

FAST FACTS

Drownings Among Children in 2018



This Fast Facts focuses on unintentional drownings among children ages 0–19 in the U.S. in 2018, including those that occurred in bath tubs, swimming pools and open water, as well as those involving boats or other water craft types.

Magnitude of Drownings Among Children Ages 0–19^{1,2}

Deaths in 2018

918

18 deaths per week

Hospitalizations in 2018

2,547

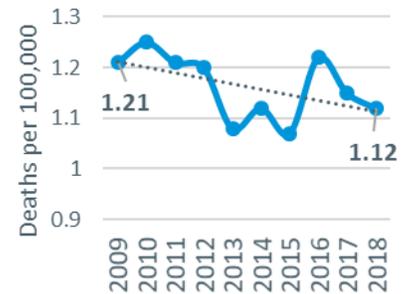
49 hospitalizations per week

Emergency Room (ER) visits in 2018

7,259

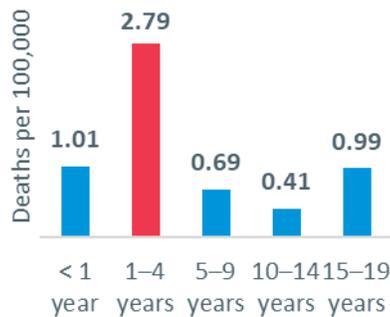
140 ER visits per week

The rate of drowning death among children decreased by 7 percent from 2009–2018.



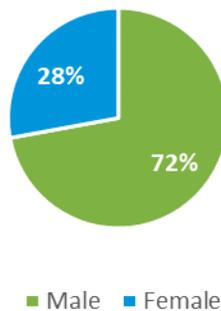
Deaths by Age, 2018¹

Children ages 1–4 years were at greater risk of a fatal drowning.



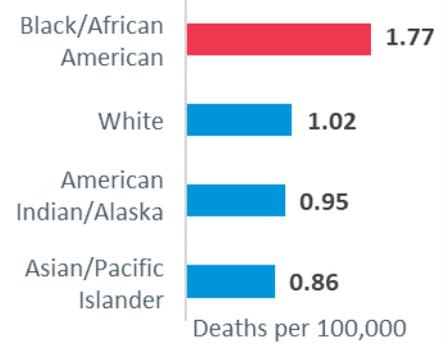
Deaths by Gender, 2018¹

Boys made up a larger proportion of fatal drownings than girls.



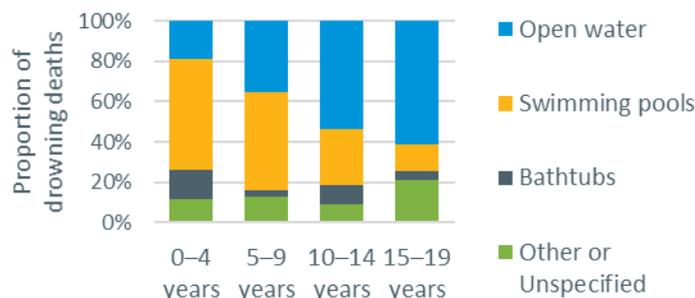
Deaths by Race, 2018*¹

The risk of a fatal drowning was greater among Black/African American children.



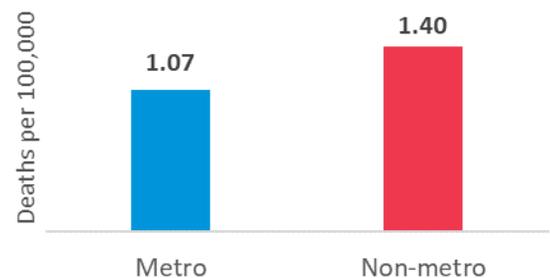
Deaths by Water Source Type, 2018¹

Children under age 10 most often fatally drowned in swimming pools, while children ages 10–19 most often fatally drowned in open water.



Deaths by Geographical Area, 2018¹

Children living in non-metro areas were at slightly greater risk of a fatal drowning.



