

NATIONAL DROWNING STATISTICS

- **Drowning is the leading cause of death for infants and young children in 18 states** and, nationally, ranks 2nd only to automobile accidents, claiming lives of approximately 4,000 children each year and leaving another 12,000 with some form of permanent brain damage.
 - Drowning is the second-leading cause of injury-related death among children under the age of 15. (*U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*)
 - Consumer Product Safety Commission reports 360 children die each year from drowning, and because; 1. Drowning is not a physician reportable phenomenon and 2. If the child does not die within the first 24 hours of the submersion incident, it does not get listed as a death by drowning. They artificially deflate numbers giving parents a false sense of security. Insurance companies report 1,000 deaths and the medical literature up to 4,000 children die each year from drowning.
 - A swimming pool is 14 times more likely than a motor vehicle to be involved in the death of a child age 4 and under. (*Orange County California Fire Authority*)
 - **Children under five and adolescents between the ages of 15-24 have the highest drowning rates.** (*U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*)
 - An estimated 5,000 children ages 14 and under are hospitalized due to unintentional drowning-related incidents each year; 15 percent die in the hospital and as many as 20 percent suffer severe, permanent neurological disability. (*National Safety Council and Foundation for Aquatic Injury Prevention*)
 - **Of all preschoolers who drown, 70 percent are in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning** and 75 percent are missing from sight for five minutes or less. (*Orange County, CA, Fire Authority*)
 - The majority of children who survive (92 percent) are discovered within two minutes following submersion, and most children have slowly declined (*Branche 1999*), fatal drowning remains the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14 years (*CDC 2005*).
 - Minorities: Between 2000 and 2004, the fatal unintentional drowning rate for African Americans overall was 1.3 times that of whites. However, in certain age groups it was even higher. For example, the fatal unintentional drowning rate for 5-14 year old African Americans was 3.2 times higher than that for whites.
 - Between 2000 and 2004, the fatal unintentional drowning rate overall for American Indians and Alaskan Na-
- tives was 1.8 times that of whites. In American Indian and Alaskan Native children 5-14 years old, it was 2.6 times higher than that of whites.
 - **Children aged 1-4 are most likely to drown in hot tubs, spas and swimming pools.**
 - Children aged 5-14 most often drown in swimming pools and open water such as rivers, lakes, dams and canals.
 - In 10 states - **Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington** - drowning surpasses all other causes of death to children age 14 and under. Children who die (86 percent) are found after 10 minutes. Nearly all who require cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) die or are left with severe brain injury. (*CDC*)
 - In 2000, there were 3,482 unintentional drownings in the United States, an average of nine people per day. (*U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*)
 - It is estimated that for each drowning death, there are 1 to 4 nonfatal submersions serious enough to result in hospitalization. Children who still require cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the time they arrive at the emergency department have a poor prognosis, with at least half of survivors suffering significant neuralgic impairment. (*American Academy of Pediatrics*)
 - **19 percent of drowning deaths involving children occur in public pools with certified lifeguards present.**
 - Children: In 2004, of all children 1-4 years old who died, 26% died from drowning (*CDC 2006*). Although drowning rates have slowly declined (*Branche 1999*), fatal drowning remains the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14 years (*CDC 2005*).



58 percent of parents do not consider drowning a threat to their children.

(*Safe Kids Coalition*)