**DROWNING DANGERS FOR KIDS**

**Spotlight on Open Water**

**CHILDHOOD DROWNING OVERALL**

- 973 children drowned in 2021
- 6,500 more went to ER
- 144 families impacted per week

**CHILDREN AND TEENS DROWN IN OPEN WATER ABOUT AS OFTEN AS IN POOLS**

- Open water: 39%
- Pools: 39%
- Bathtubs: 10%
- Other: 12%

**OPEN WATER FATALITIES**

**BY AGE**

- 0 – 4 yrs.: 17%
- 5 – 9 yrs.: 16%
- 10 – 14 yrs.: 17%
- 15 – 19 yrs.: 50%

**BY GENDER**

- Male: 81%
- Female: 19%

**BY RACE (PER 1,000,000)**

- White children (3.9)
- American Indian/Alaskan Native children (4.7)
- Black/African American children (7.7)

**HIDDEN HAZARDS OF OPEN WATER**

- Dangerous currents
- Sudden drop-offs
- Limited visibility
- Depth of water
- Rocks and vegetation
- Cold temperatures
- Difficult-to-judge distances

**Tips to Keep Your Kids Safe**

- Watch kids in and around water without being distracted.
- Teach kids how to swim in open water, which is different from swimming in a pool.
- Use a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket appropriate for the child’s weight and water activity.
- Learn what to do in an emergency without putting yourself at risk for drowning.


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