



Preventing Drowning: Local to National Approaches

September 24, 2026



Funding Sponsor

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Resource files and links will be shared in the chat

Moderator & Presenters



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Safe Kids Worldwide



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Education Development
Center



U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan Overview for the Children's Safety Network

September 24, 2026

Presentation Overview

- What is the U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan?
- Tools for Action
- Examples of Action Underway
- Opportunities for Engagement

What is the USNWSAP?

- **Call to Action:** a national roadmap for collective action to reduce drowning
- Framework and tools to support development and implementation of **evidence-informed context-specific water safety action plans** at the state, county, and community level
- Acts on identified **national implications** that strengthen local strategies and increase the likelihood of successful outcomes
- Advocates around **research gaps** that, if addressed, would strengthen drowning prevention efforts

www.watersafetyplan.us

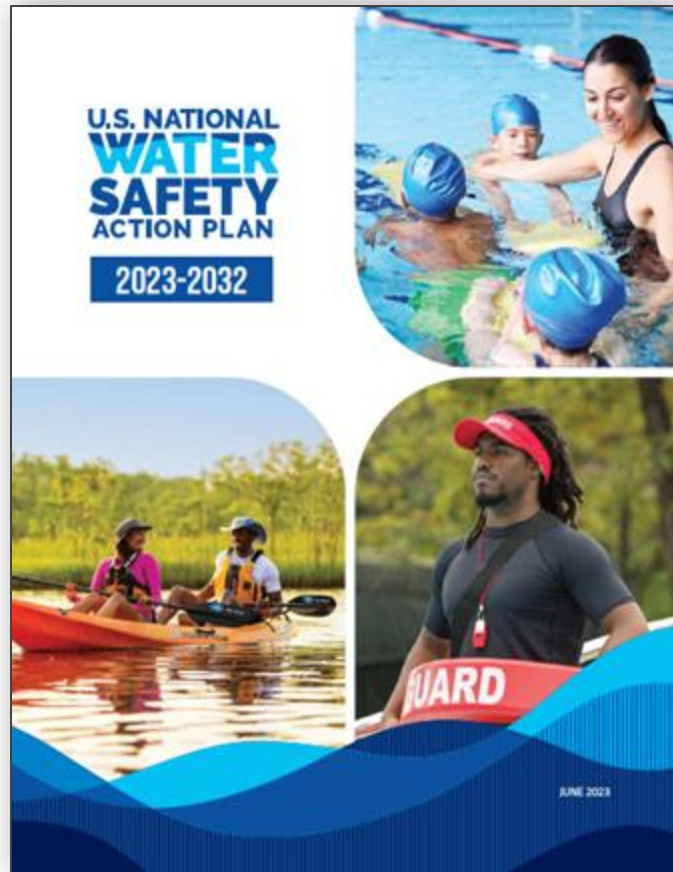


Vision

A United States where everyone is safe in, on, and around water.

Mission

Prevent drowning in the United States through evidence-informed action. Transform the country into a nation where water safety is a natural part of everyday life and people enjoy the benefits of water, safely.



Scope and Framework

10-year Plan; 2023-2032



Barriers, Entrapment, and Electrical Safety



Data and Public Health Surveillance



Life Jackets, Personal Flotation Devices, and Other Flotation



Rescue and CPR



Lifeguards and Supervision



Water Safety, Water Competency, and Swimming Lessons

Tools for Action



Reflection to Action Process



Web-based Tools

U.S. NATIONAL
WATER
SAFETY
ACTION PLAN

Action Recommendations Search

Home Why Water Safety Matters About the Plan **Tools for Action** Action Dashboard News & Updates Contact Us

Guidance for Action Planning | Key Areas | **Action Recommendations** | National Implications | Research Agenda | Resources

Tools for Action

The U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan has a clear goal: to reduce drowning across the United States. To reach that goal, we need local collaborators and partners to drive change. We encourage the use of the resources below to develop and implement a data- and evidence-informed water safety action plan specific to the context in your community, county, or state.

Guidance to Support Local Action Planning

Explore a 12 step process to help you assess current drowning risks and prevention efforts, set goals, and plan and implement local actions.



Key Areas of Action

Learn about the 6 key areas of action that make up the National Action Plan.



Action Recommendations Database

Browse action recommendations to help you reduce drowning in your area.



National Implications

Explore the National Implications to access up-to-date information on their current status, related Action Recommendations, and active working groups, and discover opportunities to get involved.



Research Agenda

Explore the Research Agenda to view priority evidence gaps and research questions aligned with the Plan and learn about opportunities to engage in advancing drowning prevention research.



Resources

Explore a comprehensive library of engagement opportunities, on-demand recordings, case studies, toolkits, funding resources, and more.



