

THE FACTS ON CHILDHOOD DROWNING

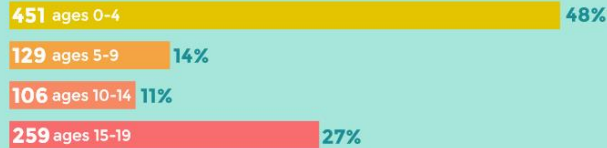
NUMBERS

Every year¹ in the US,
3,572 people die from
DROWNING
945 of them are
CHILDREN²

Children account for
1 in 4 
DROWNING DEATHS

WHO?

Nearly half are **infants and toddlers**

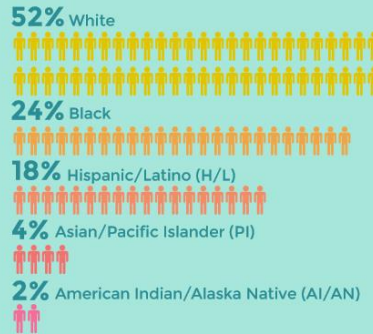


Boys account for
3 in 4
 child drowning deaths



While White³ 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...



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%**

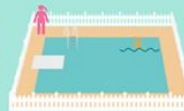


FOUR-SIDED ISOLATION FENCES that keep the pool separate from the house and yard reduce a child's risk of drowning by **83%** compared to three-sided fencing that encloses the house and pool together



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

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For detailed sources and more information, visit: ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/infographics/drowning

The Facts On Childhood Drowning

Numbers

Every year¹ in the US, 3572 people die from drowning
945 of them are children²

Children account for 1 out of 4 drowning deaths

Who?

Nearly half are infants and toddlers

Age	Average Deaths per Year (2010 through 2014)
0 through 4	451 (48%)
5 through 9	129 (14%)
10 through 14	106 (11%)
15 through 19	259 (27%)

Boys account for 3 out of 4 child drowning deaths

Race/Ethnicity ³	Deaths (Percent)
White	52%
Black	24%
Hispanic/Latino	18%
Asian/Pacific Islander (PI)	4%
American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)	2%

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

Brenner RA, Taneja G, Haynie DL, et al. Association Between Swimming Lessons and Drowning in Childhood: A Case-Control Study. *JAMA Pediatrics*.2009;163(3):203-210. doi:10.1001/archpediatrics.2008.563.

<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=381058>

2012 Healthcare Utilization Project, Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS) (Accessed June 7, 2016 by R. Spicer).

WISQARS. Fatal Injury Data. WISQARS (Accessed May 4, 2016 by R. Willmer). Atlanta, GA. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html>. All numbers are based on averages from 2010-2014.

Unintentional Drowning: Get the Facts. CDC. <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/water-safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html>

To see this on our website, visit: <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](#)

[Dangerous Waters: Profiles of Fatal Childhood Drownings in the U.S. 2005–2014 | Safe Kids Worldwide](#)

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