

Hot cars, drowning: keep your family safe this summer

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(HealthDay)—Along with sun and fun, there's unexpected danger

lurking during the summer.

More accidental deaths occur in the United States during July and August than during any other two-month period of the year, according to the National Safety Council.

"Unfortunately, when we look at accidental deaths, summer is not the carefree period we'd like it to be," said Ken Kolosh, manager of statistics at the council.

"The numbers underscore the need for [public awareness](#). We hope [we] can help people understand the biggest risks to their safety and take the steps needed to ensure no one gets hurt," he said.

To help with that, the council has an online interactive database called Injury Facts, which provides numbers and details about a range of risks.

For example, it shows that in July 2016, there were 656 drownings while swimming, playing or after falling in the water—a 108 percent increase over the yearly average and the highest level that year. In 2016, there were a total of 3,786 drownings.

That number does not include drownings while boating.

And so far this year, 18 children have died after being left in a hot car. On average, 37 children under the age of 15 die this way each year.

Pedestrian deaths also start to rise in late [summer](#), and continue to increase until the end of the year. There has been a sharp jump in pedestrian deaths since 2009, with 7,330 such deaths in 2016.

In terms of natural disasters, there were 44 deaths due to excessive heat in July and August of 2016.

Accidental gun-related deaths have remained steady in recent years, accounting for about 1 percent of all gun-related deaths. However, gun-related homicides increased 7 percent between 2015 and 2016, and July and August are peak months for such deaths.

In 2016, there were more than 2,600 gun-related deaths during July and August.

More information: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers [injury prevention advice](#).

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