



**Indiana**  
**Department**  
**of**  
**Health**

# DROWNING IN INDIANA

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DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH DATA  
AND FATALITY PREVENTION

10/15/2025

## OUR MISSION:

To promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers.

## OUR VISION:

Every Hoosier reaches optimal health regardless of where they live, learn, work, or play.



# National Drowning Data

- Every year in the United States, there are more than 4,000 unintentional drowning deaths
  - An average of 10 each day
- 8,000 nonfatal incidents that often lead to long-term disabilities
- Drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 years
- 40 million adults do not know how to swim
- 55% of adults never had a swim lesson



# Indiana Drowning Data

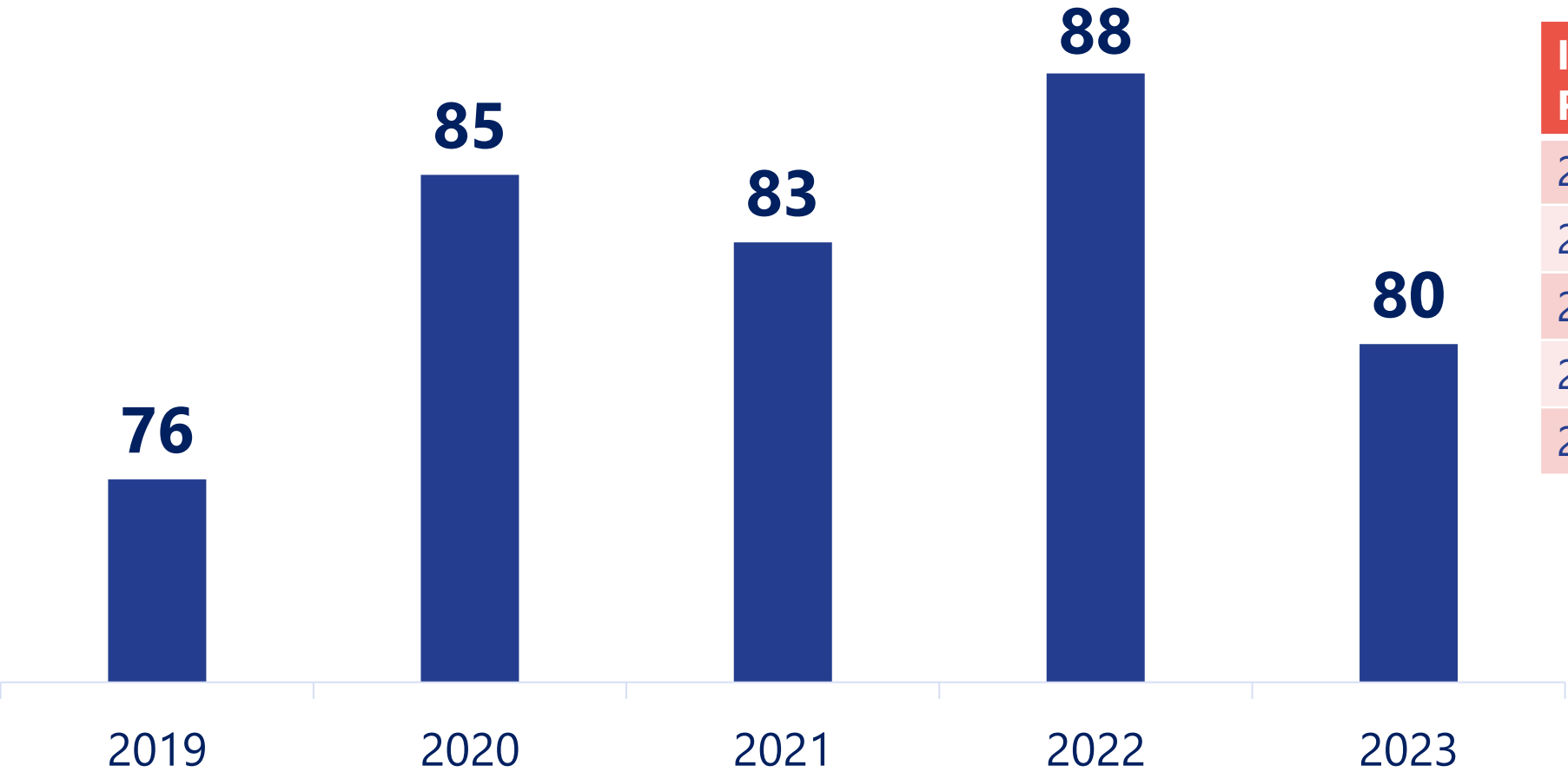
- Average 82 deaths per year (all ages)
- Average 23 child deaths per year
- Leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 years
- Third leading cause of death for children ages 5-9 years
- In 2023:
  - 80 deaths
  - 9 hospitalizations
  - 241 emergency department visits

