THE FACTS ON CHILDHOOD DROWNING

NUMBERS

Every year in the US, 3,572 children die; nearly half of them are children aged 1-9 years.

Children account for 1 in 4 drowning deaths.

WHAT?

Nearly half are infants and toddlers.

Babies account for 1 in 26 drownings.

Boys account for 3 in 4 child drownings.

White children are more at risk than Black and API children.

WHERE

Infants under the age of 1 are most likely to drown in a TUB.

Most children ages 1 through 4 drown in a HOME SWIMMING POOL.

The likelihood of drowning in natural water settings (lakes, rivers, oceans) INCREASES WITH AGE.

NEAR DROWNING

For every child that drowns, 3 more are treated in the emergency department after near drowning.

In the most severe cases, near drowning may lead to:
- Neurologic disabilities
- Learning disabilities
- Permanent loss of basic functioning (vegetative state)

PREVENTION

Drowning can happen QUICKLY and QUIETLY.

FORMAL SWIMMING LESSONS reduce the risk of drowning by 88% compared to children who take no lessons.

FOUR-SIDED ISOLATION FENCES that keep the pool separate from the house and yard reduce a child’s risk of drowning by 83% compared to three-sided fencing that only encloses the house and pool together.

MORE INFO

- Children who take lessons are defined as those who have had at least 1 lesson in the past year.
- Children who have taken lessons but are not currently enrolled are defined as those who took lessons in the past but are not currently enrolled.
- Children who have never taken lessons are defined as those who have never taken any lessons.

*For detailed sources and more information, visit childproofing.org and childrenswaterwatch.org.