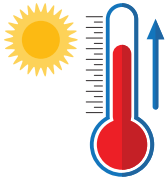


# Car seats save lives in cars, but what about outside the car?

## KNOW THE FACTS



**More than 900 U.S. children have died due to heatstroke since 1998.**

More than 1/2 of these deaths were due to children mistakenly left in a vehicle; 1/4 were kids who got into a car and couldn't get out.



**Infant falls from carrier seats are common; 1/3 of these cases need emergency care at the hospital for a head injury.**

Most of these children are not harnessed in their seat.



**60% of infant deaths happening in sitting devices occur in car seats.**

These Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths (or "SIDS") were mostly due to strangulation from improperly used car seat straps or from when poor positioning blocked the infant's airways.

## THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF CAR SEAT USE

### Car Seats and Child Safety in and Around Vehicles



- Lock your empty car's door to keep curious children out; put keys away.
- Dress your child in light clothes for sitting in the car seat, then layer warm items on top of the snug and buckled harness.
- Have an adult buckled up in the back seat watching the baby in case of breathing problems on the first few rides.
- Follow the car seat's instructions on its use for direction, harnessing and installation.



- Never leave your child alone in the car.
- Never unbuckle or loosen the harness when your child is using the car seat.

### Car Seats Carried and Used out of Vehicles



- Always harness the child properly and fully whenever you use the car seat.
- Make sure that infants cannot turn their face into soft padding, or slump forward in any seating device.
- Place car seats in the cargo area of shopping carts or carry them to avoid tip-overs.



- Don't use your car seat as a crib. Start safe sleep habits in a regular crib or approved portable crib.
- Don't add any toys, blankets or pillows unless they came with the car seat and are used properly.
- Don't rest the car seat with the baby seated in it on a car hood, table or other high or unstable location.



Get personal assistance with your car seat:

[www.MDKISS.org](http://www.MDKISS.org) or

410-767-6016