Keyword Search

Search

Action Recommendations Database

Key Area of Action

- All -

✓ - All -

Barriers, Entrapment, and
Electrical Safety

Rescue and CPR

Data and Public Health
Surveillance

Life Jackets, Personal
Flotation Devices, and
Other Flotation

Lifeguards and
Supervision

Water Safety, Water
Competency, and
Swimming Lessons

Spectrum Level

- All -

✓ - All -

Changing Organizational
Practices

Educating Providers

Fostering Coalitions
and Networks

Influencing Policy and
Legislation

Promoting Community
Education

Strengthening Individual
Knowledge and Skills

Implementation Level

- All -

✓ - All -

Community

County

National

State

Evidence Level

- All -

✓ - All -

High

Low

Medium

BEE 2

Require Inspections for Pool Safety Compliance on Property Transfer or Remodel

Require government mandated inspections upon change of ownership or substantial remodel or renovation of residential pools and associated structures to meet all federal, state

Key Area

Barriers, Entrapment, and
Electrical Safety



Require Inspections for Pool Safety Compliance on Property Transfer or Remodel

Require government mandated inspections upon change of ownership or substantial remodel or renovation of residential pools and spas to ensure they meet all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and standards.



Spectrum level: [Changing Organizational Practices Influencing Policy and Legislation](#)

Evidence level: [Medium](#)

Implementation levels: [Community County State](#)

Rationale:

Implementing this recommendation would help ensure a residential aquatic venue meets all applicable safety requirements. New owners would be without any additional action, the legislative or regulatory scheme in place would implement this layer of protection automatically. This recommendation is consistent with the inspection process for commercial pools, and, in many jurisdictions, this requirement already exists for smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, electrical wiring - extend to pools and spas. Additionally, an inspector can investigate and recommend changes to dangerous situation that are not covered by an existing, already passed local/state law.

Anticipated Impact:

After implementing this recommendation, you can expect to experience the following outcomes.

- Residential aquatic venues meet all applicable safety requirements.
- New owners are without any additional action, as the legislative or regulatory schemes in place would implement this layer of protection automatically.
- Inspectors are investigating and recommending changes to dangerous situation that are not covered by an existing, already passed local/state law.

Evidence:

Some states currently require mandated inspections upon change of ownership or substantial remodeling or renovation of residential pools and spas.

Most states already have established smoke alarm laws, and at least 15 states have carbon monoxide detector use laws that include inspection.

This recommendation is supported by International Swimming Pool and Spa Code and Code officials, the National Drowning Prevention Alliance, Families United, public health officials, other water safety non-profits, and members of the aquatic industry.

Evidence Sources:

Swimming Pool Safety Act. (1997). Chapter 925, Sec. 3.5.

<https://www.creia.org/legislation-pool-safety-act#:~:text=3.5,the%20requirements%20of%20this%20article>.

California Pool Safety Act. S. B. 442 (2017 - 2018), Chapter 670 (Cal. Stat. 2018). No. 442 CHAPTER 670.

<https://shou.senate.ca.gov/sites/shou.senate.ca.gov/files/SB%20552%20%28Newman%29%20-%20policy%20analysis.pdf>

Maryland Swimming Pool and Spa Standards

<https://imgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/HB0303?ys=2022rs>

District of Columbia Swimming Pool and Spa Regulations

https://dchealth.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/2017-%2025C%20DCMR-DC%20Swimming%20Pool%2C%20Spa%20and%20Saunas_0.pdf

High Risk Populations Addressed:

Populations whose risk of drowning decreases the most with the implementation of this recommendation may have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Homeowners (in particular new homeowners) that have young children
- Homeowners with pool/spas that are frequented by young children

Evaluation Metrics:

Indicators of long-term impact:

- Decrease in drowning deaths and injuries in residential pools

Indicators of intermediate impact:

- Decrease in violations of regulations and laws related to pool and spa safety
- Increased compliance with pool and spa safety regulations and laws

Indicators of initial impact:

- Addition of safety elements and content to home inspector training

Implementation:

Consider the following to ensure successful implementation.

- Bolster realtor, building code inspector, home inspector, and pool and spa service professional "buy in".
- Foster a political environment that would better accept mandated inspections.
- Develop leaders in public policy as champions.
- Invest in family's affected by an incident as advocates.
- Identify model legislation that reflects the recommendations of relevant stakeholders.

98 Recommendations

BEE 1

Require Four-Sided Isolation Fencing for Residential Pools

Require the use of four-sided isolation fencing with self-closing and self-latching gates around residential pools and spas as the critical layer of protection to prevent drownings. Those fences and barriers should align with the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Safety Guidelines for Residential Pools.

Influencing Policy and Legislation

National

Evidence level: High

Add to PDF ✓



BEE 2

Require Inspections for Pool Safety Compliance on Property Transfer or Remodel

Require government mandated inspections upon change of ownership or substantial remodel or renovation of residential pools and spas to ensure they meet all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and standards.