## Drowning Rates\*, 2019-2023

Indiana (all ages)	1.2
U.S. (all ages)	1.3
Indiana (1-17 years)	1.5
U.S. (1-17 years)	1.1
Ohio (all ages)	1.1
Illinois (all ages)	1.0
Michigan (all ages)	1.1

\*Rates per 100,000 people

# Indiana Drowning Deaths, All Ages 2019-2023

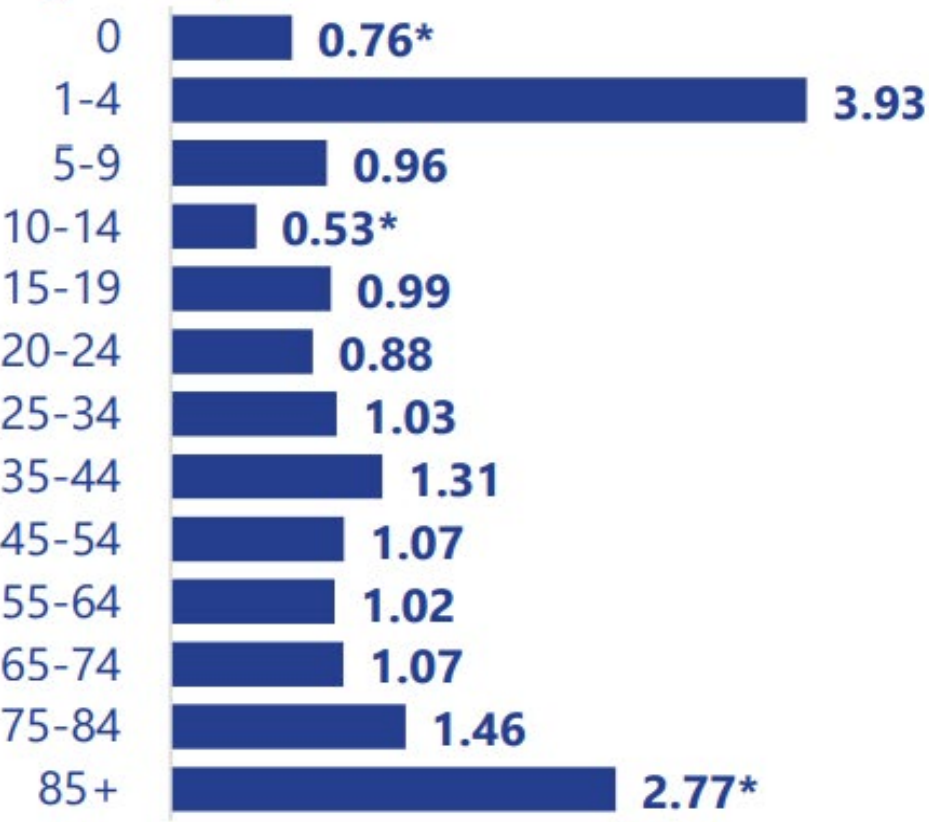


Indiana Drowning Rates*, All Ages, By Year	
2019	1.1
2020	1.3
2021	1.2
2022	1.3
2023	1.2

