

## Drowning in America

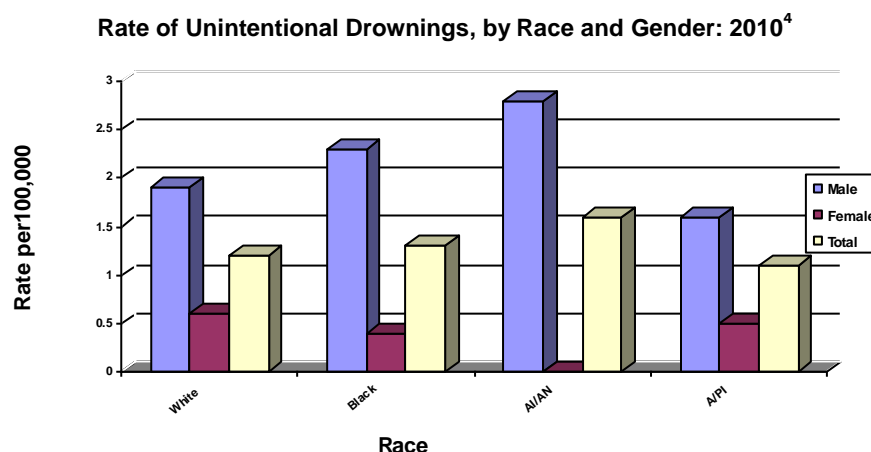
- Drowning accounts for nearly 4,000 deaths per year.<sup>1</sup>
- Drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
- From 2005-2009, unintentional fatal drownings averaged 10 people per day.<sup>1</sup>
- Children between the ages of 1 and 4 have the highest death rate due to drowning.<sup>1</sup>
- For every 5 children under the age of 14 who must receive emergency care for submersion-related injuries, 1 child dies.<sup>1</sup>
- Drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death for children between the ages of 1 and 14.<sup>1</sup>
- Alcohol use was present in an estimated 70% of all fatal drownings involving adolescents and adults.<sup>1</sup>

### Where do drownings occur?

- Nearly 63% of infants less than 1 year old drowned in bathtubs.<sup>3</sup>
- Children between the ages of 1 and 4 typically drown in residential swimming pools.<sup>2</sup>
- More than half of all fatal drowning occurred in natural bodies of water.<sup>2</sup>
  - As Children get older, drownings in natural water settings increase.

### By sex and race...

- Males account for nearly 80% of all fatal drownings in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
- The drowning death rate among males is nearly 4 times the rate for females.<sup>2</sup>
- The drowning death rate for African-Americans is 9% higher than the rate for the overall population.<sup>2</sup>
  - It is thought that, as African Americans may participate less in water-related activities, their drowning rates (per exposure) may actually be higher than what is currently reported.<sup>3</sup>
- The following graph shows the age-adjusted rate for drownings of whites, blacks, American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (A/PI):



<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Unintentional Drowning: Get the Facts* [online]. Home and Recreational Safety. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreational/safety/water-safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html>

<sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Drowning—United States, 2005-2009* [online]. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6119a4.htm?s\\_cid=mm6119a4\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6119a4.htm?s_cid=mm6119a4_w)

<sup>3</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Fatal Unintentional Drowning Among Persons Aged <29 Years—United States, 1999-2010* [online]. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6319a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6319a2\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6319a2.htm?s_cid=mm6319a2_w)

<sup>4</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Deaths: Final Data for 2010* [online]. National Vital Statistics Reports 61 (4). [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61\\_04.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_04.pdf)