Changing Organizational Practices

Influencing Policy and Legislation

Community, County, State

Evidence level: Medium

Add to PDF ✓



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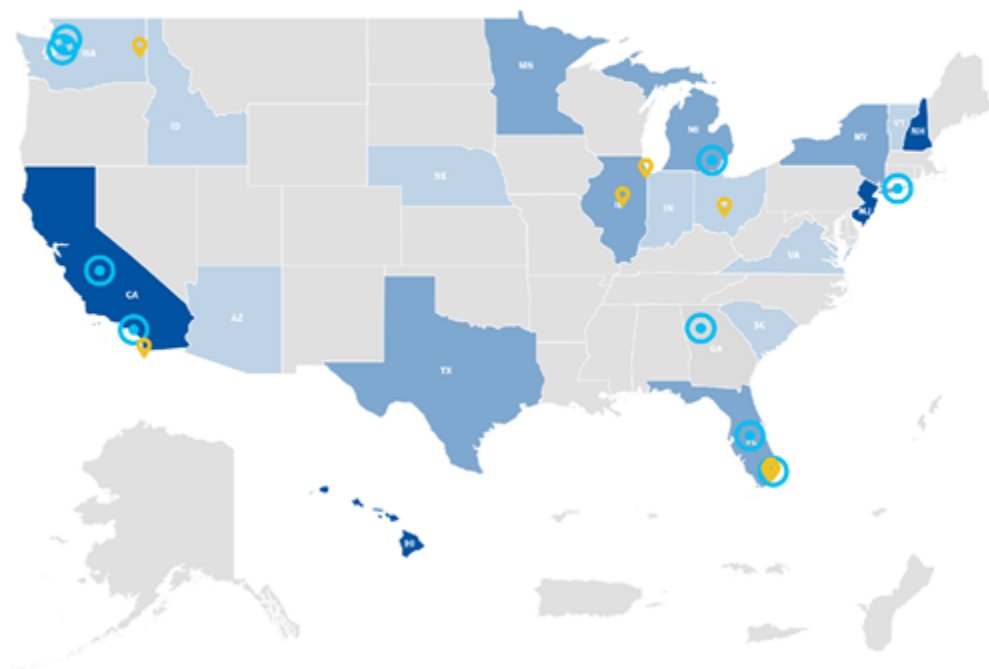
Action Dashboard

- 4 State strategies published
- 1 State Commission Report published
- 2 States estimating publication dates in 2026
- 10 County/Regional level strategies
- 7 Community-level strategies

View the [Action Dashboard tutorial](#) for a quick guide to the map and its use.



Click on a state or map marker to explore further.



Examples of Action Underway

Responses to the Call to Action





U.S. NATIONAL **WATER** **SAFETY** ACTION PLAN®

National Recommendations for U.S. Coast Guard
Approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and Life Jacket
Use—A Working Document

First published May 2026

For suggested updates and changes: <https://watersafetyplan.us/contact-us>

K-12 Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Education Standard



Standard Number: ANSI/NASBLA 1200-2026
New Standard - Effective Date 4/23/2026
Previous Version - None - New Standard



This National Boating Education Standard, as overseen by the National Boating Standards Panel (BSP), is the product of voluntary consensus of representatives of federal and state government, industry, nonprofit organizations, and public sectors. It is intended as a guide to aid the boating community in the design and implementation of boating courses and boater education.

BSP will review this standard at least every five years, at which time it may be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn. BSP welcomes written comments on the Standard during open public comment periods using the [EZ-BSP](#) tool. Requests for interpretation may be submitted at any time via standardspanel@nasbla.org.

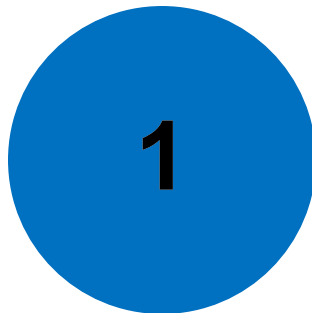
American National Standard

ANSI/NASBLA 1200-2026
K-12 Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Education Standard

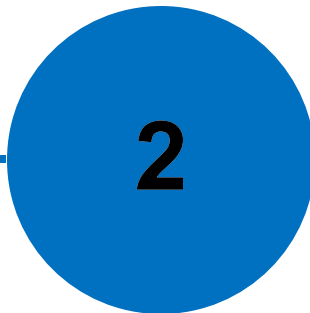


Opportunities for Engagement

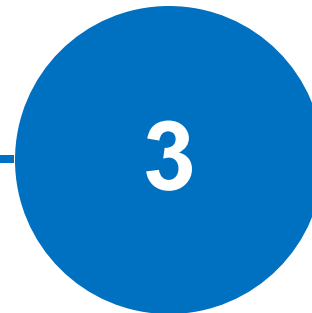
National Level



State Level



Local Level



Questions?