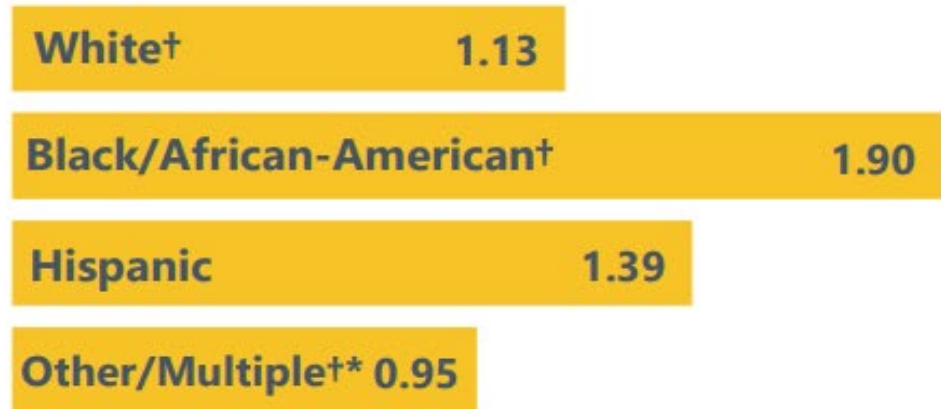
\*Rates per 100,000 population

# Indiana Drowning Deaths, Demographics 2019-2023

## Age Group



## Race/Ethnicity



†Non-Hispanic

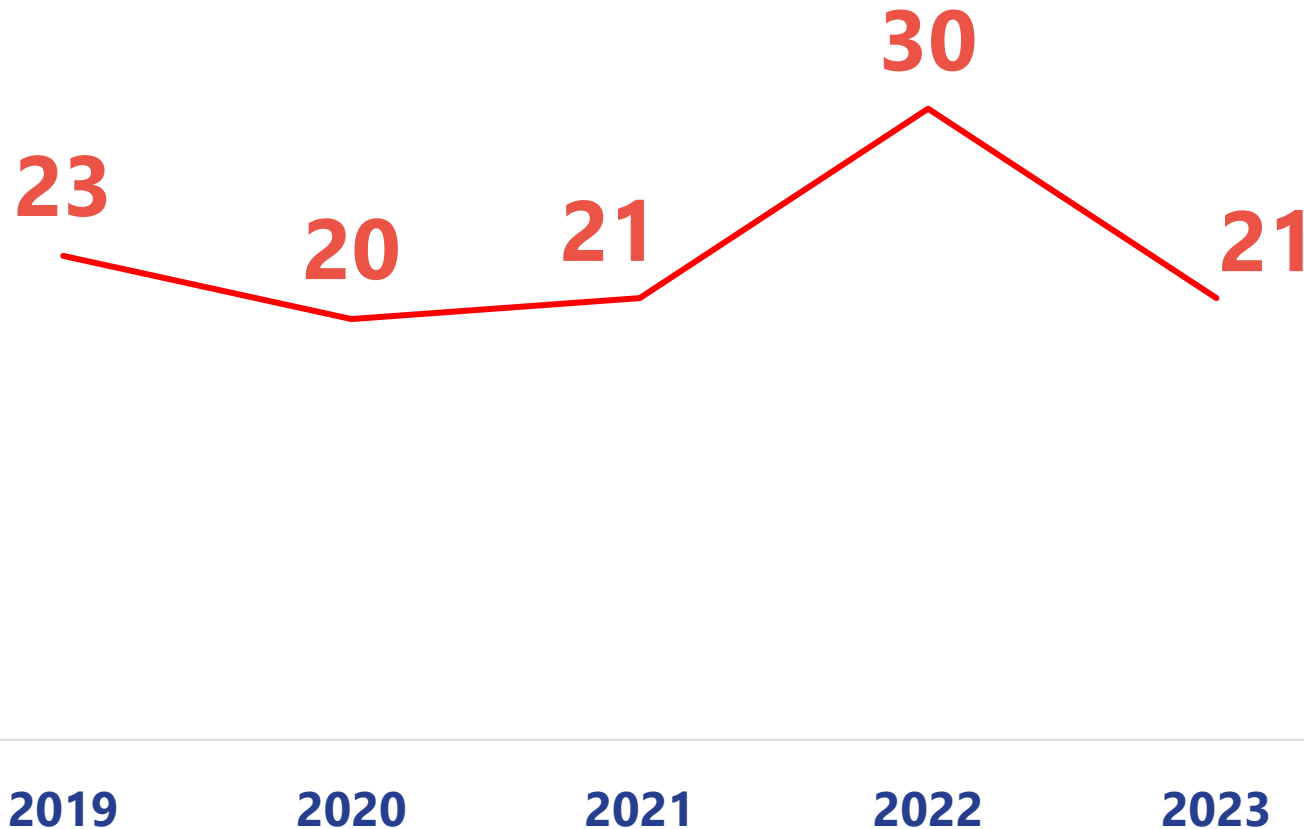
## Sex



\*Rates based on counts fewer than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

Sources: Indiana Department of Health, Vital Records, ODA  
Indiana Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention

# Indiana Drowning Deaths, <18 Years 2019-2023



- Between 2019-2023, there were **115** pediatric drownings among Indiana residents.
- Location of Drowning:
  - Natural body of water: **32%**
  - Swimming pool: **31%**
  - Unspecified: **28%**
  - Bathtub: **9%**



# Cost of Drownings in Indiana, All Ages

- \$873 million in 2023 (combined medical costs and value of statistical life)
- Almost \$12 million on average per person who drowns
- More than 12,000 years of potential life lost before age 65
- Does not include near drownings





# Indiana Child Fatality Review Findings

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## Themes in child drownings

- Infants are more likely to drown in bathtubs
- Younger children are more likely to drown in pools
- Older children are more likely to drown in natural bodies of water (lakes)

## Contributing factors

- Lack of supervision
- Lack of knowledge about risk and protective factors
- Not able to swim
- Not wearing a life jacket
- Not knowing CPR
- Autism and seizure disorders

# Strategies to Prevent Drownings

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American Academy of Pediatrics (2021)

## Highest level of evidence

- Provide close, constant, attentive supervision of children and poor swimmers
- Develop water competency, including swim ability
- Avoid substance use

## Second highest level of evidence

- Learn CPR
- Wear life jackets

# Role of Public Health in Drowning Prevention

- Convene subject matter experts and stakeholders to reduce drownings in Indiana
- Gather input from parents and community partners and create messaging
- Partner with IDOE to develop water safety programming
- Provide national, state, and local data to inform prevention and monitor trends over time
- Build on existing work throughout the state



# Questions?

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