



**STOP
DROWNING
NOW**

Drowning Facts and Statistics

Children

- Children under five and adolescents between the ages of 15-24 have the highest drowning rates. (Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- It is estimated that for each drowning death, there are 1 to 4 nonfatal submersions serious enough to result in hospitalization. Children who still require cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the time they arrive at the emergency department have a poor prognosis, with at least half of survivors suffering significant neurologic impairment. (Source: American Academy of Pediatrics)
- Only 19% of Americans are aware that drowning is the leading cause of accidental death among children under the age of five. (Source: national poll released by Harris Interactive and eSafetyAlert.com)
- Six people drown in U.S. pools every day. Many of these pools are public facilities staffed with certified professional lifeguards. (Source: Centers for Disease Control)
- According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, a child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone.

Minorities

- African-Americans are at higher risk for drowning: African-American children ages 5-9 are three times more likely to drown in swimming pools than Caucasian children. (Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- According to USA Swimming, 70% of African-American children cannot swim, compared with nearly 60% for Hispanic children and 42% for white children.
- Several cultural and historical factors can help explain why the risk is higher for minority children. One is the segregation of swimming pools during the 20th century, according to Jeff Wiltse, author of "Contested Waters: A Social History of Swimming Pools in America." Relatively few swimming pools were built to serve the black community back then, so much of a generation was denied the opportunity to swim.
- Studies show that if parents can't swim, their children are far less likely to learn how. A fear of drowning and a fear of injury prevent many African-American parents from putting their children in swimming lessons. (Source: study conducted by the University of Memphis, sponsored by USA Swimming)

A National Epidemic

- There is no Waterproof or Drownproof. There is always RISK around water, no matter swim abilities.
- Of all preschoolers who drown, 70% are in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning and 75% are missing from sight for five minutes or less. (Source: Orange County, CA, Fire Authority)
- 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%) are found after 10 minutes. Nearly all who require cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) die or are left with severe brain injury. (Source: Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- The risk of drowning increases more in the summer months than the risk of any other kind of unintentional injury — 89% over the rest of the year — because more children are swimming and playing outside near pools and open bodies of water. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Center for Injury Prevention and Control.)