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Action Recommendations

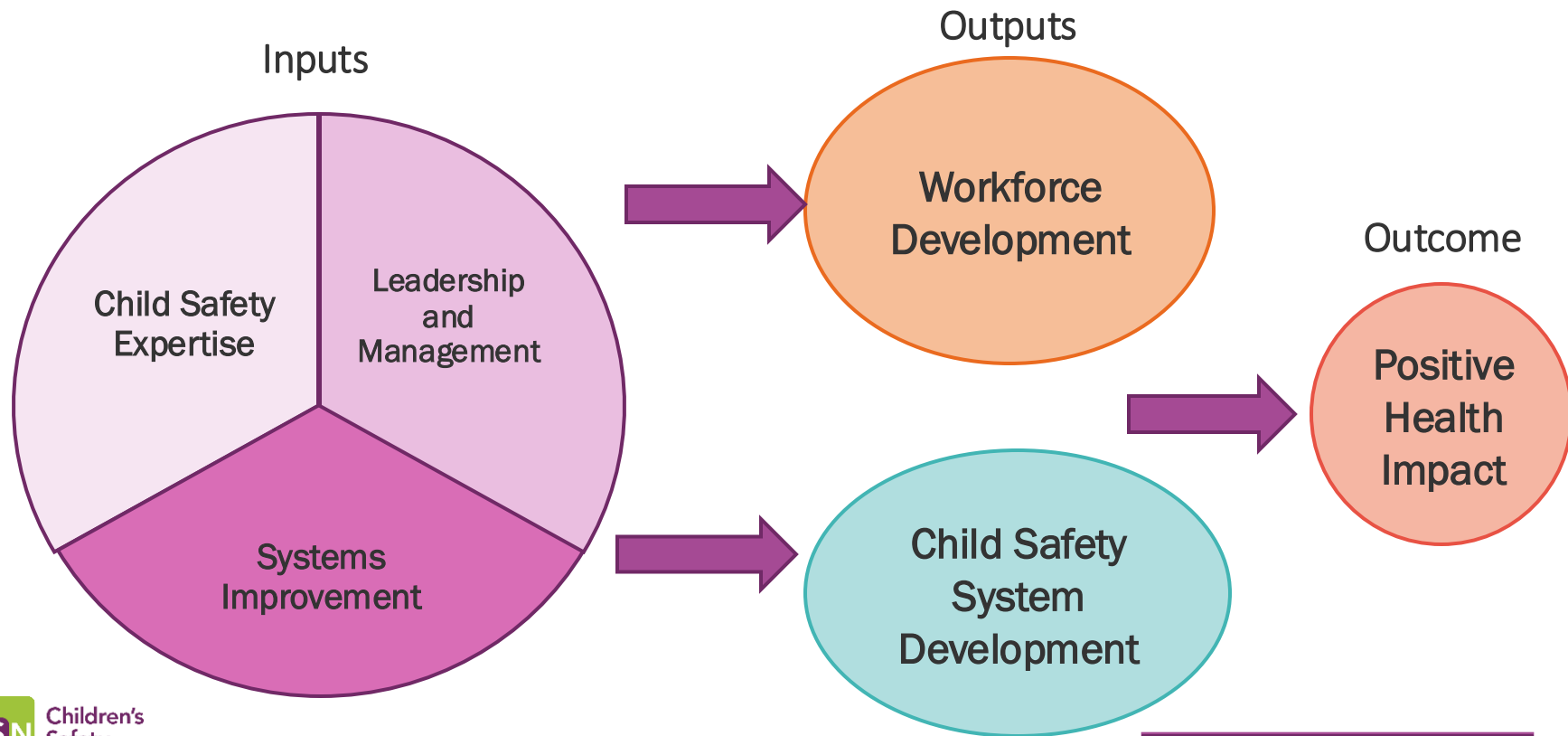
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Drowning Prevention Change Package & Outcome Measure Worksheet

Children's Safety Network

CSN Framework for Quality Improvement and Innovation in Child Safety



Model for Improvement



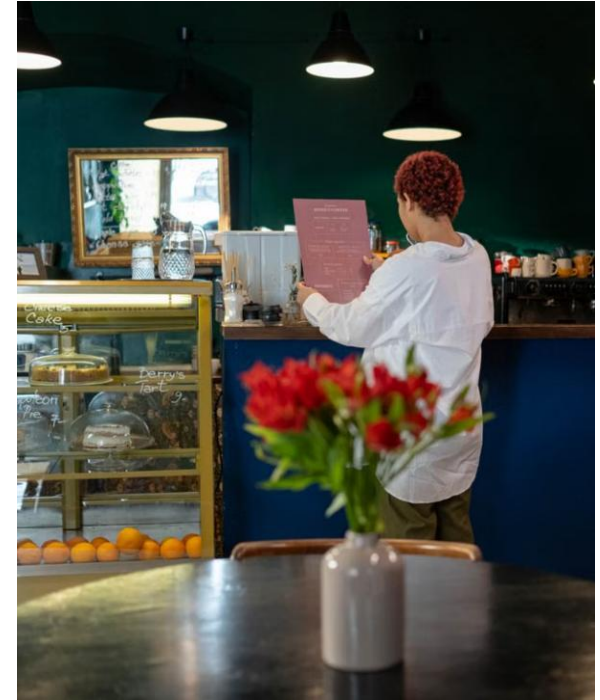
Children's Safety Network Change Packages

