



# National Center Quick-Look

## Drowning in a Camp, Scout, or Church Activity Setting

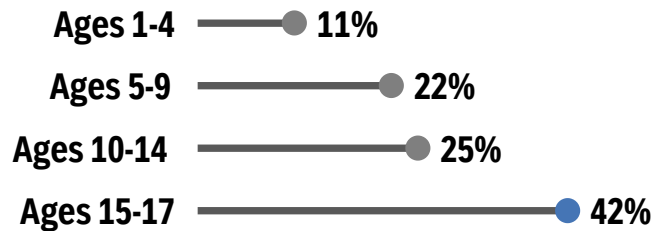
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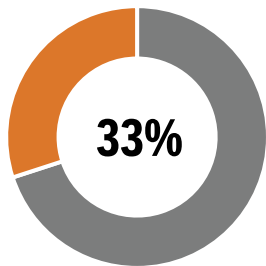
**72** From 2005-2023, fatality review teams reviewed 72 deaths from accidental drowning while at a day camp, summer camp, scout trip, or church group outing or trip as noted by the child death review (CDR) team.

### Four in ten children were **older youth ages 15-17 years old**.

In addition, 22% of children had a disability or chronic illness.



### **Black and male** children were overrepresented in these drowning deaths.



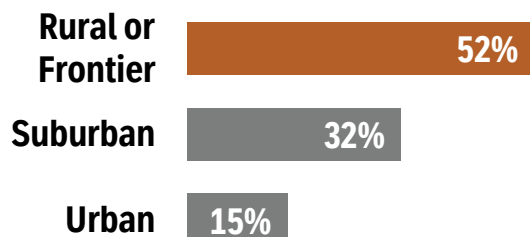
33% of these drowning deaths were among Black children. From 2005-2020, 17% of the total population ages 1-17 years old was Black.<sup>1</sup>

78% of these drowning deaths were among male children. From 2005-2020, 51% of the total population ages 1-17 years old was male.<sup>1</sup>



### More than half of incidents occurred in **rural or frontier** areas.

In addition, most incidents occurred between 12pm and 5pm (60%).



### Most of these drowning incidents occurred in **open water**.



74% of incidents occurred in open water, including lakes (49%), ponds (17%), and rivers (15%).



The remaining 26% of incidents occurred in in-ground pools.

1. United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Bridged-Race Population Estimates, Available on CDC WONDER Online Database. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/bridged-race-v2020.html>.

**Most incidents involved an emergency response, including a 911 call and attempted resuscitation.**

**Fewer than half involved safety factors, such as swimming ability, a lifeguard on duty, or barriers to prevent water access.**

911 called

90%

Resuscitation attempted

87%

Child able to swim

40%

Lifeguard present

40%

Barriers/layers of protection existed

14%

**Two-thirds of children were supervised during the incident.**

However, 44% of children ages 10-14 were identified as needing supervision.

See the National Center's [Supervision Guidance Report](#) for supervision recommendations.

**Most supervisors were not relatives of the child (86%).**

Supervisors were often camp counselors, chaperones, staff, lifeguards, youth group leaders, or childcare workers.



In addition, 30% of supervisors were indicated by the CDR team to be impaired or distracted at the time of the incident.



Supervised

67%

Should have been supervised

23%

Did not need supervision

11%

## Prevention Resources

American Camp Association's [Safety at Camp resources](#).



Association of Aquatic Professionals' [Aquatic Safety Resources for Camp Directors](#)



Safe Kids Worldwide's [Keeping Kids Safe in Open Water](#).



These data represent a smaller percent of deaths in the Pediatric National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System. [Read more about the data contained in this Quick-Look.](#)



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Contact us at [info@ncfrp.org](mailto:info@ncfrp.org).

Learn more about fatality review at [www.ncfrp.org](http://www.ncfrp.org).