



United States

**Consumer Product Safety Commission**

# **Pool or Spa Submersion: Estimated Nonfatal Drowning Injuries and Reported Drownings, 2026 Report**

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*This report was prepared by the CPSC staff.  
It has not been reviewed or approved by,  
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# Executive Summary

This report provides annual estimates of the number of emergency department-treated, pool- or spa<sup>1</sup>-related, nonfatal drownings or submersion injuries<sup>2</sup> that occurred between 2023 and 2025 involving children younger than 15 years of age. The report also sets forth the counts of reported pool- or spa-related fatal drownings or submersion fatalities<sup>3</sup> that happened between 2021 and 2023 to children younger than 15 years of age. In addition, the report also highlights the subset of drowning injuries and fatalities involving children younger than 5 years of age, excluding cases involving suction entrapment.<sup>4</sup> The time periods for the injury estimates and the fatality statistics presented in this report differ due to a lag in fatality reporting.

There were, on average, an estimated 5,900 pool- or spa-related, hospital emergency department (ED)-treated, nonfatal drowning injuries each year for 2023 through 2025, and 376 pool- or spa-related fatal drownings reported per year for 2021 through 2023, involving children younger than 15 years of age. Additionally, an annual average of 71 percent of the ED-treated nonfatal drowning injuries from 2023 through 2025, and 77 percent of the reported fatal drownings from 2021 through 2023, involved children younger than 5 years of age.

For children younger than 15 years old, from 2023 through 2025, 42 percent of the victims of estimated ED-treated pool or spa drowning injuries were either admitted to the hospital or treated and transferred to another hospital, compared to 4 percent of *all* consumer product-related, ED-treated injuries for this age group and time period.<sup>5</sup>

The total number of fatal drownings in 2023 (379 fatalities) was higher than the total number of fatal drownings in 2022 (359 fatalities).<sup>6</sup> For children younger than 5 years of age, the total number of fatal drownings in 2023 (297 fatalities), was also higher than the total number of fatal drownings in 2022 (285 fatalities).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The term “spa” is used to refer to spas and hot tubs.

<sup>2</sup> The term “submersion injury” is used instead of “nonfatal drowning” to maintain comparability with CPSC reports involving non-pool- or non-spa-related products or hazards.

<sup>3</sup> The term “submersion fatality” is used instead of “drowning” to maintain comparability with CPSC reports involving non-pool- or non-spa-related products or hazards. The periods for reported injury and fatality statistics differ due to a lag in fatality reporting. Incidents covered by this report were associated with a pool or spa, but the primary cause of the incident was not necessarily the pool or spa product.

<sup>4</sup> Note that circulation/suction entrapments in pools or spas are presented in a separate document: [“2014–2018 Reported Circulation/Suction Entrapment Incidents Associated with Pools, Spas, and Whirlpool Bathtubs, 2019 Report,” May 2019.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Source: U.S. CPSC: National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS).

<sup>6</sup> Yearly fatality counts reported here may differ from previous reports due to the ongoing nature of incident reporting. See the Appendix for more details.

# Emergency Department-Treated Injury Estimates

For 2023 through 2025, an estimated annual average of 5,900 children under 15 years of age were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments (EDs) for nonfatal injuries associated with pool or spa drownings. Estimates are shown in Table 1. Estimates are also provided for injured children younger than 5 years of age and children 5 to 14 years of age. Injury estimates are based on CPSC’s National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) data, where sampling weights are used to project the cases from NEISS hospitals to national estimates. For comparison, during the preceding three-year period (2022 through 2024), there were 6,300 children under 15 years of age and 4,600 children younger than 5 years of age treated in hospital emergency departments for nonfatal drowning injuries in pools or spas.

**Table 1**

**Estimated Number of ED-Treated Nonfatal Pool or Spa Drowning Injuries  
Children Younger than 15 Years of Age, 2023-2025**

| Year           | Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries |            |                       |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
|                | Younger than 5 Years                            | 5-14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| <b>Average</b> | 4,200                                           | 1,700      | 5,900                 |
| <b>2025</b>    | 4,200                                           | 2,000      | 6,200                 |
| <b>2024</b>    | 4,300                                           | 1,900      | 6,200                 |
| <b>2023</b>    | 4,100                                           | 1,100      | 5,200                 |

Source: U.S. CPSC: NEISS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.

Estimates for children under age 5 and ages 5 to 14 may not sum to the under-age-15 total due to rounding.

The estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred. Due to adjustment factors following a 2024 NEISS sampling change, estimates prior to 2024 may differ from previous reports.

