



## HARRISON'S HOPE FACT SHEET

**VITAL STATISTICS:** Harrison's Hope maintains a national database (<http://www.harrisonshope.org/index.html>) tracking deaths and injuries to children left unattended in and around motor vehicles. Currently, no federal or state agency is collecting information related to deaths and injuries that occur as non-traffic incidents on private property. So far in 2007, Harrison's Hope has documented 640 incidents involving 813 children left unattended in or around vehicles and 164 children who have lost their lives in these incidents.

**FATALITIES:** Since 2000, Harrison's Hope has recorded 998 fatalities. Over 80 percent of these fatalities have resulted from children being left in a motor vehicle during hot weather or being backed over.

- **Hot & cold weather:** The temperature inside a car can reach deadly levels within 10-15 minutes. Heat exhaustion, hypothermia and even death can occur.
- **Backing up:** Parents and caregivers should teach children not to play in or around vehicles. It is difficult for drivers to see small children when they back up. Cross-view mirrors and backup detection devices can help drivers see the rear of their vehicle.

**INCIDENCES:** Many things can happen to a child left alone in a vehicle, including: abduction, setting the vehicle in motion, heat exhaustion, hypothermia, truck entrapment, injury and even death.

**LEGISLATION:** Twelve states have laws protecting children left unattended in cars and thirteen additional states have similar legislation pending in 2007 (see lists below). Two states have laws for if an injury or fatality occurs when a child is left unattended in a car. More information available at: [http://www.harrisonshope.org/m\\_nav/legislation.html](http://www.harrisonshope.org/m_nav/legislation.html).

- **Existing legislation:** California; Connecticut; Florida; Illinois; Louisiana; Maryland; Nebraska; Nevada; Pennsylvania; Tennessee; Texas; and Washington.
- **Pending legislation for 2007:** Alabama, Arizona, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Virginia
- **Injury and fatality legislation:** Kentucky and Missouri.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Harrison's Hope has created and distributed eight radio public services announcements, seven English and one Spanish. The PSAs aired across the United States to an estimated audience of 110,287,688.

**EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:** Harrison's Hope creates and distributes posters, information cards, trifold brochures, window clings and magnets to places where parents may be tempted to leave their children alone in the car.

**HISTORY:** Harrison's Hope is a national organization dedicated to preventing injuries and deaths that occur due to children being left unattended in or around motor vehicles. Harrison's Hope aims to protect children, our most precious cargo, and assist in making sure that no child is ever, not even for a minute, left alone in a motor vehicle.

(Updated: October 2007)