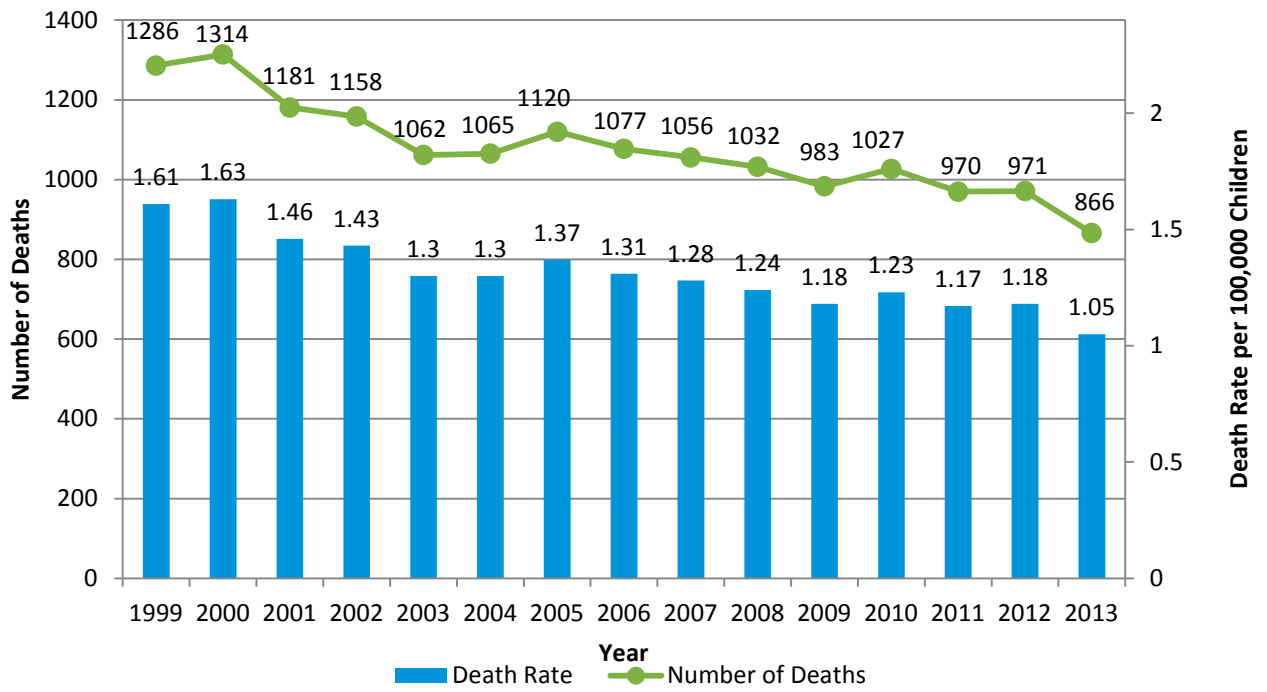


Swimming and Boating Safety Fact Sheet (2015)

Fatalities

- 866 children ages 19 and under drowned in 2013.¹
 - 48% of children (416) who drowned were ages 4 and under.¹
 - 76% of children (654) who drowned were boys.¹

1999-2013 Drowning Fatalities and Death Rate Among Children Ages 19 and Under



Death Rate per 100,000 Children

Injuries

- 4,197 children ages 19 and under were seen in emergency rooms for injuries from near-drowning in 2013.¹

Additional Statistics

- Swimming pools are the most common site for a drowning to occur among children ages 4 and under.²
- About three-quarters of pool submersion deaths occur at a home.³
- The majority of infant (less than 1 year old) drowning deaths happen in bathtubs or large buckets.⁴



- African-American children have the highest rate of drowning fatalities (1.61 per 100,000), followed by American Indian/Alaska Native (0.98 per 100,000). The rate of drowning fatalities among African-American children ages 5-14 years old is 2.8 times greater than the rate among white children.¹
- The use of specially-made drain covers, safety vacuum-release systems, multiple filter pumps and other pressure-venting pool filter mechanisms can reduce the risk of entrapment.⁴
- According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, an average of 12 children under age 10 died in inflatable pools each year from 2003-2005. Because of their flexible and low sides, it may be easier for a child to climb inside of an inflatable pool.^{5,6}
- In 2013, 77% of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those who drowned, 84% were not wearing a life jacket.⁷
- In 2013, 22 children ages 12 and under died while boating. Eight of these children died from drowning, and five of those children were not wearing a life jacket as required by state and federal law.⁷
- 20% of boating deaths of all ages occurred on boats where the operator had received boating safety instruction in 2013.⁷
- The U.S. Coast Guard requires that all children under age 13 wear a personal flotation device while on a recreational vessel.⁸ Forty-eight states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have some form of legislation that requires children to wear PFDs.⁹
- It is estimated that half of all drowning events among recreational boaters from 2000 to 2006 could have been prevented if personal flotation devices were worn.¹⁰

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- ¹⁰ Cummings P, Mueller BA, Quan L. Association between wearing a personal floatation device and death by drowning among recreational boaters: a matched cohort analysis of United States Coast Guard data. *Inj Prev*. 2011; 17: 156-159.

Last updated February 2015. If you have a question about this factsheet, please call 202-662-0600.

