Medical Examiner’s Office Speaking Out Concerning Infant Asphyxial Deaths

The Travis County Medical Examiner’s Office reports 5 infant deaths in the past 2 weeks that have occurred in unsafe sleeping environments. Unsafe sleeping environments include bed sharing with an infant in an adult bed, and placing an infant to sleep on an adult bed, waterbed, couch, large pillow, folded blankets, or any other soft surface that may cause suffocation.

Infants do not have the strength to push themselves away from an obstruction in order to breathe. It is up to the parent or caretaker to make sure the infant is placed on his or her back in a safe sleep environment which allows the child to breathe easily. The public is reminded that the safest sleep environment for an infant is face up in a crib, with a firm, well-fit mattress, and without excessive bedding material such as pillows, blankets, bumper pads, or clutter such as soft toys or stuffed animals etc. These infant deaths are preventable!

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