

# The Facts about Kids and the Danger of Drowning

## THE PROBLEM

Almost 800 children drown in the U.S. every year.

800

Two thirds of these deaths occur during May – August.

### Drowning Risk Varies by Age



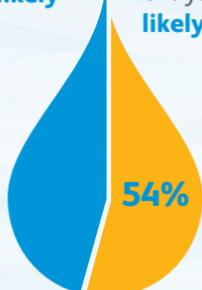
<1 year olds are **more likely to drown at home**



1-4 year olds are **more likely to drown in a pool**



5-17 year olds are **more likely to drown in natural water**



More than half of all child drowning deaths are among children ages 0 to 4.

## PARENTS' MISCONCEPTIONS



### MISCONCEPTION 1

Nearly half of parents surveyed think that if a child was drowning nearby, they would hear it.

### Reality

**Drowning is silent.** There can be very little splashing, waving or screaming.



### MISCONCEPTION 2

1 out of 3 parents have left a child alone in a pool for two or more minutes.

### Reality

**Drowning is quick.** Once a child begins to struggle, you may have less than a minute to react.



### MISCONCEPTION 3

More than half of parents surveyed think that when present, a lifeguard is the primary person responsible for their child's supervision at the pool.

### Reality

**Watching your child in the water is your responsibility.** A lifeguard's job is to enforce rules, scan, rescue and resuscitate.



### MISCONCEPTION 4

60 percent of parents surveyed would not worry as much about drowning if their child has had swim lessons.

### Reality

**Swim lessons are essential, but skill level varies.** A review of children who drowned in a pool revealed that 47 percent of 10 – 17 year olds reportedly knew how to swim.

## WATER SURVIVAL SKILLS

### 5 Survival Skills That Could Save Your Life in the Water



**1** Step or jump into water over your head and return to the surface.



**2** Float or tread water for one minute.



**3** Turn around in a full circle and find an exit from the water.



**4** Swim 25 yards to the exit.



**5** Exit from the water. If in a pool, be able to exit without using the ladder.

## WATER SAFETY TIPS



- Watch your kids when they are in and around water, without distraction.
- Teach children to swim and the 5 Water Survival Skills.
- Learn CPR and basic rescue skills.
- Make sure pools have four-sided fencing at least 4 feet high.