

## Drownings Present a Serious Risk of Injury and Death

Drowning injuries and deaths affect Hoosiers across all ages and demographic groups. Drowning particularly impacts young children, as drowning is the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 1 and 4.<sup>1</sup> Drownings can occur in any body of water, including bathtubs, pools, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. Practicing water safety can reduce the risk of sustaining a drowning injury or death.

## Impact and Magnitude of Drowning

In 2023, more than 300 injuries were sustained in Indiana due to drowning or submersion, including 80 deaths (1.2 per 100,000), nine hospitalizations (0.1 per 100,000), and 241 ED visits (3.5 per 100,000).<sup>2</sup> Data are not available to calculate how many individuals with drowning injuries were treated in other settings or went untreated.



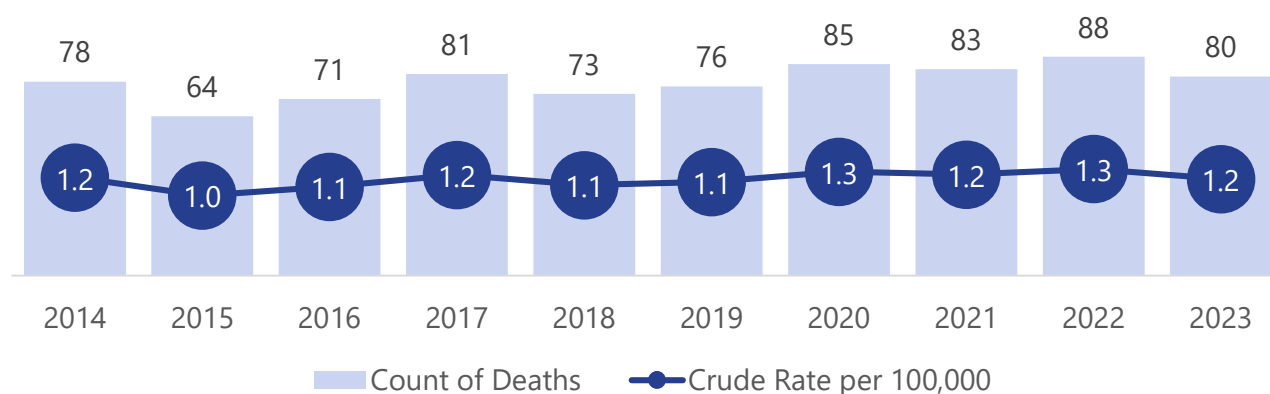
### Drowning Injuries in Indiana, 2023:

**80 deaths**  
**9 hospitalizations**  
**241 ED visits**

## Trends in Drowning Mortality

Indiana's rate of deaths due to drowning has remained stable over the previous 10 years, with an average of 78 deaths annually between 2014 and 2023.

**Figure 1. Drowning deaths, Indiana, 2014-2023**



<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online] [cited 2025 Feb 11]. Available from: [www.wisqars.cdc.gov](http://www.wisqars.cdc.gov)

<sup>2</sup> Injury deaths are from Indiana vital records. Hospitalization and ED visit data are from Indiana hospital discharge data. Deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits were calculated based on definitions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention available at: <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/128417>. Data presented in here include drownings that were unintentional or of undetermined intent. Drownings due to self-harm/suicide or assault/homicide are excluded.

## Drowning Location

In 2019-2023, the highest proportion of drownings among children ages 14 and younger occurred in pools (35%), followed by natural water (32%). Among adolescents and adults ages 15 and older, the highest proportion of drownings (41%) occurred in natural bodies of water, while a much smaller proportion occurred in pools or bathtubs when compared to data for younger children.

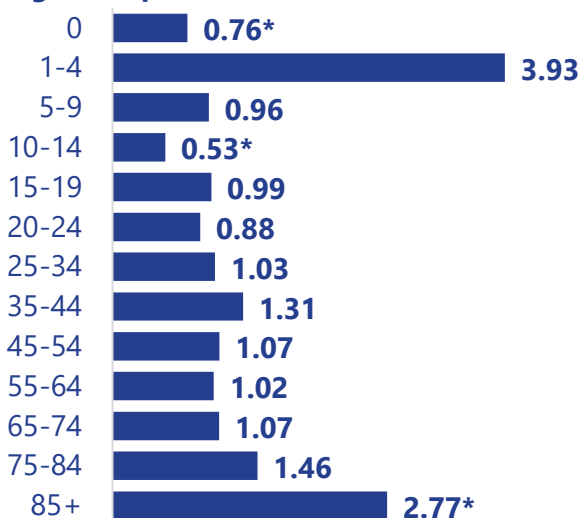
## Drowning Demographics

Children ages 1 to 4 had the highest rate of drowning deaths of any age group, followed by adults 85 years and older. Drowning rates were highest among non-Hispanic Black or African-American persons, followed by Hispanic persons. Males had a rate of drowning deaths more than twice the rate among females.

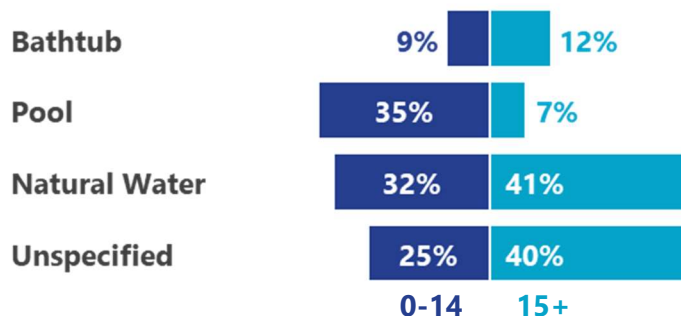
**Figure 3. Rate of drowning deaths by age, sex, and race/ethnicity,<sup>3</sup> 2019 to 2023**

(Crude rate per 100,000)

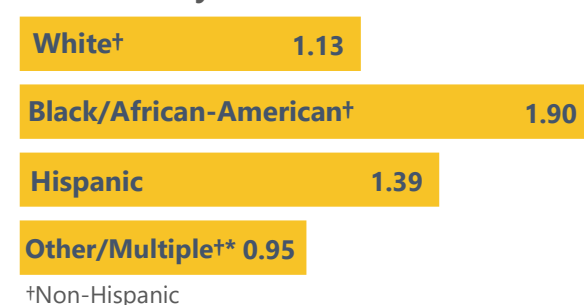
### Age Group



**Figure 2. Fatal drownings by location and age group, Indiana, 2019-2023**



### Race/Ethnicity



†Non-Hispanic

### Sex



\*Unstable rate (count <20)

## Drowning Prevention Resources

- IDOH injury prevention resources: <https://www.in.gov/health/trauma-system/injury-prevention/>
- CDC drowning prevention resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/prevention/index.html>
- CDC summer swim safety resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/prevention/summer-swim-safety.html>

<sup>3</sup> Due to changes in coding of decedent race in Indiana's vital records data between 2019 and 2023, drowning deaths by race/ethnicity are from CDC's [Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System \(WISQARS\)](https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/prevention/index.html). Data include only unintentional drowning deaths.

