

Drowning Fact Sheet:

Key statistics:

- *Males:* In 1995, drowning rates for every age group were almost four times greater for males than for females.¹
- *Children:* Drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death for children (aged 1 through 19 years) and the second leading cause of death for children aged 0-4 years.¹
- *Blacks:* In 1993, the overall drowning rate for blacks was twice that for whites. Among children aged 1 through 4 years, the drowning rate for whites was twice the rate for blacks, largely because of drownings in residential swimming pools. For children aged 5 through 19 years, the drowning rate for blacks was 2 to 4 times the rate for whites.^{1,5}

Compiled by the Men's Health Network : Washington, D.C. : www.menshealthnetwork.org

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/drown.htm> (downloaded 4-18-99)

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC)

Drowning Fact Sheet (excerpts)

How large is the problem of drowning in the United States?

- In 1995, about 4,300 people drowned, and drownings ranked 7th among all injury-related causes of deaths after motor vehicle crashes, suicide, homicide, poisonings, and falls.¹
- In 1992, the U.S. Coast Guard had reports of 6,000 crashes involving recreational boats, which resulted in 3,700 injuries and 816 deaths.²

Which groups of people are more likely to drown?

- *Children:* Drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death for children (aged 1 through 19 years), accounting for 1,502 deaths in 1995. For children aged 0-4 years, drowning is the second leading cause of death.¹
- *Males:* In 1995, drowning rates for every age group were almost four times greater for males than for females.¹
- *Blacks:* In 1993, the overall drowning rate for blacks was twice that for whites; however, the rate was not higher for all age groups. For example, among children aged 1 through 4 years, the drowning rate for whites was twice the rate for blacks, largely because of drownings in residential swimming pools. For children aged 5 through 19 years, the drowning rate for blacks was 2 to 4 times the rate for whites.^{1,5}

Which age groups are most affected by diving-related injuries and death?

Most deaths involving diving occur among people aged 15 through 39 years, with the largest ratio (14.8%) occurring among people in the 30-39 age group. Many diving-related incidents result in spinal cord injury. Alcohol use appears to be a contributing factor in many diving-related injuries and deaths.

Where do drownings occur most often?

Swimming pools. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), each year emergency departments report about 500 drownings and 3,000 near-drownings in residential swimming pools among children younger than 5 years old. About 60% to 90% of drownings among children aged 0-4 years occur in residential pools and more than half of these drownings occur at the child's own home. According to CPSC, in-ground pools without complete fencing are 60% more likely to involve drowning than are pools with fencing.

References

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 4. Howland J, Hingson R. Alcohol as a risk factor for drownings: a review of the literature (1950-1985). *Accid Anal Prev* 1988;20:19-25.
 5. Unintentional injuries: the problems and some preventive strategies. In: IL Livingston (Ed). *Handbook of Black American Health: The Mosaic of Conditions, Issues, Policies and Prospects*. Westport, CT: Greenwood 1994.
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