



SPOT THE TOT

Walk Around Your Vehicle Before Moving It



“It is difficult to imagine a more devastating event than running over a child, especially your own child...and inflicting serious injury or death. The lifelong psychological implications for the parent or other relative involved are nearly beyond comprehension. The costs of such injuries involve more than time, money, and resources. They result in disrupted lives and families, and take an enormous emotional toll on family, friends, and health care personnel.”

-Patrick DA, Bensard DD, Moore EE, et al. *J Pediatric Surgery* 1998;33:1712-1715

Each year in Utah, an average of 64 children under age 10 are struck or run over and 4 are killed by a motor vehicle on private property. Most vehicles involved in these incidents are traveling slowly, many moving in reverse.

Despite the low speed of vehicles in driveways, parking lots and other private property locations, the majority of children struck or run over suffer some type of serious injury and, in many cases, even death.

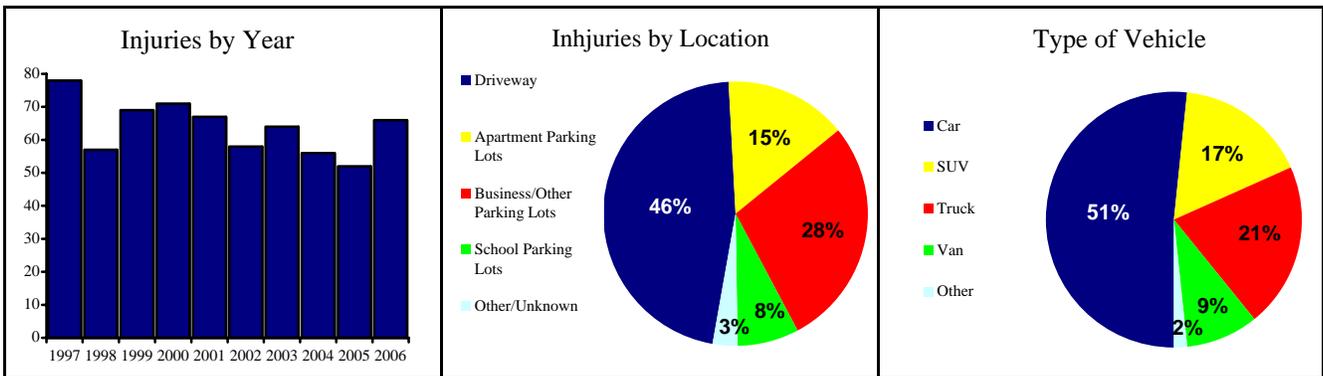
In Utah, from 1997 to 2006, 41 children under the age of 10 were killed when they were either hit or run over by a motor vehicle on private property. More than half the victims were struck or run over by a family member or relative.

In Utah and across the nation, the data show more children are falling victim each year. Of the 41 Utah deaths since 1997, 31 have occurred in the last five years (2002-2006) compared to 10 in the five years from 1997-2001.

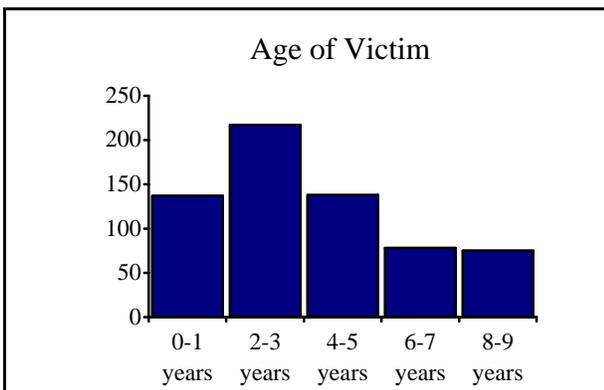
In Utah, a child under the age of 10, is just as likely to be run over and killed by a motor vehicle on private property than in the roadway.

These events are tragedies that **CAN BE PREVENTED**. Inside you will find safety tips and other important information to keep your family safe.

Utah Children Age 0-9 Hit or Run Over by a Motor Vehicle on Private Property, 1997-2006



645 Utah children ages 0-9 have been injured by automobiles in residential driveways (299), apartment parking lots (97), business/other parking lots (181), school parking lots (50) and other private property locations (19). Large vehicles such as a SUV, truck or van were involved approximately 46% of the time.

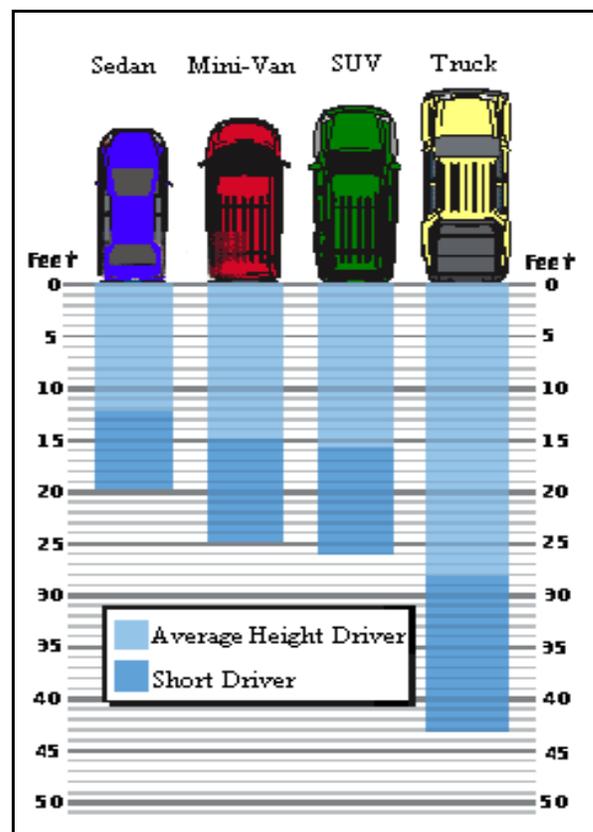


Young children are small and hard to see and are often unaware of the dangers of a moving vehicle. Children age 5 and under are most at risk for being run over by a motor vehicle on private property. In fact, 76% of children under the age of 10, hit or run over by a motor vehicle on private property are 5 and younger.

