At A Glance

- Drowning is the leading cause of injury death among children ages 1–4 in Florida.
- Florida's drowning death rate among children ages 1–4 is the highest in the nation.
- Enough children drown each year in Florida to fill three to four preschool classrooms.
- In 2012, 440 Florida residents drowned. There were an additional 343 hospitalizations for non-fatal drownings. Children 1–4 make up 13% of the deaths and 44% of the hospitalizations.

Economic Impact

In 2012:

- The median admission charge for non-fatal drowning hospitalizations was $16,034; total charges exceeded $16 million. The median length of stay was two days.
- Medicaid was the payer source for 50% of these hospitalizations.
Who Is Injured?

In 2012:

- Children ages 1–4 had the highest rates of drowning and non-fatal drowning hospitalization.
- The fatal drowning and non-fatal hospitalization rates among males were 2.2 higher than among females.

Males accounted for 72% of drowning deaths and non-fatal drowning hospitalizations combined while females accounted for only 28%.

White residents accounted for 69% of drowning deaths and non-fatal drowning hospitalizations combined. Black residents accounted for 21% and Other Non-White residents accounted for 9%.

Drowning Deaths and Non-Fatal Hospitalizations, by Sex and Race, Florida Residents, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Other Non-White</th>
<th>Both Sexes, All Races</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Fatal Hospitalizations</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some records have unknown sex or race; categories may not add up to total.
In 2012:
- The fatal drowning and non-fatal hospitalization rates among Hispanic and Non-Hispanic residents as well as Black residents were very similar.
- Other Non-White residents had the highest non-fatal drowning rates.

### Location Of Fatal Drownings
- Florida residents under the age of 5 were most likely to drown in a swimming pool.
- Florida residents ages 5–9 were most likely to drown in a natural/open body of water.

In 2012:
- 56% of drowning victims under the age of 5 drowned in a swimming pool (38), 6% in a bathtub (4), and 15% in natural/open water (10).
- 33% of drowning victims ages 5–9 drowned in natural/open water (3), and 11% drowned in a swimming pool (1).
- 27% of drowning victims ages 10 and older drowned in natural/open water (98), and 16% in a swimming pool (58).
When Do Drownings Occur?

- In Florida, drowning happen year round; however, most fatal and non-fatal drowning combined occur during the spring and summer.
- In 2012, 68% of drowning deaths and non-fatal hospitalizations combined occurred during the months of April through September.

Intent Of Drownings

97% of drowning deaths and non-fatal hospitalizations combined were unintentional, 2% were suicides or suicide attempts, and 1% was undetermined.

Unintentional drowning does not mean unpreventable drowning. According to the 2012 Florida Child Abuse Death Review Report, the leading cause of verified child abuse/neglect deaths in Florida was drowning. The State Committee reviewed 32 verified child neglect cases involving drowning.

Prevention Tips And Resources

- Install four-sided isolation fencing with a self-closing and self-latching gate around pools and spas.
- Install alarms on all doors and windows leading to the pool.
- Learn to swim and never swim alone or while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) while participating in open water sports and recreation.
- Operate watercraft safely and legally.
- Never dive into water less than nine feet deep. If you don’t know, don’t dive.
- Learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).
- National Drowning Prevention Alliance: [www.ndpa.org](http://www.ndpa.org)

Data Sources and Case Definitions


Non-Fatal Drowning Hospitalizations: Agency for Health Care Administration, Hospital Discharge Data; Records with Injury Principal Diagnosis and Drowning External Cause of Injury Code ICD-9 CM E830, E832, E910, E954, E964, E984; or Any Drowning Diagnosis ICD-9 CM 994.1.
County By County Comparison: Non-Rural Counties

Drowning Deaths and Non-Fatal Hospitalizations, Florida Residents of Non-Rural Counties, 2012

Age-Adjusted Rate/100,000 Population
- 0 - 2
- 3
- 4 - 5
- 6
- 7

Frequency
- 0 - 6
- 7 - 14
- 15 - 30
- 31 - 48
- 49 or Greater
*Rural* — An area with a population density of less than 100 individuals per square mile, or an area defined by the most recent United States Census as rural.