- Designed to streamline implementation
- Grounded in evidence
- Connect strategies to measurement
- Accelerate impact
- Build collective impact
- Continuously improved



How the Change Package is Organized

- **Driver diagram structure:** Connects primary drivers, secondary drivers, change ideas, and recommended measures
- Organized across the socioecological model: **societal, community/organizational, and relationship/individual**
- **Change ideas:** Evidence-based/informed strategies
- **Measures** help assess progress, but they do not correspond one-to-one with change ideas; multiple ideas may influence a single measure



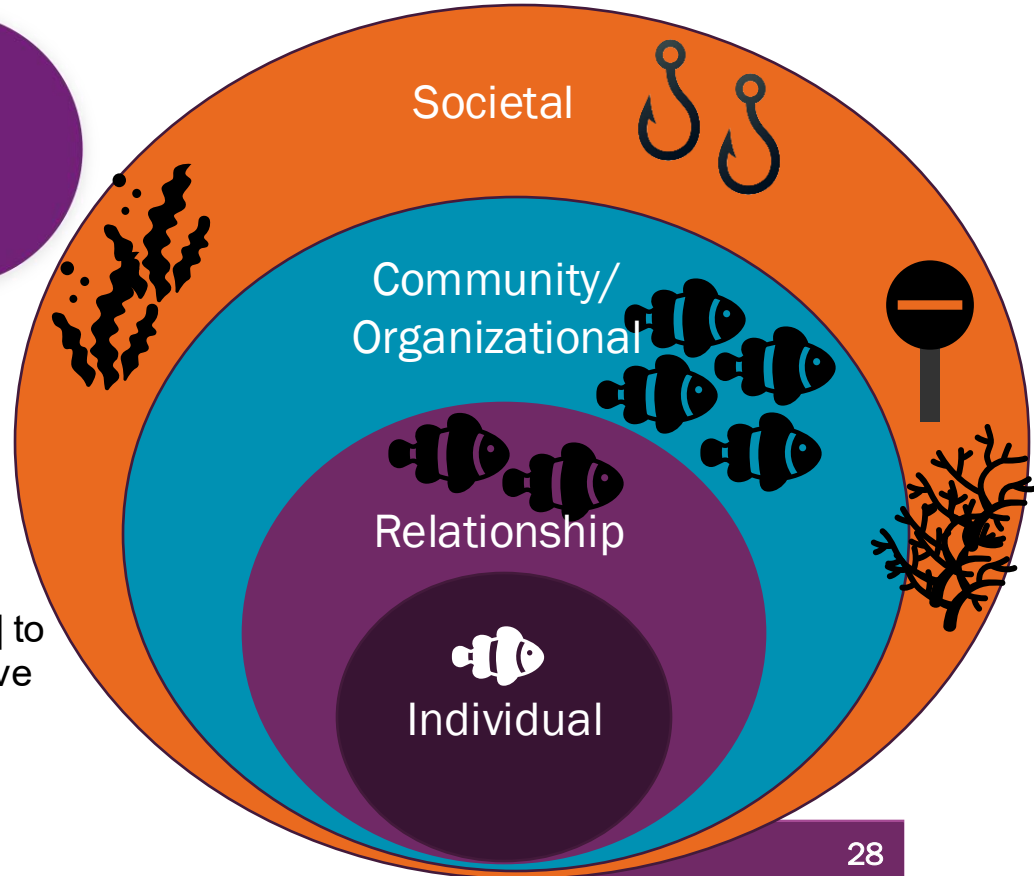
Quick Review: The Socioecological Model



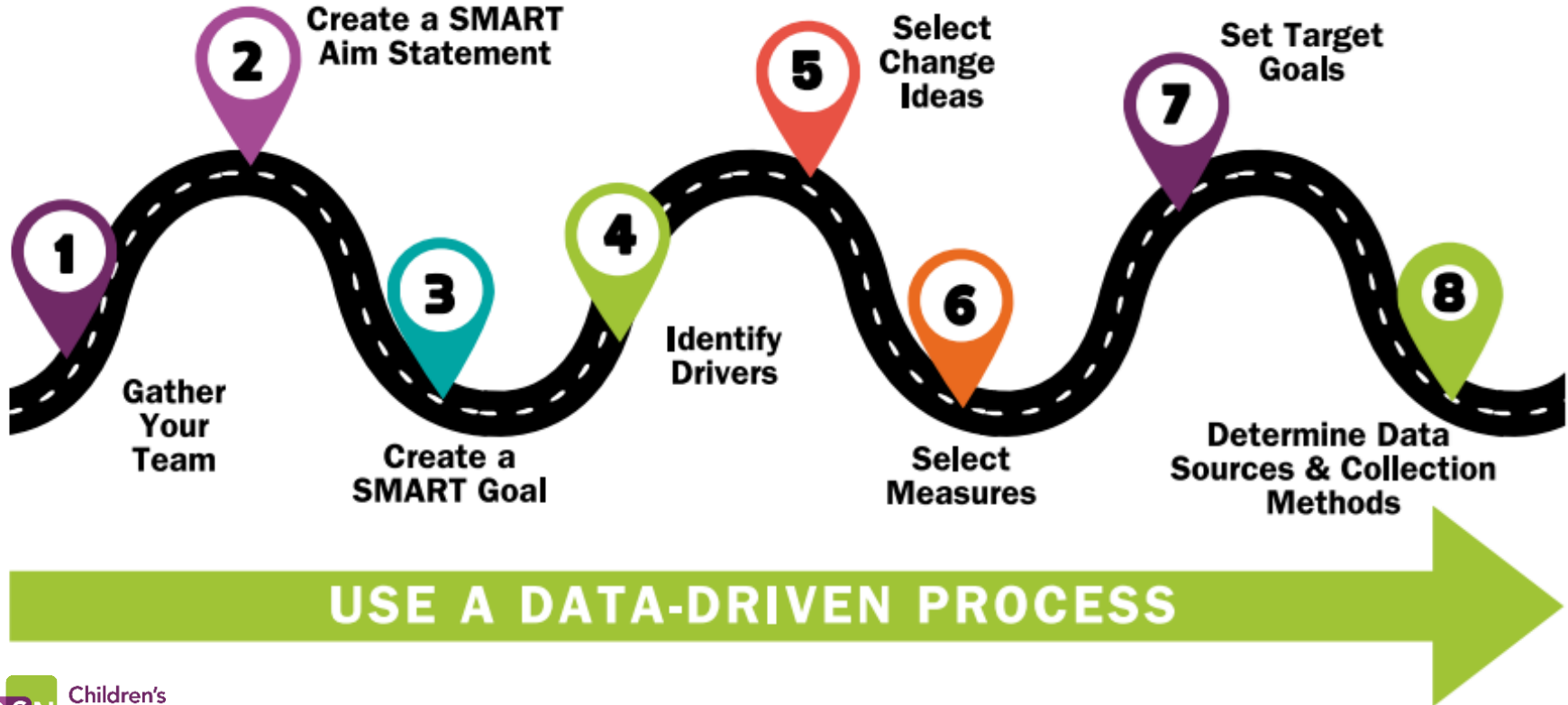
Source: CDC, A framework for prevention

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) model suggests:

“... that preventing violence requires simultaneous action across multiple levels [...] to sustain prevention efforts over time and achieve impact on the population as a whole.”



Using the Change Package



**Let's
Take a
Closer
Look**



Primary Driver	Secondary Driver	Change Ideas	Recommended Measures
PD 1: Societal Level Culture of drowning prevention practices	SD 1: Knowledgeable partners and policymakers	1. Educate policymakers about best practices for DP, including addressing risk and protective factors, utilizing The U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan (USNWSAP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy statements, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Preventing Drowning including the Model Aquatic Health Code , and other evidence-based resources	1
		2. Partner with communities and organizations to engage and participate in drowning prevention campaigns (e.g., campaigns by Water Safety USA, Safe Kids Worldwide)	4, 12
		3. Develop a panel of partners to link existing data systems across the drowning spectrum (e.g., lifeguards, law enforcement, emergency medical service, emergency department, hospital, and medical examiner staff) to allow more complete analysis of risk and protective factors for drowning prevention (this may include creating data sharing agreements, MOUs, etc.)	7