Table 1 summarizes the estimated number of ED treated nonfatal pool or spa-related drowning injuries among children under 15 from 2023 to 2025. On average 71 percent of children treated in EDs for pool- or spa-related, nonfatal drowning injuries were under 5 years of age. Children younger than 5 years of age constituted an estimated 79, 69, and 68 percent of the childhood pool- or spa- related ED-treated injuries in 2023, 2024, and 2025, respectively.

Table 2 shows the percentages of the estimated totals for 2023 through 2025 that are associated with nonfatal pool or spa drowning injuries, by type of product. Spa-related drowning injuries constitute 5 percent of the estimated number of pool or spa ED-treated, nonfatal drowning injuries for children younger than 15 years of age, and 6 percent of the estimated number of pool or spa ED-treated, nonfatal drowning injuries for children younger than 5 years of age.

## Table 2

**Percent of Estimated ED-Treated Nonfatal Pool or Spa Drowning Injuries  
Children Younger than 15 Years of Age by Product Type, 2023-2025**

| Product Type | Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injury Percentages |            |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
|              | Younger than 5 Years                                      | 5-14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| <b>Pool</b>  | 94                                                        | 98         | 95                    |
| <b>Spa</b>   | 6                                                         | 2          | 5                     |
| <b>Total</b> | 100                                                       | 100        | 100                   |

Source: U.S. CPSC: NEISS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding or estimates of drowning injuries for children of unknown sex. In this table, 0 represents < 0.5%.

Table 3 shows the percentage of the estimated number of pool- or spa-related, nonfatal drowning injuries by sex. Overall, male children are more frequently treated for pool- or spa-related, nonfatal drowning injuries than female children. This is true of all injured children younger than 15, injured children between 5 and 14 years old, and injured children younger than 5 years of age.

## Table 3

**Percent of Estimated ED-Treated Nonfatal Pool or Spa Drowning Injuries  
Children Younger than 15 Years of Age by Sex, 2023-2025**

| Sex           | Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injury Percentages |            |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
|               | Younger than 5 Years                                      | 5-14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| <b>Male</b>   | 57                                                        | 56         | 57                    |
| <b>Female</b> | 43                                                        | 44         | 43                    |
| <b>Total</b>  | 100                                                       | 100        | 100                   |

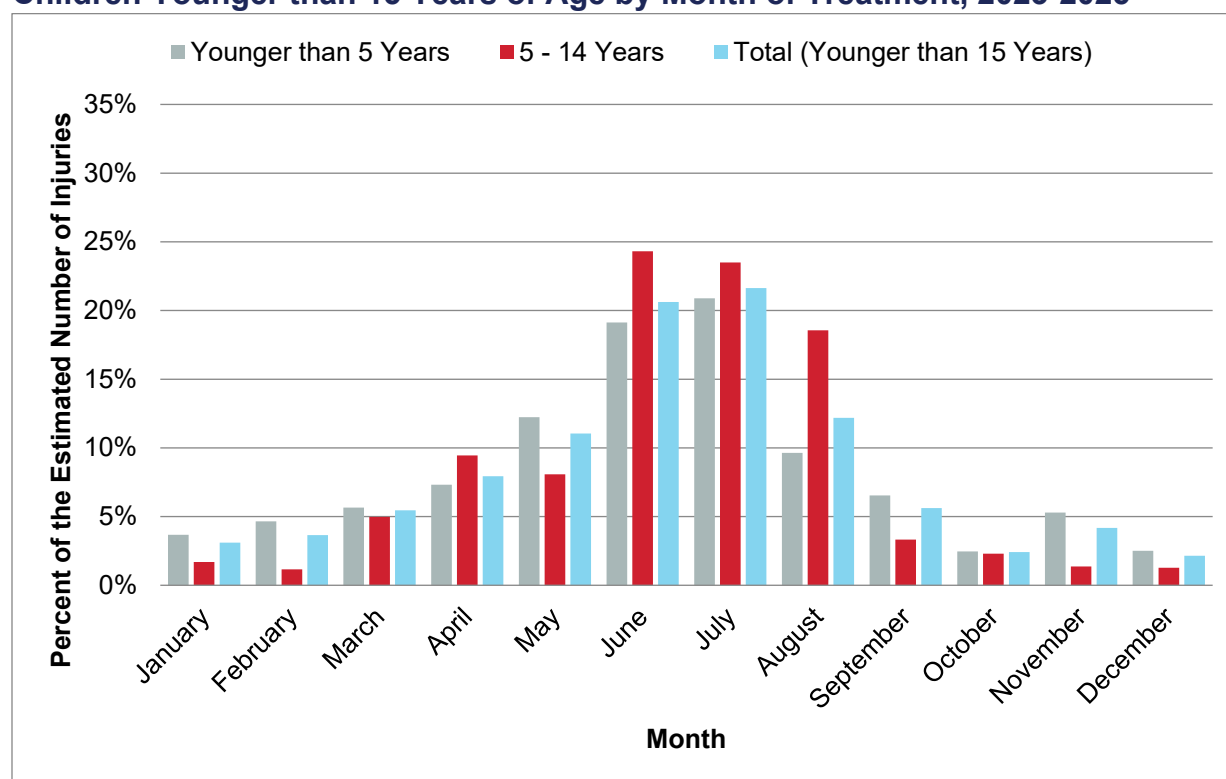
Source: U.S. CPSC: NEISS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding or estimates of drowning injuries for children of unknown sex.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly distribution of the percentages of the estimated ED-treated, nonfatal drowning injuries for each age group. The months of May, June, July, and August consistently had the largest percentages in the younger-than-5-years-old and younger-than-15-years-old age groups. Among children between the ages of 5 and 14 years old, injuries peak in April, June, July and August.

