THE FACTS ON CHILDHOOD DROWNING

NUMBERS

Every year in the US, 3,572 people die from drowning, of them are children.

Children account for 1 in 4 drowning deaths.

WHO?

Nearly half are infants and toddlers:
- 451 ages 0-4 (48%)
- 129 ages 5-9 (14%)
- 106 ages 10-14 (11%)
- 259 ages 15-19 (27%)

Boys account for 3 in 4 child drowning deaths.

While White children account for more than half of these fatalities, Black and AI/AN children drown at higher rates.

This means they are significantly more likely to drown.

For every 1,000,000...
- WHITE children: 10.9
- BLACK children: 18.3
- H/L children: 8.3
- ASIAN/PI children: 8.1
- AI/AN children: 19.7

...will fatally drown.
WHERE
Infants under the age of 1 are most likely to drown in a **BATHTUB**
Most children ages 1 through 4 drown in **HOME SWIMMING POOLS**

The likelihood of drowning in natural water settings (lakes, oceans, and rivers) **INCREASES WITH AGE**

NEAR DROWNING
For every child that drowns, **5 more are treated in the emergency department for near drowning**.

In the most severe cases, near drowning may lead to:
- Brain damage
- Memory problems
- Learning disabilities
- Permanent loss of basic functioning (vegetative state)

**2.4%** of children hospitalized for near drowning are transferred to rehabilitation hospitals

PREVENTION
Drowning can happen **QUICKLY and QUIETLY**

**FORMAL SWIMMING LESSONS** reduce the risk of drowning in 1- to 4- year-old children by **88%**

**FOUR-SIDED ISOLATION FENCES** that keep the pool separate from the house and yard reduce a child’s risk of drowning by **83%** compared to three-sided fencing that encloses the house and pool together

**Children should wear LIFE JACKETS on boats**

**Children should ALWAYS be actively supervised in and around water by a designated adult water watcher**

MORE INFO

1. Average from 2010 through 2014
2. For the purpose of this infographic, children are defined as <20, toddlers are defined as 1 through 4, and infants are defined as <1
3. White, Black, Asian/PI, and AI/AN are non-Hispanic
For detailed sources and more information, visit: ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/infographics/drowning

July 2016
The Facts On Childhood Drowning

**Numbers**

Every year in the US, 3572 people die from drowning; 945 of them are children.

Children account for 1 out of 4 drowning deaths.

**Who?**

Nearly half are infants and toddlers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Average Deaths per Year (2010 through 2014)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 through 4</td>
<td>451 (48%)</td>
</tr>
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<td>5 through 9</td>
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Boys account for 3 out of 4 child drowning deaths.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Deaths (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander (PI)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While White children account for more than half of these fatalities, AI/AN and Black children are significantly more likely to drown.

For every 1,000,000
- White children, 10.9
- Black children, 18.3
- Hispanic/Latino children, 8.3
- Asian/PI children, 8.1
- AI/AN children, 19.7

will drown.

**Where**

Infants under the age of 1 are most likely to drown in a bathtub.

Most children ages 1 through 4 drown in swimming pools at home.

The likelihood of drowning in natural water settings (lakes, oceans, and rivers) increases with age (CDC).

**Near drowning**

For every child that drowns, 5 more are treated in the emergency department for near drowning.

In the most severe cases, near drowning may lead to brain damage, memory problems, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning (vegetative state) (CDC).

2.4% of children hospitalized for near drowning are transferred to rehabilitation hospitals (NIS).
Prevention
Drowning can happen quickly and quietly

Formal swimming lessons reduce the risk of drowning in 1- to 4-year-old children by 88% (Brenner, 2009)

Four-sided isolation fences that keep the pool separate from the house and yard reduce a child’s risk of drowning by 83% compared to three-sided fencing that enclose the house and pool together (CDC)

Children should wear life jackets on boats

Children should always be actively supervised in and around water by a designated adult Water Watcher


To see this on our website, visit: [http://childrenssafetynetwork.org/infographics/drowning](http://childrenssafetynetwork.org/infographics/drowning)

Additional resources:

Water Watcher Card | Safe Kids Worldwide

Keeping Kids Safe in and Around Water: Exploring Misconceptions That Lead to Drowning | Safe Kids Worldwide


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1 Average from 2010 through 2014

2 For the purpose of this infographic, children are defined as under 20, toddlers are defined as 1 through 4, and infants are defined as <1

3 White, Black, Asian/PI, and AI/AN are non-Hispanic