		4. Implement a standardized data collection tool for use in drowning investigations by law enforcement, pre-hospital care, hospitals, coroners, medical examiners and similar investigators. (e.g., conducting assessments of existing data collection tools, creating/utilizing shared surveys, data dashboards, standardizing FIMR/CDR data collection, etc.). Examples include guidance from The Recreational Boat Occupant	7

Primary Driver	Secondary Driver	Change Ideas	Recommended Measures
PD2: Organizational Level Organizational policies and procedures support the practices and culture of drowning prevention	SD1: Knowledgeable and proactive water safety and drowning prevention practitioners and local partners	11. Provide DP training and resources to a broad range of providers that reach children ages 0-19, including healthcare providers (e.g., through hospitals, pediatricians, and other healthcare systems), early childhood providers, schools, out-of-school time providers, those leading baby-sitting and childcare classes, and others	12, 14, 15
		12. Educate partners and community organizations to use appropriate terms when discussing DP (e.g., using the term “nonfatal drowning” rather than “near drowning” and avoiding the terms “dry drowning” or “secondary drowning” [drowning is drowning]) when speaking to families and the media to avoid confusion and misconceptions (e.g., suggested resources include International Drowning Researchers' Alliance and the Drowning Timeline)	12
		13. Collaborate with home visiting programs to provide DP education and resources when interacting with families	4, 8, 12, 14, 15
	SD2: Adoption of evidence-based strategies and policies by organizations	14. Increase access to life jackets through life jacket-loaner programs at swimming and boating sites	10
		15. Provide best practice DP information and resources for organizations and communities, especially in communities and populations disproportionately impacted (e.g., resources from Safe Kids Worldwide, Water Safety USA)	2, 3, 4, 12, 14, 15
		16. Work with retailers to display and advertise appropriate DP information and resources both in-store and online (e.g., purchase and use of U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets, Safe Kids Worldwide Guidance on finding the right lifejacket, etc.)	6

