

FAST FACTS

Drowning Among Children in 2020

This Fast Facts includes data on fatal and nonfatal unintentional drowning among children ages 0–19 years in the U.S.

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

Deaths in 2020

932

Hospitalizations in 2020

1,988

ER treated & released in 2020

2,864

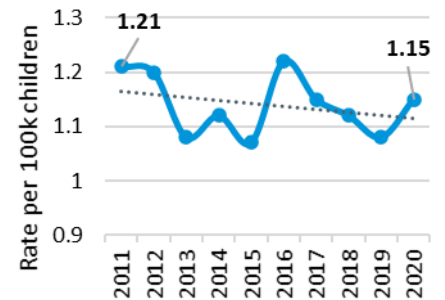
In 2020, drowning among children ages 0–19 resulted in:

18 deaths per week

38 hospitalizations per week

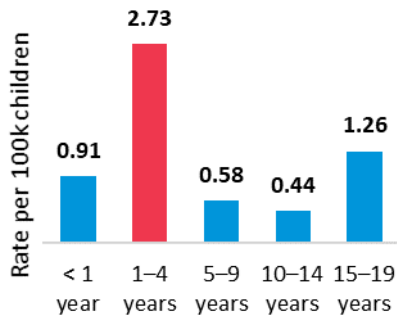
55 ER treated & released per week

The rate of drowning death among children decreased by 5 percent between 2011 to 2020.



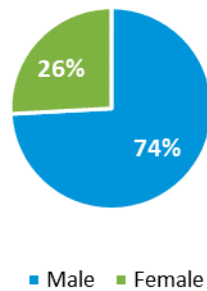
Deaths by Age, 2020¹

The rate of fatal drowning was highest among children ages 1–4 years.



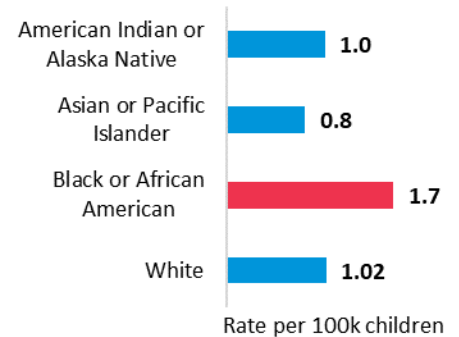
Deaths by Sex, 2020¹

Males made up a larger proportion of fatal drownings than females among children.



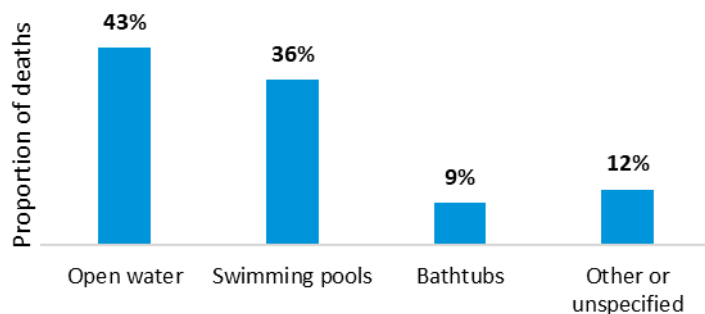
Deaths by Race, 2017–2020¹

The rate of a fatal drowning was highest among Black/African American children.



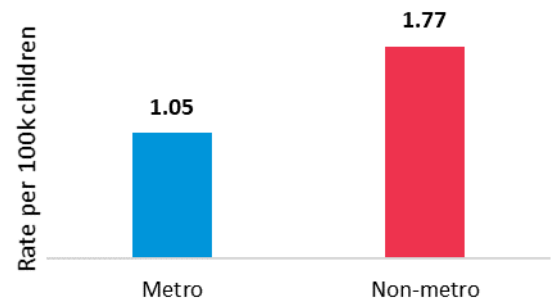
Deaths by Setting, 2020¹

Fatal drowning among children most frequently occurred in open water and swimming pools.



Deaths by Geographical Area, 2020¹

The rate of fatal drowning was 1.7 times higher among children living in non-metro areas compared to metro areas.