Cost of Drownings, 2017 (the latest year for which cost data are available)³

Medical costs in 2017

\$209.0 million

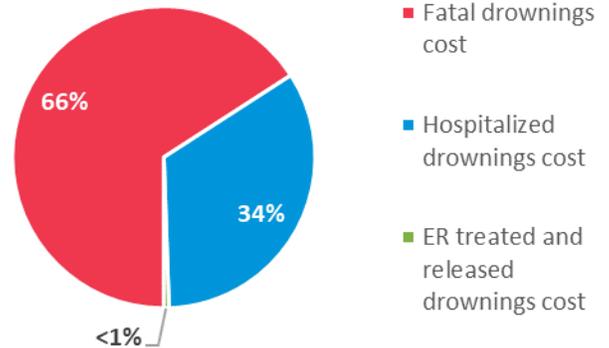
Work-loss costs in 2017

\$4.5 billion

Combined costs 2017

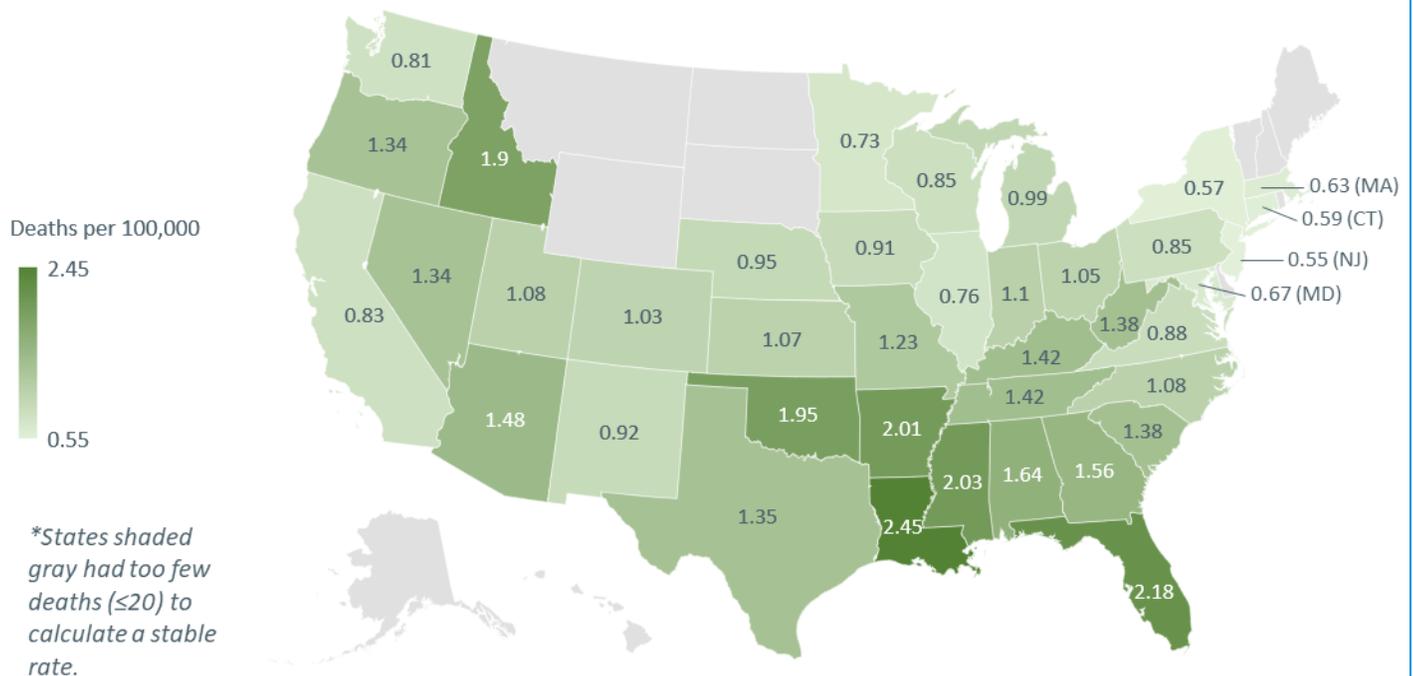
\$4.7 billion

Fatal drownings accounted for the largest proportion of the cost of drownings among children.



Rate of Fatal Drownings by State, 2014–2018*¹

The risk of fatal drowning among children was greater in Arkansas, Louisiana and Florida.



Notes and References

¹Data on fatal drownings were retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Wide-ranging ONline Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER) Underlying Cause of Death online query system using ICD-10 codes V90, V92 and W65–W74.

²Data on ER treated and released and hospitalized drownings were retrieved from the CDC Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports online query system.

³Cost of injury data were calculated using 2017 data within the WISQARS Cost of Injury Reports application and includes unintentional injuries that were serious enough to require an ED visit. Total combined medical and work loss costs are likely underestimated, as WISQARS cost estimates do not include ED treatment costs for injured children who were hospitalized.