



CALIFORNIA
**WATER SAFETY
COALITION**

Press and Media Fact Sheet

Drowning Data Snapshot: Key Facts

- A. **12,588** California residents died from drowning between 1991 and 2020.⁴
- B. For every fatal drowning, **there are three non-fatal drowning events**.⁴
- C. **Three males die** from drowning for every female.⁴
- D. **48%** of all drowning deaths occur in June, July, and August.⁵
- E. **12.5%** of drowning deaths in California are intentional (Suicide or Homicide).⁵
- F. **Children aged 0-4 years** and those **75 years and older** have the highest fatal drowning rates, 2 per 100,000 residents for both age groups.⁴
- G. The highest drowning rates are in **Northern California and Sierra** (2.1/100,000 Residents) and the **San Joaquin Valley** (1.6/100,000 Residents).⁴
- H. Approximately **800 people currently require long term care** in California for permanent disabilities caused by non-fatal drowning.⁶
- I. One in every 100,000 Californians die from drowning annually.⁴ (Crude drowning rate = 1.1/100,000 CA Residents.)

References:

4. California Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch. (2022, December 15). EpiCenter: California Injury Data Online. Retrieved Jan 18, 2023, from: <https://skylab4.cdph.ca.gov/epicenter>
Legacy version for pre-2016 data: epicenter.cdph.ca.gov

5. Data from the California Comprehensive Master Death File as part of the ongoing research project titled “California Drowning Study”; California Department of Public Health under Order Number 21-03-0139; California Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects Project Number 2021-077.

6. Governor’s Letter on Drowning Prevention - 2022. Office of the Governor, Sacramento. From: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/drowning-prevention/>