DROWNING DANGERS FOR KIDS

Spotlight on Open Water

CHILDHOOD DROWNING OVERALL

1,000 CHILDREN DROWNED IN 2016

7,000 MORE WENT TO ER

150 FAMILIES IMPACTED PER WEEK

MORE CHILDREN AND TEENS DROWN IN OPEN WATER THAN IN POOLS

OPEN WATER FATALITIES

BY AGE

0 – 4 yrs. 23%
5 – 9 yrs. 13%
10 – 14 yrs. 15%
15 – 19 yrs. 49%

BY GENDER

80% 20%

BY ETHNICITY (PER 1,000,000)

White children (7.1)
Black/African American children (13.7)
American Indian/Alaskan Native children (17.3)

HIDDEN HAZARDS OF OPEN WATER

Dangerous currents • Sudden drop-offs • Limited visibility • Depth of water
• Rocks and vegetation • Cold temperatures • Difficult-to-judge distances

Tips to Keep Your Kids Safe

• Watch kids in and around water without being distracted.
• Teach kids how to swim in open water, which is different from swimming in a pool.
• Use a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket appropriate for the child’s weight and water activity.
• Learn what to do in an emergency without putting yourself at risk for drowning.

For more information visit www.safekids.org

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