Primary Driver	Secondary Driver	Change Ideas	Recommended Measures
PD3: Relationship/ Individual Level Families and care givers knowledgeable in DP	SD1: Families, caregivers, and natural supports knowledge-able in DP practices	19. Provide education to natural supports who are trusted individuals and groups that are influential in the lives of parents/guardians, such as grandparents, aunts/uncles, and other caregivers, as well as potential supervisors of children engaging in activities in and around water (e.g. AAP guidelines , Safe Kids Worldwide Tips)	4, 15
		20. Utilize social media, blogs, infographics to increase parents/caregivers/natural supports' understanding of DP (e.g., AAP's Drowning Prevention Campaign Toolkit)	12, 15
		21. Provide tailored anticipatory guidance related to drowning risks to parents of children with special healthcare needs (e.g., children with epilepsy, autism, and cardiac arrhythmias) and other populations data demonstrate are at increased risk (e.g., male adolescents)	14, 15

Measurement Strategy

Measure	Additional Data to Consider
1. Number of policymakers educated in DP best practice	Type of policymaker, number of practices/policies changed
2. Number of organizations providing DP best practice information to providers who serve children 0-19	Type of organization, type of education, number of care providers providing education, number of providers educated, number of organizations that specifically serve priority populations
3. Number of organizations disseminating DP education, support and resources to local communities	Type of organization, type of resources, type of education, number of members of priority populations reached, how education materials have been adapted to be culturally relevant for populations
4. Number of organizations providing DP education to parents/caregivers and/or natural supports	Type of organization, type of education, number reached, number of members of priority populations reached
5. Number of organizational partnerships developed to promote and spread best practices in DP	Type of organizations, type of best practices promoted, number of best practices spread
6. Number of retailers who display appropriate DP information and resources	Type of retailer, type of resources shared
7. Number of organizations that collaborate to report data, including using FIMR and CDR data systems, to reduce drownings	Type of organization, type of system used, number of organizational policies/practices updated

References and Resources

The DP Change Package includes references and program resources

References

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2019, May 1). *Prevention of drowning*. Policy statement. Pediatrics, 143(5), e20190850. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-0850>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Risk Factors for Drowning*. Retrieved March 21, 2025, from <https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/risk-factors/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *About the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC)*. Retrieved March 21, 2025, from <https://www.cdc.gov/model-aquatic-health-code/php/about/index.html>

Nationwide Children's Hospital. (2015, July). *Delayed symptoms of drowning: Know the signs*. <https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/family-resources-education/700childrens/2015/07/delayed-symptoms-of-drowning-know-the-signs>

U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan 2023-2032. https://www.watersafetyusa.org/uploads/7/0/6/0/70608285/usnwsap_2023.pdf

Program Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics

Drowning Prevention Campaign Toolkit

A variety of social media graphics, videos and posters, available in both English and Spanish, intended to be shared with parents and caregivers.

Prevention of Drowning

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued this revised policy statement because of new information and research regarding populations at increased risk, water competency when children are in and around water, when children are not expected to be around water, the drowning chain of survival and importance of bystander CPR. It includes prevention strategies, including the Haddon Matrix for Drowning Prevention Strategies.

Outcome Measure Worksheets

Outcome Measure Worksheet Drowning Prevention

Instructions

Complete the first page of this worksheet. Then, using the other pages of the worksheet, identify which datasets are used in your state/jurisdiction, and who is the individual responsible for reporting to that system. Contact that individual to explore options for getting real-time data on a monthly basis.

