



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

Welcome to the [Injury Prevention](#) Newsletter!

During July and August, we want to highlight the upcoming Injury Prevention Conference, Tips for Preventing Pediatric Vehicular Heatstroke, Water Safety, and International Overdose Awareness Day.

Injury Prevention Conference 2025

The Injury Prevention Conference will take place in Austin, Texas, November 4-5, 2025.

This year's theme is "Prevent Today, Protect Tomorrow: Innovating Safety for Stronger Communities." The Texas Injury Prevention Conference gives injury prevention professionals across the state the opportunity to network and learn from one another about the amazing work in Texas. This conference is a chance to collaborate and discuss innovative solutions and challenges.

Registration and abstract submission details will be sent next week. Watch your inbox for more information!

Keep Kids Safe from Pediatric Vehicular Heatstroke the Summer.

The [Texas Heatstroke Task Force](#) (THTF) encourages Texans to ACT this summer to keep kids safe in hot cars:

A – Avoid heatstroke-related injury. Never leave a child alone in a car, not even during a quick trip into the store. Always lock your doors and trunks – including your driveway or garage. If a child is missing, check the pool and water sources first, then check vehicles, including trunks.

C – Create reminders. Keep a stuffed animal or other memento in your child's seat when it's empty and move it to the front seat as a visual reminder when your child is in the back seat. Or place and secure your phone, briefcase, or purse in the back seat when traveling with your child.

T – Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, take action. Call 911.

Action Steps:

- Learn more about the [THTF](#) and access their resources.
 - Watch the [Children’s Safety Network](#) webinar, [Preventing Pediatric Vehicular Heatstroke](#).
 - Visit Safe Riders [Pediatric Vehicular Heatstroke Dangers in Texas](#) page to learn more and download the [Keeping Kids Safe from Heatstroke in Hot Cars](#)
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Practice Water Safety This Summer

According to the [National Drowning Prevention Alliance](#) (NDPA), there are over 4,500 unintentional drowning deaths each year in the U.S. [Drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). According to Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, [22 children have drowned in Texas in 2025](#).

Drowning deaths are preventable! Drowning deaths can happen in pools; natural water locations, including ponds, creeks, or lakes; or in bathtubs. The NDPA suggests implementing [five layers of protection to keep kids safe around water](#):

- **Use barriers and alarms near pools.** This includes four-sided fencing with self-closing, self-latching gates; pool safety covers; and motion alarms.
- Stay aware of your surroundings and make sure there is a designated, capable adult or lifeguard watching when children are in or around water. An adult should be within arms’ length of infants, toddlers, and children who lack water competency whenever they are in or near water, providing “touch supervision”.
- **Water competency.** Help children learn and enhance their water safety skills. Water competency and swim lessons should be continuous, not taken for just one season.
- **Life jackets.** Use U.S. Coast Guard tested and approved life jackets when in or around open/natural bodies of water. Life jackets should be the appropriate size for the wearer. Learn more about USCG tested and approved life jackets in the [Safe Boating Council](#) brochure, “[How to Choose the Right Life Jacket](#).”
- **Emergency preparation.** Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training with rescue breaths and basic water rescue skills can make the difference between life and death. Have a phone available and ready to call 911.

August 31 is [International Overdose Awareness Day](#).

[International Overdose Awareness Day](#) takes place every August 31. It is a day of action to bring awareness to drug poisoning prevention solutions. This year's theme is "One Big Family, Driven by Hope." The emphasis is the impact drug poisoning has not only on individuals and families, but also on communities. Solutions to drug poisoning should be community based.

Texas Overdose Data to Action (TODA) recognizes the impact drug poisoning has on Texas communities. On International Overdose Awareness Day and throughout the year, TODA works to reduce drug poisonings in Texas. TODA provides education and links to [educational resources](#) for communities and professionals. TODA helps connect communities to free and reduced-cost naloxone, a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid poisoning, through their [Texas Naloxone Locator Map](#).

Visit the links below to learn more about drug poisoning prevention:

- [International Overdose Awareness Day](#)
 - [Texas Overdose Data to Action](#)
 - [One Pill Kills Campaign](#) – the Governor's Office
 - [One Pill Kills – Texas Health and Human Services](#)
 - [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) 5 Things to Know About Naloxone](#)
 - [CDC How to Administer Naloxone Tutorial Video](#)
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General Injury Prevention Resources

- Learn more about our programs: [Injury Prevention | Texas DSHS](#)
- Find state and national Injury Prevention resources: [Injury Prevention Resources | Texas DSHS](#)
- Locate more Injury Prevention-related news, events, and observances: [Injury Prevention Calendar | Texas DSHS](#)

Questions? Want to be featured in a future resource newsletter? Email us at injury.prevention@dshs.texas.gov.

Thank you!

The Injury Prevention Team

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