CHILD HEATSTROKE BY THE NUMBERS

100% OF THE HEATSTROKE DEATHS OF CHILDREN IN CARS ARE PREVENTABLE

Total U.S. Deaths since 1998
743

PA Child Deaths
11

Risks
♦ In 10 minutes, a car can heat up 20 degrees Fahrenheit.
♦ Cracking a window does little to keep the car cool.
♦ With temperatures in the 60s, your car can heat up to well above 110 degrees.
♦ A child’s body temperature can rise up to five times faster than an adult’s.
♦ Heatstroke can happen when the temperature is as low as 57 degrees outside!
♦ A child dies when his/her temperature reaches 107.

Warning signs of heatstroke include:
♦ Red, hot, and moist or dry skin
♦ No sweating
♦ Strong, rapid pulse or slow, weak pulse
♦ Nausea
♦ Confusion or acting strangely.

If a child exhibits any of these signs after being in a hot vehicle, cool the child rapidly (not an ice bath but by spraying them with cool water). Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.

Safety Tips to Remember:
♦ Never leave your child alone in a car, not even for a minute
♦ Never let your children play in an unattended vehicle.
♦ ALWAYS lock the car and put the keys out of reach.
♦ Make it a habit to look in the back seat EVERY time you exit the car.
♦ Create reminders by putting something in the back seat next to your child, such as a briefcase, purse, or cell phone.
♦ If you see a child alone in a car, call 911
♦ Make arrangements with your childcare provider about morning drop-off. If your child will not be attending childcare as scheduled, call and inform the childcare provider. If the child does not show up as scheduled, the childcare provider pledges to contact you immediately to ensure the safety of your child.
Safety Tips for Pedestrians

Be Safe and Be Seen: Make yourself visible to drivers
- Wear bright, light colored clothing and reflective materials.
- Carry a flashlight when walking during low-light conditions.
- Do not DART OUT into the street. Moving quickly into the street is dangerous. The driver of a car coming down the street may not see you.
- Stand clear of hedges, parked cars or other obstacles before crossing so drivers can see you.

Be Smart and Alert: Avoid dangerous behaviors
- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Do not assume vehicles will stop. Make eye contact with drivers. If a driver is on a cell phone, the driver may not be paying attention to you.
- Don't rely on pedestrian signals. Look and listen before you cross the road.
- Be alert to engine noise or backup lights on cars when in parking lots and near on-street parking spaces.

Be Careful at Street Crossings: Look before you step
- Children younger than 10 years of age should cross the street with an adult.
- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections, if possible.
- Obey traffic signals such as WALK/DON’T WALK signs.
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing a street.
- Watch for turning vehicles. Make sure the driver sees you and will stop for you.
- Look across ALL lanes you must cross and visually clear each lane before proceeding. Even if one motorist stops, do not assume drivers in other lanes can see you and will stop for you.
- Don't wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while crossing.

Safety Tips for Crossing the Street
- Stop at the curb or edge of the street if there is no curb.
- Stop and look left, then right, then left again for moving cars before you step into the street.
- If you see a car, wait until it passes. Then look left, look right, and left again until no cars are coming.
- If a car is parked where you are crossing, look to make sure there is no driver and that the car is not running.
- Next, go to the edge of the car and look left-right-left to see if cars are coming.
- When no cars are coming, WALK—do not run—across the road. Keep looking left-right-left for cars while you are crossing.

Car Seat Registration

Registering a car seat with the manufacturer ensures you will be notified about recalls that pertain to the car seat. Recalls inform you of necessary repairs for the car seat to maintain the protection provided by the car seat. Many consumers are unaware that their car seat has been recalled because they failed to register it at the time of purchase. “Don’t Delay. Register Your Car Seat Today.” When you register your car seat and/or booster seat, the car seat manufacturer can contact you about recalls and safety notices. It is easy to register your car seat. Simply send in the “recall card” that came with your car seat or complete the contact form located on the car seat manufacturer’s website. If you move, remember to update your address to continue to receive any recall and safety notices.

If Your Car Seat is Recalled, Contact the Car Seat Manufacturer to Request a Repair Kit

Many recalls are for minor defects, but some recalls are serious. It is important to correct all problems with the car seat / booster seat as soon as possible. Most recalls can be fixed by replacing a part that the manufacturer will send you for free.

Continue to use the car seat while you are waiting for the repair kit, unless the car seat manufacturer warns against using the recalled car seat / booster seat. Using a recalled car seat / booster seat is almost always safer than letting your child ride secured with a seat belt only.