

**Florida Toddler Pool Drowning Deaths – Summary of Consumer Product Safety
Commission (CPSC) Case Series Study Completed October 2006+++**

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+++ This study was based on data obtained from epidemiologic investigations conducted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The case series is not a complete representation of all cases, but includes those that were investigated by CPSC. Analysis was conducted by the authors and therefore, any findings and conclusions are those of the authors and should not be construed as supported or endorsed by the CPSC.

- The study included 58 deaths from 2003 to 2006. Data abstracted from CPSC epidemiologic investigations with multiple data sources (law enforcement, medical examiners, survivor families, etc).
- All deaths were classified as “accidental drownings” or “complications from drowning” in pools.
- Ages ranged from 9 months – 61 months (median age 24.5 months). Sixty-seven percent were male. Sixty-two percent were White Non-Hispanic; 24% Black Non-Hispanic; 10 % were Hispanic. Ninety-one percent were Florida residents.
- All drownings occurred in residential pools, 81% of which were in-ground pools.
- In 55% of events, parents were the residence owner, with 12% of events each occurring at either the home of grandparents or aunts/uncles.
- Drowning deaths in this case series did not demonstrate a typical seasonal pattern perhaps due to the year-round proximity. The largest number of drowning deaths occurred in the months of April, May and July which each had 8 deaths (14% each). The fewest number occurred in June, September and December with 2 deaths each (3.4% each).
- While drowning events occurred on every day of the week, Sunday had the largest number of events (33%) while Tuesday and Friday had the smallest number of events (7% each).
- Ninety-three percent of events occurred between the hours of 9:00 am and 9:00 pm, with the peak number of events (26%) occurring between 12 noon and 3:00 pm.
- In 69% of deaths the child was last seen inside the house. In 10% of events the child was last seen in the pool or patio area prior to the drowning.
- The primary caregiver at the time in over half the events was either the mother (33%) or father (15.5%) or both (7%). Juveniles under age 18 were the primary caregivers in 7% of events.
- The main barrier breached to reach the pool in 71% of events was a door including sliding glass doors, French doors, and other house doors leading to the pool area.
- For 83% of drownings, the median amount of time the child was estimated to have been missing was 11-12 minutes.
- In 76% of drownings, death occurred within 24 hours of event.

- Most drownings occurred while caregiver was engaged in some type of routine activity within the home (in the bathroom, cooking/eating, talking, watching TV/reading, etc.).
- Alcohol and drugs were not determined to be a factor in any of the events.
- Seventeen percent of homes in this study had hurricane damage, but this was not a direct causal factor in any of the drownings.