Riverton County: Community Profile

*Fictitious Community & Data

Demographics

- Population: ~280,000 (24% under age 18)
- 41% White, 29% Black/AA, 18% Hispanic/Latino, 7% Asian/PI, 5% Indigenous
- Child poverty: 22% countywide; 38% in Eastside & Northgate
- Uninsurance: 11% overall; 19% in rural townships
- 23% speak primary language other than English at home
- Limited public transit connecting rural areas to Riverton City





PIER

Riverton County Drowning Data

Key Statistics (2018–2023)

- **17 total drowning deaths** among children ages 0–17
- Age: 0–4: 8 deaths | 5–12: 7 deaths | 13–17: 2 deaths
- **Black/AA children: 11 deaths (65%)** — 2.8x the countywide rate; Hispanic/Latino: 4 (24%)
- Location: Open water 53%, Private/inflatable pool 29%, Bathtub 12%, Public pool 6%
- **82% had no documented swim instruction**
- 11 occurred while caregiver was briefly distracted; 6 had no adult present



PIER

Scenario 1: Darius, age 6

Illustrative Child Drowning Death Narrative

Darius was a 6-year-old autistic boy living in the Eastside neighborhood. During a hot summer weekend, his mother took him and his younger siblings to a drainage canal on the edge of the neighborhood — a spot where many families gathered because it was the nearest accessible water. There were no barriers, no posted warnings, and no lifeguard. Darius could not swim; the nearest free swim lesson program required a 40-minute bus ride and a 6-week waitlist. Darius entered the water and was submerged before his mother could reach him. Bystanders attempted CPR. He died at Riverton General Hospital the following day.



PIER

Scenario 2: Lucy, age 3

Illustrative Child Drowning Death Narrative

Lucy was a 3-year-old girl living in a crowded apartment in Northgate. Her family had purchased an inflatable pool to allow children to cool off during a heat wave. The pool was set up in the back yard. Lucy's grandmother was supervising her and two cousins while her parents were at work. The grandmother stepped inside briefly to answer the phone. When she returned, Lucy was face-down in the pool. Despite CPR by neighbors and EMS response, Lucy died. The family reported they had never received information about inflatable pool safety and were unaware of the risks for children her age.



PIER

PIER Matrix for Problem Definition

Countermeasures	Systems Level Modifiable Contributing Factors	(Aggregate) Modifiable Contributing Factors	Identities Impacted	Systems Level Problem Definition	(Aggregate) Problem Definition
Natural and Built Environment	Closure of swimming areas leading to reduced access to swimming opportunities		Race, class	Drowning disproportionately impacts children who are neurodivergent, whose families have historically had less access to swimming opportunities, and children who are more often exposed to water. This is impacted by poor access to protective factors such as lifeguard-monitored pools, accessible swim lessons, and timely, high-quality resuscitative measures.	In our (identify local/regional/state) context, (state magnitude of problem & population most impacted). This is impacted by (state contributing factors).
	Proximity to natural bodies of water		Race, class		
	Lack of multilingual safety signage		Race, class, language		
	Lack of lifeguards in swimming areas		Class		
Equipment & Technology	Prohibitive cost of US Coast Guard approved life jacket (>$30)		Class		
	Safety equipment instructions in limited languages & grade level		Language		
Education	Swimming lessons: Lack of access due to cost, availability for multilingual, geographic area, or children with disabilities		Ability, language, class, race		
	CPR Education: Not consistently offered, multilingual access, cost		Class, language		
Treatment & Recovery (post-event)	Language barriers leading to delays in EMS response		Language		
	Delayed EMS Response time due to distance		Rurality		
	Lack of access to trauma center with high pediatric readiness		Rurality		



PIER

PIER Matrix for Recommendation Development and Refinement

Systems Level Problem Definition	Aggregate Problem Definition*	Countermeasures**	Recommendations***				
			Initial Recommendation	Impact on Gaps	Associated Legislation, Policy, or Programming	Refined Recommendation	Possible Action Team Partner(s)
Drowning disproportionately impacts children who are neurodivergent, whose families have historically had less access to swimming opportunities, and children who are more often exposed to water. This is impacted by poor access to protective factors such as lifeguard-monitored pools, accessible swim lessons, and timely, high-quality resuscitative measures.	In Riverton County, 17 children ages 0–17 died from drowning between 2018 and 2023, with Black/African American children accounting for 65% of deaths and experiencing rates 2.8 times higher than the countywide rate, particularly in Eastside, Northgate, and rural areas. This is impacted by limited access to swim instruction, unsafe or unprotected water environments, inadequate supervision, and barriers related to cost, transportation, language, and access to safety information.	**Natural and Built Environment**					
		Equipment & Technology					
		Education					
		Treatment & Recovery					

From PIER Matrix for Problem Definition

****Consider modifiable factors when thinking of countermeasures in each category**

Type of recommendations to consider:

1. **New policy, program, or legislation**
2. **Change in existing policy, program, or legislation**
3. **Change in implementation**



PIER