## Figure 1

### Percent of Estimated ED-Treated Nonfatal Pool or Spa Drowning Injuries Children Younger than 15 Years of Age by Month of Treatment, 2023-2025



Source: U.S. CPSC: NEISS.

Figure 2 plots the percentage of the estimated number of ED-treated, pool- or spa-related, nonfatal drowning injuries by victims' age. It comprises children younger than 1 year of age at 3 percent, children between the ages of 1 and 3 years (12 to 47 months) at 56 percent, children 4 years of age (48 to 59 months) at 12 percent, and children between the ages of 5 to 9 and 10 to 14 years old at 21 and 8 percent, respectively.

## Figure 2

### Percent of Estimated ED-Treated Nonfatal Pool or Spa Drowning Injuries by Age Children Younger than 15 Years of Age, 2023-2025



Source: U.S. CPSC: NEISS.



Table 4 breaks down the estimated ED-treated pool or spa drowning injuries by disposition. From 2023 through 2025, children younger than 15 years of age were admitted to the hospital, or treated and transferred to another hospital, 42 percent of the time. In 2025 specifically, children younger than 15 years of age were admitted to the hospital, or treated and transferred to another hospital, 37 percent of the time. In contrast, for *all* consumer product-related, ED-treated injuries to children younger than 15 years of age, only 4 percent of them were admitted to the hospital or treated and transferred.<sup>5</sup> For Dead on Arrival (DOA), or Died in Emergency Department percentages, drowning victims younger than 5 years of age composed most of all child drownings (see Table 6). The deaths recorded in NEISS are also included in the fatality count in the section on reported fatalities discussed later in this report.

## Table 4

**Percent of Estimated ED-Treated Pool or Spa Drowning Injuries  
Children Younger than 15 Years of Age by Disposition, 2023-2025**

| Disposition                         | Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injury Percentages |            |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
|                                     | Younger than 5 Years                                      | 5–14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| Examined or Treated and Released    | 54                                                        | 54         | 54                    |
| Admitted to Hospital                | 33                                                        | 32         | 33                    |
| Treated and Transferred             | 9                                                         | 11         | 9                     |
| DOA or Died in Emergency Department | 3                                                         | 2          | 3                     |
| Held for Observation                | 1                                                         | 1          | 1                     |
| Left Without Being Seen             | 0                                                         | 0          | 0                     |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>100</b>                                                | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b>            |

Source: U.S. CPSC: NEISS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.  
Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding: In this table, 0 represents < 0.5%.

Table 5 shows the percentages of the estimated number of injuries for each age group by the location of the drowning incident. Overall, 36 percent of the incidents involving injuries that led to ED visits occurred at a residence. For injured children younger than 5 years of age, 40 percent of injuries occurred in residential locations while 23 percent of incidents occurred in public locations. Conversely, for injured children 5 to 14 years of age, 41 percent of incidents occurred in public locations. In 2025 alone, for all children younger than 15 years of age, 33 percent of the incidents involving ED-treated injuries occurred at a residence, a decrease of 5 percent points from 2024 (38%).

