



## Don't Leave Children Unattended in Cars

Heatstroke (body temperature exceeds 104°) is caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures. The medical symptoms include dizziness, disorientation, agitation, confusion, sluggishness, seizure, hot dry skin that is flushed but not sweaty, loss of consciousness, rapid heart beat, and hallucinations. A core body temperature of 107° can be lethal.

Heatstroke is a particular problem for children. Their thermoregulatory systems are not as efficient as an adult's and their body temperatures warm at a rate 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's.

Children being left in cars is the most common reason for childhood death due to heatstroke. Here's the number of U.S. heatstroke deaths for children left in cars: 2018: **18** (through July 1); for 2017: **42**; 2016: **39**; 2015: **25**; 2014: **32**; 2013: **44**. Since 1998 to present: **761**; Average per year since 1998: **37** or one every nine days. (see: <http://www.noheatstroke.org>)

Sadly, the most common reason for a child death from vehicular heatstroke is the child was "forgotten" by the caregiver.

Temperatures inside a car even on a mild day (70°) can rise as much as 43° in an hour. Cracking the window does little to help. On a very hot day, temperatures of some objects in a car (dashboard) can rise to 200°.

### SAFETY FIRST

- Never leave a child unattended in a car; not even for a minute.
- If you see an unattended child in a car, call 9-1-1.
- Be sure that all occupants leave the vehicle when unloading.
- Make "look before you leave" a routine whenever you get out of the car. Remember: **"Beat the Heat, Check the Backseat."**



**Need your car seat install checked?**  
Call Reed Richmond, RPH's CPS Tech, at 419-774-4726 to arrange a check. (Reed's granddaughter Mariah Stoner, above)

*The Richland Public Health "Health Report" is a monthly production of Health Education/Promotion. Suggestions and corrections, including mailing label corrections, are welcome. Call Reed Richmond, Health Educator/Communications, at 419-774-4726.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

*The Environmental Health Division directs a variety of programs that prevent, protect and educate our community about potentially harmful elements in our environment.*

| Contacts*                           | May        | YTD          |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Campgrounds                         | 1          | 23           |
| Food                                | 249        | 1,355        |
| Emergency Response                  | 0          | 5            |
| Environmental Health Administrative | 0          | 3            |
| Environmental Health Assessment     | 1          | 3            |
| Environmental Health Other          | 0          | 13           |
| Housing                             | 0          | 3            |
| Indoor Air Quality                  | 1          | 18           |
| Institutions                        | 1          | 2            |
| Nuisance, other                     | 5          | 14           |
| Plumbing - Commercial               | 183        | 1,153        |
| Plumbing - Residential              | 82         | 468          |
| Private Water Systems               | 62         | 410          |
| Public Swimming Pools               | 5          | 60           |
| Rabies                              | 101        | 364          |
| Schools                             | 0          | 43           |
| Sewage Treatment Systems            | 165        | 665          |
| Solid Waste                         | 28         | 126          |
| Tattoo & Body Piercing Facilities   | 2          | 33           |
| Vector Control                      | 73         | 111          |
| <b>Totals All Contacts</b>          | <b>959</b> | <b>4,872</b> |

\*Inspections, investigations and consultations

**"I failed a health and safety course at work. One of the questions was: "In the event of a fire, what steps would you take?" "Quick ones" apparently was the wrong answer."**

## VITAL STATISTICS

*The Vital Statistics division maintains records of all births and deaths in Richland County since 1908 (excluding Shelby). For information on obtaining a birth or death certificate, check the website at [www.richlandhealth.org](http://www.richlandhealth.org) or call 419-774-4500.*

|                                | May | YTD |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| <b>Total Births (all ages)</b> | 96  | 476 |
| Births to Teens                | 10  | 54  |
| Repeat Births*                 | 65  | 313 |

|                     | May | YTD |
|---------------------|-----|-----|
| <b>Total Deaths</b> | 117 | 542 |
| Male                | 66  | 280 |
| Female              | 51  | 262 |

| <b>Causes of Death</b>          |    |     |
|---------------------------------|----|-----|
| Heart Related                   | 36 | 200 |
| Cancer                          | 30 | 105 |
| Lung Diseases                   | 10 | 45  |
| Alzheimers/Dementia             | 6  | 37  |
| Accidents (drugs/falls/crashes) | 4  | 27  |
| Flu/Pneumonia                   | 54 | 23  |
| Strokes/CVA                     | 1  | 16  |
| Renal/Kidney                    | 4  | 13  |
| Suicides                        | 0  | 6   |
| Homicides                       | 1  | 3   |
| Infant Mortality (see below)    | 0  | 2   |
| Deaths Pending Autopsy          | 3  | 6   |
| Other (not listed above)        | 18 | 59  |

\*repeat births = 2nd or more live births  
**Birth & Death statistics include City of Shelby**

### Infant Mortality: Richland County

**May: 0** **Year To Date: 2**  
Infant mortality is defined as the death of a baby before his or her first birthday. Infant deaths are considered an important indicator of the overall health of a society. Deaths to residents occurring outside of Richland County are not reflected in county death statistics. **KNOW the SAFE SLEEP ABC's: Alone, on Back, in a Crib.**

### CALLING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Main Number .....              | 419-774-4500 |
| Public Health Clinic .....     | 419-774-4700 |
| Public Health Nursing.....     | 419-774-4540 |
| Environmental Health .....     | 419-774-4520 |
| Health Promotion/Education ... | 419-774-4761 |
| WIC .....                      | 419-774-4560 |

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED