



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KILL DATE: (August 30, 2011)

Kids in Cars

HOWELL, Michigan. - (July 28, 2011)

With the hot summer days, Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) is reminding parents and caregivers to take extra precautions to prevent leaving children alone in cars. Last year, more than 49 children died in the United States while alone in a vehicle. Hyperthermia can set in fast to those children left alone in vehicles. Here's what parents and caregivers need to know and why.

- **Lock cars and trucks.** Thirty percent of the recorded heat stroke deaths in the U.S. occur because a child was playing in an unattended vehicle. These deaths can be prevented by simply locking the vehicle doors and putting keys out of reach to help assure that kids don't enter the vehicles and become trapped.
- **Create reminders.** Many child heat stroke deaths occur because parents and caregivers become distracted and exit their vehicle without their child. To help prevent these tragedies parents can:
 - Place a cell phone, PDA, purse, briefcase, gym bag or something that is needed at your next stop on the floor in front of a child in a backseat. This will help you see your child when you open the rear door and reach for your belongings.
 - Set the alarm on your cell phone/Smartphone as a reminder to you to drop your child off at day care. Have a plan that if your child is late for daycare that you will be called within a few minutes. Be especially careful if you change your routine for dropping off infants and toddlers at day care.
- **Check vehicles and trunks FIRST** if a child goes missing.

- **Dial 911** immediately if you see an unattended child in a car. EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble.

Accidents can happen anywhere; even right in your own garage or driveway. So never leave children unattended in or around vehicles. For more information please visit KidsAndCars.org and <http://www.safekids.org>.

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