## Table 5

### Percent of Estimated ED-Treated Nonfatal Pool or Spa Drowning Injuries Children Younger than 15 Years of Age by Location, 2023-2025

| Location             | Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injury Percentages |            |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
|                      | Younger than 5 Years                                      | 5–14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| Residential          | 40                                                        | 25         | 36                    |
| Undisclosed Location | 36                                                        | 34         | 36                    |
| Public               | 23                                                        | 41         | 28                    |
| Total                | 100                                                       | 100        | 100                   |

Source: U.S. CPSC: NEISS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.  
Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

## Reported Fatalities<sup>7</sup>

On average, 376 fatalities associated with pool or spa drownings involving children younger than 15 years of age were reported annually from 2021 through 2023. The years for the injury estimates in the previous section and the fatality statistics presented in this section differ due to a lag in fatality reporting.

Reported fatality frequencies by year and age category are shown in Table 6. Seventy-seven percent of the victims of the reported pool- or spa-related, childhood drowning fatalities were younger than 5 years of age. As noted in the NEISS injury estimates section, victims in this age category also accounted for an average of 71 percent of the childhood drowning injuries related to pools or spas between 2023 and 2025. Cases in NEISS that were classified as DOA, or died in the ED, are included in fatality case counts for their respective years (in addition to their inclusion in the ED injury estimates).

The 1,113 reported fatal drowning incidents involving children under the age of 15 from 2021 through 2023 resulted in the deaths of 1,128 children. Of those fatal incidents 1,090 (98 percent of the incidents) involved a single victim under the age of 15, 15 incidents involved two victims under the age of 15, 6 incidents involved one victim under the age of 15 (who was included in the fatality counts) plus additional victims who were 15 years of age or older, and therefore, excluded from the counts, and 1 incident involved two victims under the age of 15 plus an additional victim who was 15 years of age or older, and therefore, excluded from the counts.

### Table 6

**Drowning Deaths Reported to CPSC Staff Associated with Pools or Spas  
Children Younger than 15 Years of Age, 2021-2023**

| Year <sup>8</sup>          | Reported Fatality Frequencies |           |             |                       |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                            | Younger than 5 Years          | 5–9 Years | 10–14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| <b>Average<sup>9</sup></b> | 291                           | 63        | 22          | 376                   |
| <b>2023</b>                | 297                           | 60        | 22          | 379                   |
| <b>2022</b>                | 285                           | 54        | 20          | 359                   |
| <b>2021</b>                | 290                           | 75        | 25          | 390                   |
| <b>Totals 2021-2023</b>    | 872                           | 189       | 67          | 1,128                 |

Source: U.S. CPSC: CPSRMS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.

<sup>7</sup> The numbers of fatal drownings related to pools or spas presented in this section are based on all incidents reported to CPSC staff. These numbers are considered minimum counts only, derived from anecdotal data, and cannot be used to determine trends in the U.S. population.

<sup>8</sup> Since reporting is ongoing, the number of reported fatalities may change in the future.

<sup>9</sup> Row averages may not add to total, due to rounding.

Table 7 provides information on the interval between the drowning incident and the time of death for pool- or spa-related fatal drownings. In some instances, a great deal of time may lapse from the drowning incident to death, sometimes years. For most of the fatalities (70 percent), the date of death was either the same as the date of the incident or one day later. For children under 5 years old and children 5 to 9 years old, the percentage of children who died on the same day as the date of the incident or one day later was 70 and 74 percent, respectively. By contrast, for children 10 to 14 years old, the percentage of children who died on the same day as the date of the incident or one day later was somewhat lower (64 percent).

## Table 7

**Percentage of Drowning Deaths Reported to CPSC Staff with Pools or Spas  
Children Younger than 15 Years by Days Between Incident and Death, 2021-  
2023<sup>10</sup>**

| Days<br>Between<br>Incident &<br>Death | Percentage of Reported Fatalities |           |             |                       |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                                        | Younger than<br>5 Years           | 5–9 Years | 10–14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| 0 days                                 | 63                                | 66        | 57          | 63                    |
| 1 day                                  | 8                                 | 7         | 7           | 8                     |
| 2–7 days                               | 22                                | 21        | 30          | 22                    |
| 8–31 days                              | 5                                 | 4         | 6           | 5                     |
| > 31 days                              | 3                                 | 2         | -           | 2                     |
| <b>Total</b>                           | 100                               | 100       | 100         | 100                   |

Source: U.S. CPSC: CPSRMS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.

"-" denotes no data recorded.

Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding and refer to percentages within each age group.

<sup>10</sup> Note that the age at time of death is used to determine the appropriate age category. In most cases, the difference between the date of incident and date of death is not sufficient to change the age category. There were 26 fatalities where the difference was more than 31 days.

