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

### Magnitude of Drownings Among Children Ages 0–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths in 2018</td>
<td>918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalizations in 2018</td>
<td>2,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Room (ER) visits in 2018</td>
<td>7,259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2018, drownings among children ages 0–19 resulted in:
- 18 deaths per week
- 49 hospitalizations per week
- 140 ER visits per week

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

### Deaths by Age, 2018

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

- Deaths per 100,000:
  - < 1 year: 1.01
  - 1–4 years: 2.79
  - 5–9 years: 0.69
  - 10–14 years: 0.41
  - 15–19 years: 0.99

### Deaths by Gender, 2018

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

- Boys: 72%
- Girls: 28%

### Deaths by Race, 2018

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

- Black/African American: 1.77
- White: 1.02
- American Indian/Alaska: 0.95
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 0.86

*Based on 2017/2018 combined rate.

### Deaths by Water Source Type, 2018

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, 2018

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

- Metro: 1.07
- Non-metro: 1.40
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.

66% Fatal drownings cost
34% Hospitalized drownings cost
<1% ER treated and released drownings cost

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

\(^1\)Data 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.

\(^2\)Data 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.

\(^3\)Cost 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.

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