A 2004 *Consumer Reports* study found that the longer and taller the vehicle, the larger the blind spot.

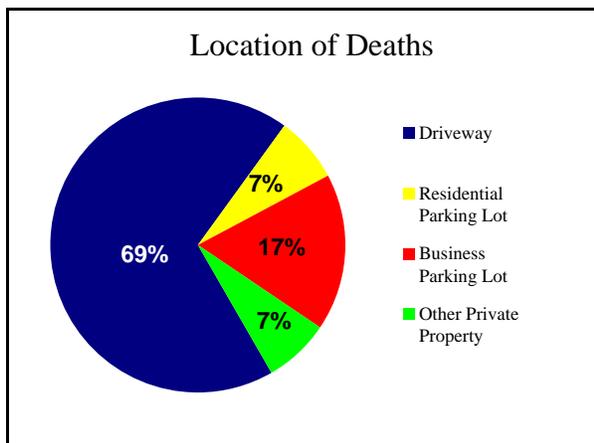
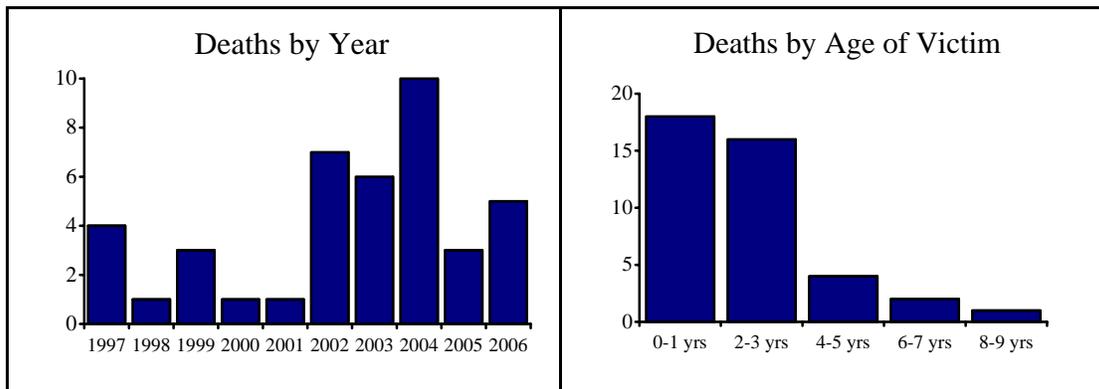
To measure blind spots, a 28-inch traffic cone was placed to the rear of the vehicle at the point where the driver could just see the top of the cone. Longer and taller vehicles tend to have significantly larger blind spots.

However, all vehicles whether large or small have blind spots where small children can easily be hidden from a driver's view. The best defense against backing over a child, is to walk completely around and to make sure children are supervised and in full view of the driver.



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Utah Children Age 0-9 Killed by a Motor Vehicle on Private Property, 1997-2006

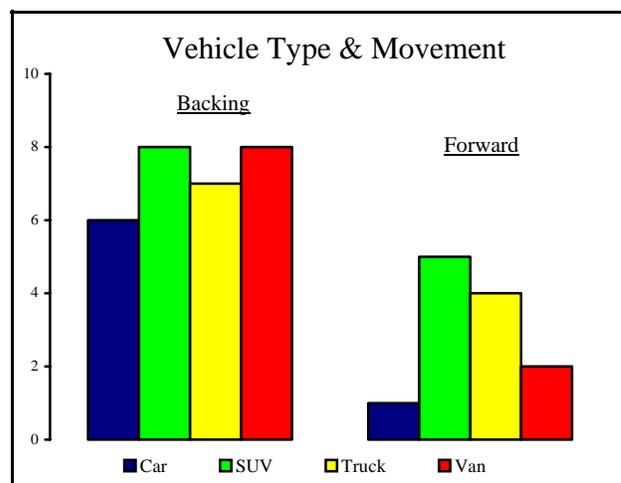


41 Utah children under age 10 were killed when either hit or run over by a motor vehicle at a private property location. Most victims (68%) were killed in residential driveways. In more than half the deaths, the driver was a family member of the victim.

Children under the age 5 are most at risk for being hit or run over by a motor vehicle on private property and accounted for 83% of the deaths.

Of the 41 deaths occurring on private property involving children 0-9 years of age, 29 (71%) were killed by a vehicle moving in reverse. Of the 29 killed by a vehicle moving in reverse, nearly 80% (23) were backed over by an SUV, truck or van.

Young children are small and hard to see, and can easily be hidden in a vehicle's blind spot. Remember all vehicles have blind spots to the front, to the side and especially to the rear where mirrors can't reach.



Prevention Tips

- Walk completely around your vehicle before getting in.
- Know where children are. Have children stand in a place where they are in full view.
- Be aware of young children. Young children are small and hard to see.
- Parents, caregivers and all adults need to be vigilant in supervising children, especially when children are in the yard, driveway or parking lot playing near parked cars.
- Roll down your window so you will be able to hear what is happening outside your vehicle.
- Owners of SUVs, trucks, and vans need to take extra care to avoid hitting or running over a child.
- Teach children to move away from a vehicle whenever it is started.



For more information contact the Violence and Injury Prevention Program at the Utah Department of Health at 801-538-6864, or visit www.health.utah.gov/vipp