Most reported fatal drownings to children younger than 15 years old occurred in pools. A small number of fatal drownings to children younger than 15 years old were associated with spas (55). Children younger than 5 years of age accounted for 95 percent of the reported spa-related drowning deaths. Table 8 presents these percentages by product type.

## Table 8

### Percentage of Drowning Deaths Reported to CPSC Staff Associated with Pools or Spas Involving Children Younger than 15 Years by Product Type, 2021-2023

| Product      | Percentage of Reported Fatalities |           |             |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
|              | Younger than 5 Years              | 5–9 Years | 10–14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| <b>Pool</b>  | 94                                | 99        | 97          | 95                    |
| <b>Spa</b>   | 6                                 | 1         | 3           | 5                     |
| <b>Total</b> | 100                               | 100       | 100         | 100                   |

Source: U.S. CPSC: CPSRMS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.

"-" denotes no data recorded.

Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding and refer to percentages within each age group.

Table 9 gives the percentages of pool or spa related drowning deaths by age and sex. Across all age groups under age 15, there were more reported male drowning victims than reported female drowning victims. This is consistent with the injury data, which show that more male children were treated in emergency departments for pool- or spa-related drowning injuries.

## Table 9

### Percentage of Drowning Deaths Reported to CPSC Staff Associated with Pools or Spas Involving Children Younger than 15 Years of Age by Sex, 2021-2023

| Sex           | Percentage of Reported Fatalities |           |             |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
|               | Younger than 5 Years              | 5–9 Years | 10–14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| <b>Male</b>   | 65                                | 69        | 67          | 66                    |
| <b>Female</b> | 34                                | 31        | 33          | 34                    |
| <b>Total</b>  | 100                               | 100       | 100         | 100                   |

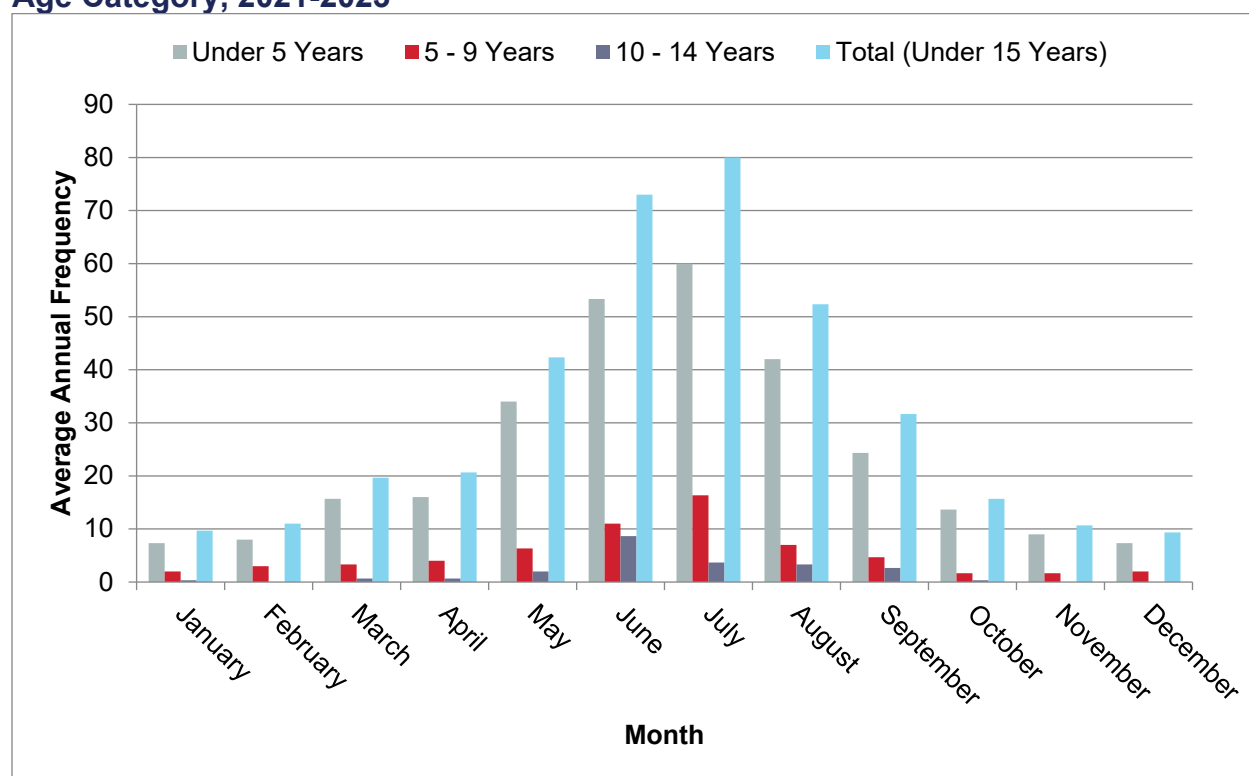
Source: U.S. CPSC: CPSRMS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.

Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding and refer to percentages within each age group.

Figure 3 illustrates the monthly distribution of reported pool- or spa-related childhood drownings categorized by age. While the U.S. summer months of May, June, July, and August had the largest annual fatality frequencies for children under 5 years old and children 5 to 9 years old, the largest annual fatality frequencies for children 10 to 14 years old occurred in June, July, August, but remain elevated into September.

## Figure 3

**Average Annual Drowning Deaths Reported to CPSC Staff Associated with Pools or Spas Involving Children Younger than 15 Years of Age by Month of Death and Age Category, 2021-2023**

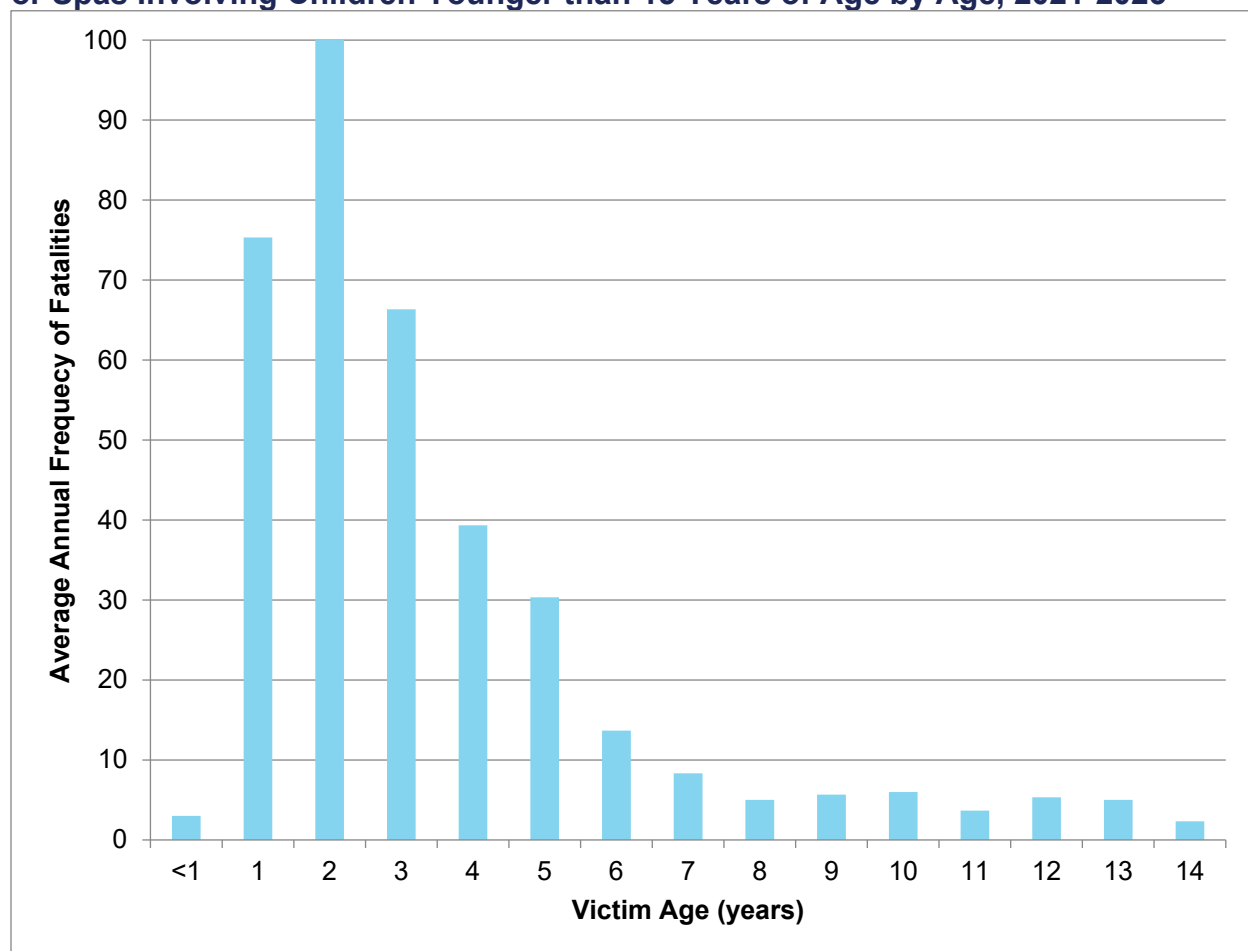


Source: U.S. CPSC: CPSRMS.

