

# NATIONAL DROWNING STATISTICS

- **Drowning is the leading cause of death for infants and young children between the ages of 1-4** (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007)
- Drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional injury deaths in children aged 1-14 years. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- There are **8.8 million residential and public-use swimming pools** in the United States. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- In 2007, there were **3,443 fatal unintentional drownings in the United States**, averaging ten deaths per day. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- A swimming pool is 14 times more likely than a motor vehicle to be involved in the death of a child age 4 and under. (Orange County California Fire Authority)
- **Children under five and adolescents between the ages of 15-24 have the highest drowning rates.** (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- An estimated 5,000 children ages 14 and under are hospitalized due to unintentional drowning-related incidents each year; 15 percent die in the hospital and as many as 20 percent suffer severe, permanent neurological disability. (National Safety Council and Foundation for Aquatic Injury Prevention)
- **Of all preschoolers who drown, 70 percent are in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning** and 75 percent are missing from sight for five minutes or less. (Orange County, CA, Fire Authority)
- The majority of children who survive (92 percent) are discovered within two minutes following submersion, (Branche 1999). **For every child who dies from drowning, another four received emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries.** (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- **Minorities:** Between 2000 and 2007, the fatal unintentional drowning rate for African Americans across all ages was 1.2 times that of whites. For American Indians and Alaskan Natives, this rate was 1.7 times that of whites. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- **Minorities:** Rates of fatal drowning are notably higher among these populations in certain age groups. The fatal drowning rate of African American children ages 5 to 14 is 3.1 times that of white children in the same age range. For American Indian and Alaskan Native children, the fatal drowning rate is 2.2 times higher than for white children. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Children under one year most often drown in **bathtubs, buckets, or toilets.** Among children ages 1 to 4 years, most drownings occur in **residential swimming pools.** (Where children drown, 1995, Pediatrics 2001;108(1):85-9)
- The percent of drownings in natural water settings such as **lakes, rivers or the ocean**, increases with age. Most drownings among those over 15 years of age occur in natural water settings. (Nonfatal and Fatal Drownings in Recreational Water Settings, 2001 and 2002. MMWR 2004;53(21):447-52)
- In 10 states - **Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington** - drowning surpasses all other causes of death to children age 14 and under. Children who die (86 percent) are found after 10 minutes. Nearly all who require cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) die or are left with severe brain injury. (CDC)
- In 2007, there were 3,443 fatal unintentional drownings in the United States, **averaging ten deaths per day.** (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- **19 percent of drowning deaths involving children occur in public pools with certified lifeguards present.**
- Children: In 2004, of all children 1-4 years old who died, 26% died from drowning (CDC 2006). Although drowning rates have slowly declined (Branche 1999), fatal drowning remains the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14 years (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005).



58 percent of parents do not consider drowning a threat to their children.

(National Safe Kids Campaign)