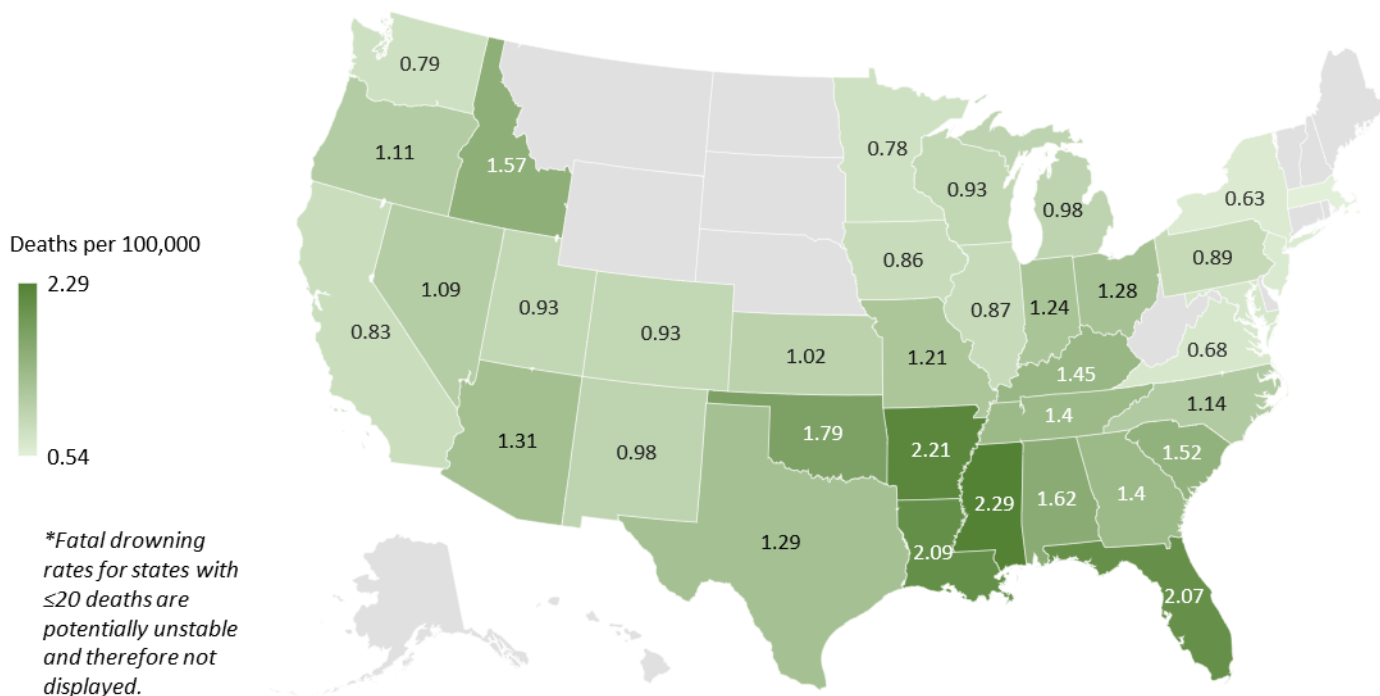
Cost of Drowning, 2020³

The economic costs of fatal and nonfatal drownings among children was estimated to be \$16.92 billion in 2020, with fatal drownings accounting for 94 percent of total costs.

Cost	Fatal	Nonfatal		Combined (row)
		ER Treated and Released	Hospitalization	
Medical	\$19.04 million	\$21.68 million	\$68.42 million	\$109.14 million
Work Loss	--	\$6.42 million	\$19.42 million	\$25.85 million
Quality of Life Loss	--	\$557.12 thousand	\$969.90 million	\$970.46 million
Value of Statistical Life	\$15.13 billion	--	--	\$15.13 billion
Combined (column)	\$15.15 billion	\$28.66 million	\$1.06 billion	\$16.24 billion

Rate of Fatal Drownings by State, 2017–2020*¹

The rate of fatal drowning among children was higher in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana.



Notes and References

¹Data on fatal drownings retrieved from the CDC Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER) system.

²Data on nonfatal drownings were retrieved from the CDC Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS).

³Population estimates used to calculate rates were retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Cost of injury data were calculated using 2020 data within the WISQARS Cost of Injury Data application and includes unintentional injuries that were serious enough to require an ED visit. Total combined costs are likely underestimated, as WISQARS cost estimates do not include ED treatment costs for injured children who were hospitalized.