Figure 4 shows the annual average of reported pool or spa drownings in children younger than 15 years old as a frequency distribution of the victim's age. Children between the ages of 1 and 3 years (12 to 47 months) composed approximately 66 percent of the reported pool or spa drowning fatalities. The graph also shows a sharp decrease after age 2 (less than or equal to 35 months).

## Figure 4

**Average Annual Drowning Deaths Reported to CPSC Staff Associated with Pools or Spas Involving Children Younger than 15 Years of Age by Age, 2021-2023**



Source: U.S. CPSC: CPSRMS.

Table 10 records the percentages of reported pool or spa drownings by incident location. Most of the reported deaths (71 percent) occurred in residential settings, such as the victim’s home, the house of a family member/friend/acquaintance, or a neighbor’s residence. The victim’s own home accounts for the largest percentage (51 percent) of all location categories for victims younger than 15 years of age. For children 5 to 9 years of age and children 10 to 14 years of age, the public/community/business location accounted for the largest percentage of reported drownings of known locations.

## Table 10

**Percentage of Drowning Deaths Reported to CPSC Staff Associated with Pools or Spas Involving Children Younger than 15 Years of Age by Incident Location, 2021-2023**

| Location                                        | Percentage of Reported Fatalities |           |             |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                                                 | Younger than 5 Years              | 5–9 Years | 10–14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| Home                                            | 60                                | 22        | 21          | 51                    |
| Family/<br>Friend/<br>Acquaintance              | 19                                | 3         | 1           | 15                    |
| Neighbor                                        | 5                                 | 7         | 1           | 5                     |
| Public/<br>Community/<br>Business <sup>11</sup> | 8                                 | 35        | 40          | 15                    |
| Undisclosed Location                            | 8                                 | 33        | 36          | 14                    |
| Total                                           | 100                               | 100       | 100         | 100                   |

Source: U.S. CPSC: CPSRMS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.

Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding and refer to percentages within each age group.

<sup>11</sup> Condominium and apartment complex pools are included in this category.



Table 11 presents the percentages of reported fatal drownings by pool/spa type. The in-ground product type accounted for the largest percentage of known pool/spa types (52 percent for victims younger than 15). This was followed by the above-ground pool category, outside home (spa) category, and portable pool category for cases where pool/spa type was known.

## Table 11

**Percentage of Drowning Deaths Reported to CPSC Staff Associated with Pools or Spas Involving Children Younger than 15 Years of Age by Specific Pool/Spa Type Product Category, 2021-2023**

| Location                           | Percentage of Reported Fatalities |           |             |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                                    | Younger than 5 Years              | 5–9 Years | 10–14 Years | Younger than 15 Years |
| In-Ground (Pool Only)              | 53                                | 51        | 46          | 52                    |
| Undisclosed Pool/Spa Type          | 18                                | 44        | 45          | 24                    |
| Above-Ground (Pool Only)           | 19                                | 3         | 4           | 15                    |
| Outside Home (Spa Only)            | 5                                 | 1         | 3           | 4                     |
| Portable <sup>12</sup> (Pool Only) | 5                                 | 1         | 1           | 4                     |
| Inside Home (Spa Only)             | 1                                 | -         | -           | 0                     |
| <b>Total</b>                       | 100                               | 100       | 100         | 100                   |

Source: U.S. CPSC: CPSRMS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction.

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding and refer to percentages within each age group: In this table, 0 represents < 0.5%; “-” denotes no data recorded.

<sup>12</sup> A “portable pool” is defined as any pool that can be set up/taken down or moved to another location with relative ease.

Because the majority of reported fatal drowning victims involving children younger than 15 years of age were younger than 5 years of age, common scenarios for such children drowning in pools or spas (872 reported drownings) were classified in Table 12. The highest percentage of the reports (59 percent) attributed the incident to a gap in adult supervision (an adult losing contact or knowledge of the whereabouts of the child, and during that period, the child managed to access the pool/spa). Another common scenario—13 percent of the reports—involved observation of the victim close to the pool/spa, with the victim last seen in the pool/spa, or near the pool/spa, before the incident occurred. Ten percent of the reports indicated barrier compromise or circumvention. In 19 percent of the reports, there was insufficient information available to determine the scenario.