Why We Need Data and How It Will Be Used

We are looking for real-time data for the purposes of Quality Improvement and determining the impact of our work on the rates of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department (ED) visits. The data can be used to:

- Assess progress made towards the achievement of injury reduction aim statements
- Compare trends in injury to test small changes

Description of the Data

In an ideal world, these data will:

- Be collected and reported on a monthly basis
- Relate to this geographic region:
- Relate to this age group:

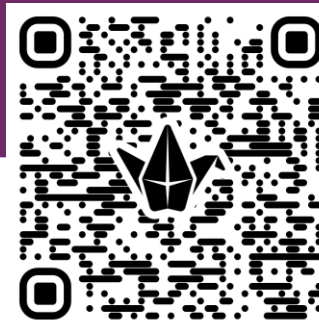
Table 1: Unintentional Drowning ICD Codes

ICD system	Hospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits ICD-10-CM	Deaths ICD-10
Drowning	To compute incidence, exclude all cases with 7th digit = "D" (subsequent health care encounter) and "S" (sequela of injury) Unspecified effects of drowning and nonfatal submersion: T75.1 Drowning and submersion due to accident to watercraft: V90 Drowning and submersion due to accident on board watercraft, without accident to watercraft: V92 Accidental non-transport drowning and submersion • While in bathtub: W65 • While in swimming-pool: W67 • While in natural water: W69 • Other specified: W73 • Unspecified: W74 Fall, jump or diving into water causing drowning and submersion • Due to fall into swimming pool: W16.011, W16.021, W16.031 • Due to fall into natural body of water: W16.111, W16.121, W16.131	Accident to watercraft causing drowning and submersion: V90 Water-transport-related drowning and submersion without accident to watercraft: V92 Accidental drowning and submersion • While in bathtub: W65 • While in swimming-pool: W67 • While in natural water: W69 • Other specified (e.g., quenching tank, reservoir): W73 • Unspecified: W74 Fall into water • Following fall into bathtub: W66 • Following fall into swimming-pool: W68 • Following fall into natural water: W70

The DP Outcome Measure Worksheet helps your team to:

- Define the drowning outcomes, populations, and ICD codes to track
- Identify state data systems and responsible data owners
- Secure monthly data on deaths, ED visits, and hospitalizations
- Use trends to test improvements and measure impact
- Address data gaps through alternate sources or data-sharing agreements

Padlet Activity



- What DP strategies are you already implementing?
- What DP strategies are you interested in implementing this year?
- What barriers can you identify to your DP work?
- Where have you seen success in your DP work?
- Who are the partners you are currently engaging?
- What approaches did you use to successfully engage partners?



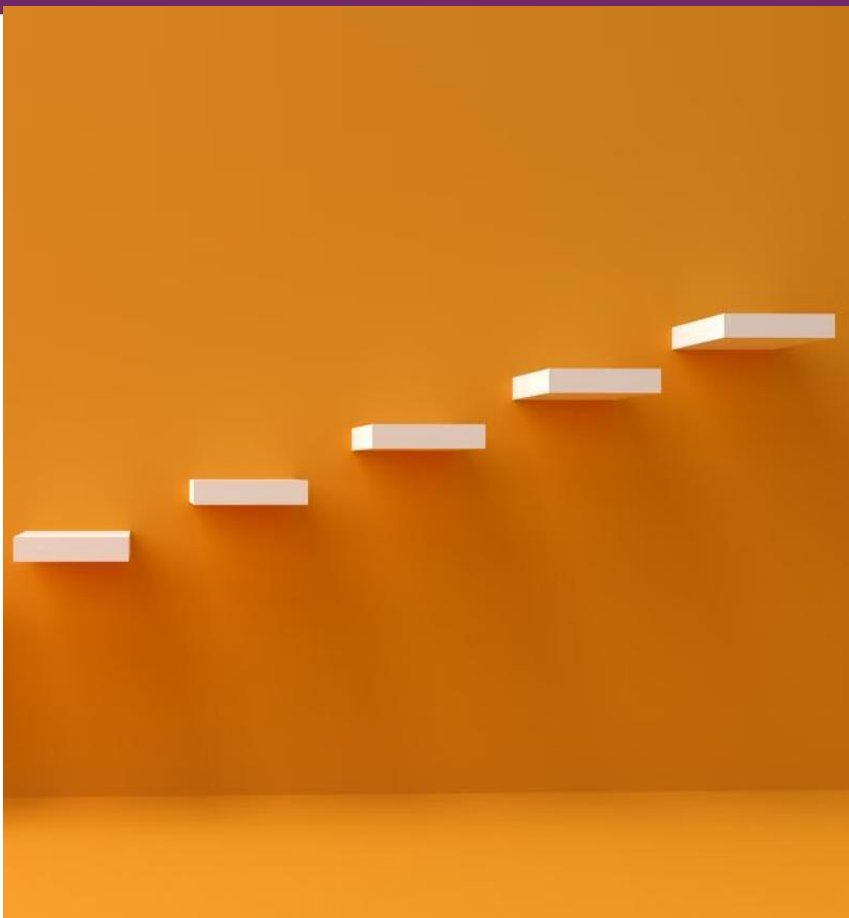
Next Steps

- ☐ Make a commitment to action
- ☐ Download the change package
- ☐ Reach out for technical assistance
- ☐ Share your experiences with us

Technical Assistance



Please use this form to request technical assistance



Questions

Please enter your questions in the Q/A section at the bottom of your screen



Thank you!

1

Please fill out our brief evaluation:



3

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2

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