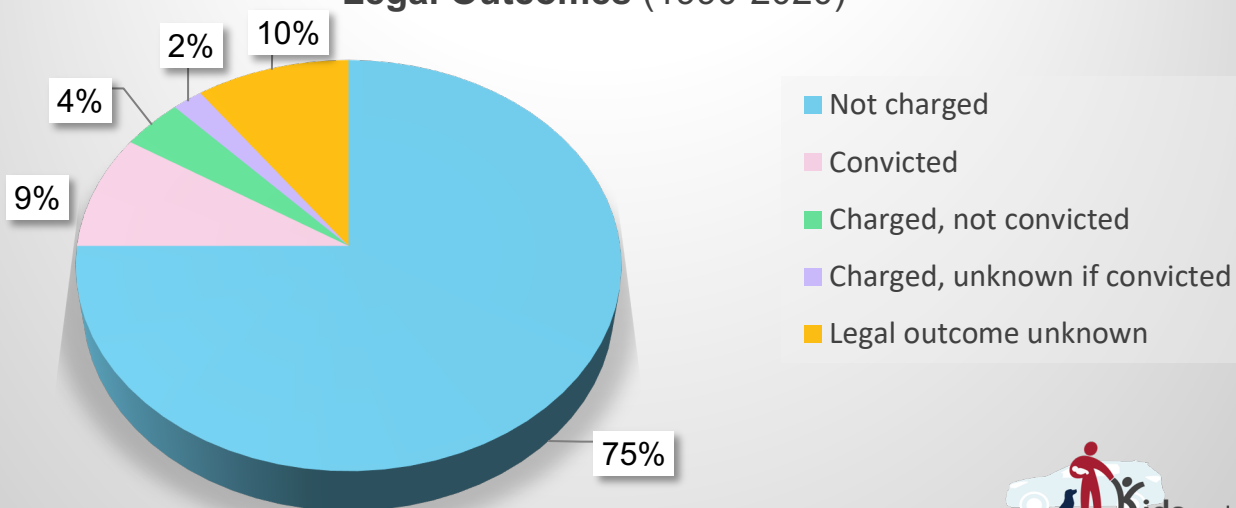
Figure 12a: **Unknowningly Left Child Hot Car Death
Legal Outcomes (1990-2020)**



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of April, 2021



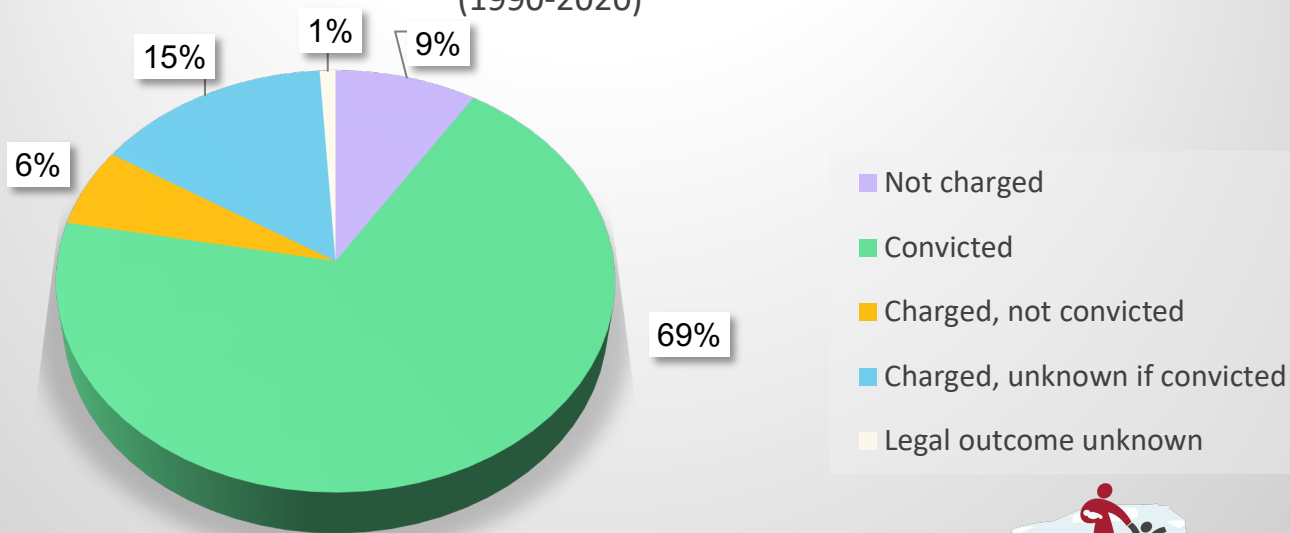
Figure 12b: **Gained Access to Vehicle Child Hot Car Death
Legal Outcomes (1990-2020)**



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of April, 2021



Figure 12c: **Knowingly Left** Child Hot Car Death **Legal Outcomes**
(1990-2020)



Data Source: Kids and Car Safety Database as of April, 2021



For additional information about child hot car fatalities, fact sheets, safety tips, state laws, children's stories, videos, PSAs, additional charts, graphics, materials in several languages, pending legislation, etc. visit the [hot cars death page](#) on our website.