## Table 12

**Percentage of Drowning Deaths Reported to CPSC Staff Associated with Pools or Spas Children Younger than 5 Years of Age by Scenario, 2021-2023**

| Scenario                                                       | Percentage of Reported Fatalities for Pools and Spas |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lost Contact or Knowledge of Whereabouts</b>                | 59                                                   |
| <b>Not Enough Information to Determine Scenario</b>            | 19                                                   |
| <b>Observed Near Pool/Spa or In Pool/Spa Prior to Incident</b> | 13                                                   |
| <b>Barrier Integrity or Circumvented Barrier</b>               | 10                                                   |

Source: U.S. CPSC: CPSRMS. Appendix A details the methodology for data extraction. Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

## Appendix A

“Drowning” is defined as the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/immersion in liquid. Drowning outcomes can result in “death,” “no morbidity,” or “morbidity” (further categorized as “moderately disabled,” “severely disabled,” “vegetative state/coma,” and “brain death”).<sup>13</sup>

### Methodology for Pool or Spa Submersion: Estimated Nonfatal Drowning Injuries

Injury estimates came from NEISS data extracted on April 27, 2026, for calendar year 2025. The NEISS product codes used for the data were 3251 (Built-in pools), 3221 (Above-ground pools), 5043 (Portable pools), 1284 (Pools, not specified), 3274 (Swimming, activity) and 698 (Hot tubs and Spas). Diagnoses codes of 69 (Submersions), 65 (Anoxia), and 42 (Aspirated on) were also used, along with the age constraint of “children younger than 15 years of age,” to restrict the extracted data to the population of interest. Cases involving the activity of swimming were reviewed for potential inclusion in the data set. NEISS data from 2023 and 2024 were also used from last year’s report to cover the 2023 through 2025 timeframe. NEISS data are from a probability-based sample. Sampling weights are used to project the cases from NEISS hospital-treated injury cases to national estimates.<sup>14</sup> Because incidents in NEISS are unique, there were no duplicates.

The estimated numbers of emergency department-treated injuries are rounded to the nearest hundred. Because NEISS is a weighted sample, injury category percentages were based on the category weighted estimate (unrounded), divided by the total weighted estimate (unrounded), rounded to the nearest integer.

### Methodology for Pool or Spa Submersion: Reported Drownings

Data were extracted on March 24, 2026, from CPSC’s Consumer Product Safety Risk Management System (CPSRMS) for pool- or spa-related submersion deaths involving children younger than 15 years of age for the years 2021 to 2023. These data were merged with data from last year’s report for 2021 and 2022, to cover the 2021 through 2023 reporting period. It should be noted that for a given year, date of death was used to determine the appropriate year category. As incident reporting is ongoing, additional reports received for prior years are

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<sup>13</sup> CPSC avoids use of terms such as “near,” “wet,” “dry,” “active,” “passive,” “silent,” and “secondary” drowning when referring to submersion injuries and fatalities, in line with the AAP’s recommendations: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/126/1/178>.

<sup>14</sup> Due to a new sampling frame used for NEISS 2024-2025 estimated injury data, adjusted weights were retroactively used for 2023 data to account for these revisions and make them comparable to 2024 and 2025 estimates. For historical estimates prior to 2024, refer to [Pool or Spa Submersion: Estimated Nonfatal Drowning Injuries and Reported Drownings, 2024 Report](#).

updated in subsequent reports. For the most recent period, four incident reports in 2021 and fourteen incident reports in 2022 were received since publication of the last report and were updated in this one.<sup>15</sup>

Fatal incidents associated with product codes 3251 (Built-in pools), 3221 (Above-ground pools), 5043 (Portable pools), 1284 (Pools, not specified), 3274 (Swimming, activity), and 698 (Hot tubs and Spas) were examined for inclusion in counts. Information from these cases was extracted into an Excel spreadsheet and sorted by date and incident location. CPSRMS contains various types of submitted voluntary information, including reports from consumers through the public-facing component [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov), newspaper clippings, state/local authorities, medical examiners, advocacy groups, and national death certificates. However, because of the voluntary and anecdotal nature of these reports, staff cannot be sure that information on all the deaths has been received. Additionally, since pool drowning incidents are notable events in the community where they occur, there were often multiple news reports, a medical examiner's report, a death certificate, an in-depth investigation, and less frequently, a hospital emergency department report (NEISS) for a single incident. As a result, source documents were checked to eliminate duplicate incident reports.

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<sup>15</sup> [Pool or Spa Submersion: Estimated Nonfatal Drowning Injuries and Reported Drownings, 2025 Report](#)