



# INFANT SWIMMING RESOURCE

## U.S. National Drowning Statistics

www.InfantSwim.Com

- **Drowning is the leading cause of death for infants and young children between the ages of 1-4**
- **Among those 1-14 years old, fatal drowning remains the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death behind motor vehicle crashes**
- From 2005-2014, there were an average of 3,536 fatal unintentional drownings (non-boating related) annually in the United States — about ten deaths per day.
- A swimming pool is 14 times more likely than a motor vehicle to be involved in the death of a child aged 4 and under.
- There are 8.8 million residential and public-use swimming pools in the United States.
- An estimated 5,000 children ages 14 and under are hospitalized due to unintentional drowning-related incidents each year; 15 percent die in the hospital and as many as 20 percent suffer severe, permanent neurological disability.
- **Of all preschoolers who drown, 70 percent are in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning** and 75 percent are missing from sight for five minutes or less.
- For every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries. These nonfatal drowning injuries can cause severe brain damage that may result in long-term disabilities such as memory problems, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning.
- Between 1999-2010, the fatal unintentional drowning rate for African Americans was significantly higher than that of whites across all ages. The disparity is widest among children 5-18 years old. The disparity is most pronounced in swimming pools; African American children 5-19 drown in swimming pools at rates 5.5 times higher than those of whites. This disparity is greatest among those 11-12 years where African Americans drown in swimming pools at rates 10 times those of whites.
- Of drownings that occur not in a pool, spa, or natural body of water, most occur in the bath tub at the victim's home, and most victims are less than 1 year old.
- The percent of drownings in natural water settings such as **lakes, rivers or the ocean**, increases with age. Most drownings among those over 15 years of age occur in natural water settings.
- More than 50% of drowning victims treated in emergency departments require hospitalization or transfer for further care. These nonfatal drowning injuries can cause severe brain damage that may result in long-term disabilities such as memory problems, learning disabilities,

## DROWNING PREVENTION



### 3 Layers of Defense Against Drowning:

There is only one thing in the world that is a guarantee against drowning, and that is your effective supervision. Supervision is thus the first and most critical line of defense to prevent drowning.

The second line of defense is proper fencing around your pool, locks to prevent access to the pool, and pool alarms. However, there is no device in existence that is guaranteed to keep any child out of the water, or that will prevent a child from drowning in any circumstance. The effectiveness of these devices is often dependent on our ability to remember to always use them. It is a simple fact of life that, on occasion, alarms get turned off or doors or gates don't get latched behind us.

The third line of defense, after the first two have failed, is a child's ability to solve an aquatic problem. At Infant Swimming Resource, we teach children ISR Self-Rescue skills such that a child would know what to do should she find herself in the water alone.