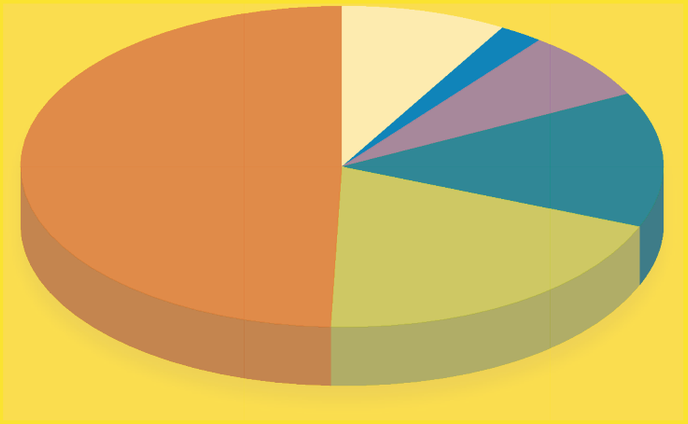
KIDS AND CARS

Playing in cars can be deadly. Each year hundreds of children are injured or even killed as a result of setting a vehicle into motion.

LOVE THEM, PROTECT THEM

Nontraffic Child Deaths in the U.S.



- **49.5** Backed over by vehicle
- **19.6** Left in vehicle during hot weather
- **13.4** Frontovers
- **7.1** Car set in motion by child
- **2.1** Power window strangulation
- **8.3** Other

Data Source: KIDS AND CARS. Fatalities involving children under 15 years old, 2002–2006.

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05/07

KIDS AND CARS

LOVE THEM, PROTECT THEM

Golden Crescent RAC
Texas Trauma Service Area-S
2701 Hospital Drive
Victoria, TX 77901

keep your kids safe in and around cars

LOVE THEM, PROTECT THEM

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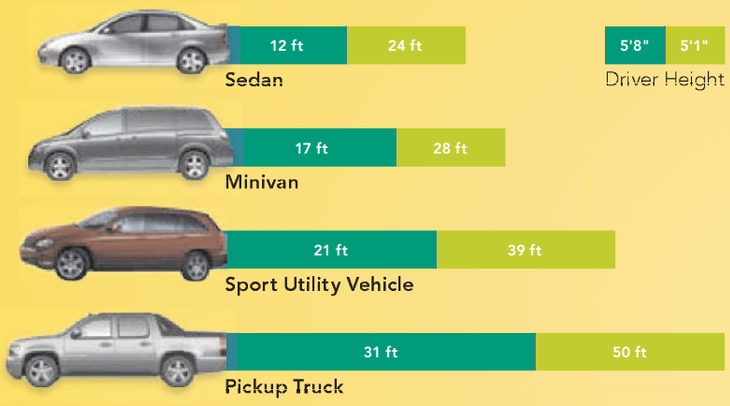
Examples of Blind Zones by Vehicle Category

Blind Zones for 5'8" and 5'1" drivers



Blind zones vary within vehicle categories.

SUVs, minivans and trucks may have larger blind zones, making it difficult or impossible for the driver to see children behind or directly in front of a vehicle. Steep inclines can reduce visibility even more.

EVERY WEEK in the U.S., at least **50 children are backed over in driveways and parking lots**. EVERY WEEK at least 2 of these children die. Children are also injured or killed because they cannot be seen in front of larger and taller vehicles. Little ones who dart outside to say goodbye often go unseen by a driver when the vehicle is set into motion.

Many times the driver of the vehicle is a parent, relative, or neighbor.

More children are injured or killed during busy times, schedule changes, family gatherings and holidays.

OUTSIDE

Dangers OUTSIDE motor vehicles

Safety Tips

- Walk all the way around and look behind a vehicle prior to moving it.
- Know where your kids are before moving your vehicle. Make sure another adult is properly supervising children so they do not get into the path of a moving vehicle.
- To help the driver detect an object or person behind a vehicle, consider installing devices such as rear sensors, cameras, special mirrors or lenses. There are many options available. Check out *www.KidsAndCars.org* and click on the technology page for more information.
- Teach children that parked vehicles might move. Let them know that even though they can see the vehicle, the driver might not see them.
- Trim the landscaping around your driveway to ensure you can see children.
- Hold a child's hand when leaving a vehicle.
- Teach your children to ***never*** play in, around or behind any vehicle.
- Set the emergency brake every time you park.

INSIDE

Dangers INSIDE motor vehicles

It is dangerous to leave children alone in a vehicle, ***even for a minute***. Children can suffer from heat stroke, knock a vehicle into motion, be strangled by a power window or be abducted. Even with the windows down, the temperature inside a parked car can reach 125 degrees in just minutes. A child's body temperature rises 3-5 times faster than an adult's, resulting in potential heat stroke or even death.

Safety Tips

- Lock vehicles at all times, even in the garage or driveway.
- Store keys out of children's reach.
- To be sure your child is never forgotten in your vehicle, put your cell phone, handbag or briefcase on the floor board in the back seat. This gives you another opportunity to be sure your child is not forgotten.
- Use drive-thru services when available. Use your debit or credit card to pay for gas at the pump.
- If a child is locked inside a car, get him/her out as quickly as possible. If he/she is hot or seems sick, call 911 immediately.
- Lock the power windows so that children cannot get caught in them. Power windows can strangle a child or cut off a finger.

Check vehicles and car trunks right away if a child is missing.