

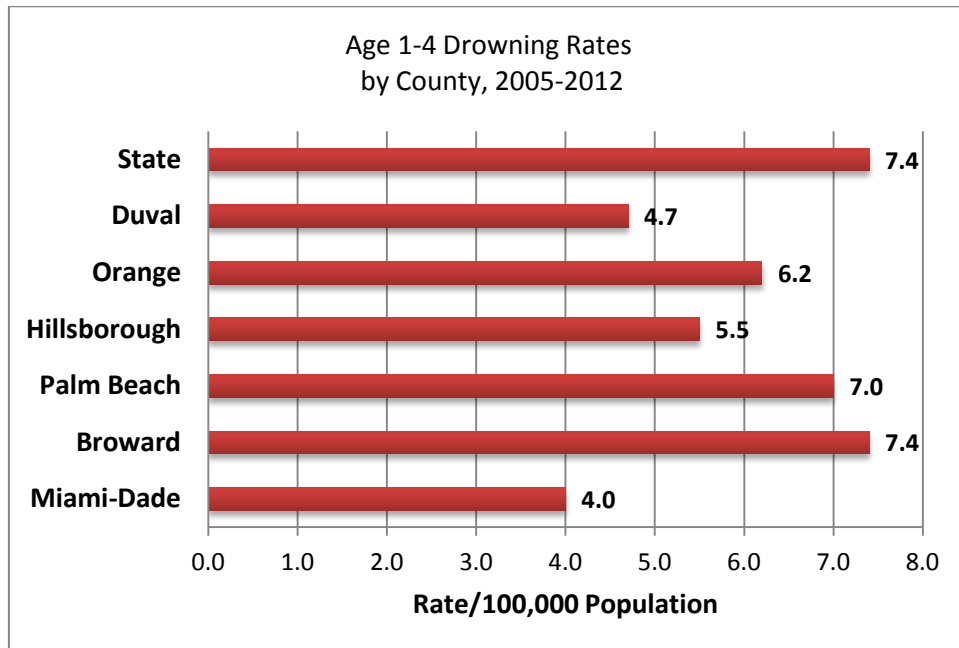


Unintentional Drowning to Children Aged 1 – 4 Years, Miami-Dade County 2005 - 2012



Drowning has been the leading cause of death among children aged 1 – 4 years both in Florida and Miami-Dade County. Florida overwhelmingly has the highest unintentional drowning rate in the nation for the 1–4 year old age group with a drowning rate of 7.29 per 100,000 population during 2010.

- Miami-Dade County has had the 2nd highest number of child drowning deaths (41) among all Florida counties between 2005 & 2012.
- However, Miami-Dade’s cumulative drowning rate for children aged 1-4 years was 6th lowest among all FL counties and 46% lower than the drowning rate for the entire state.

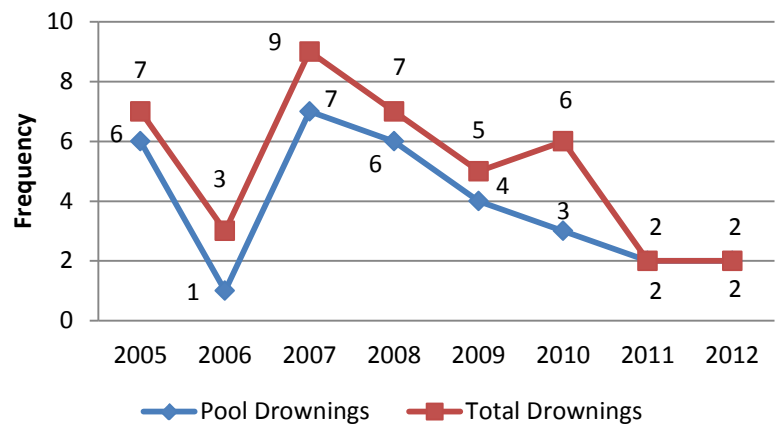


- The incidence of child drowning has fluctuated greatly between 2005 & 2012

- Deaths that occurred in swimming pools were responsible for 76% of drowning deaths and closely mirrored the trend for all drowning deaths.

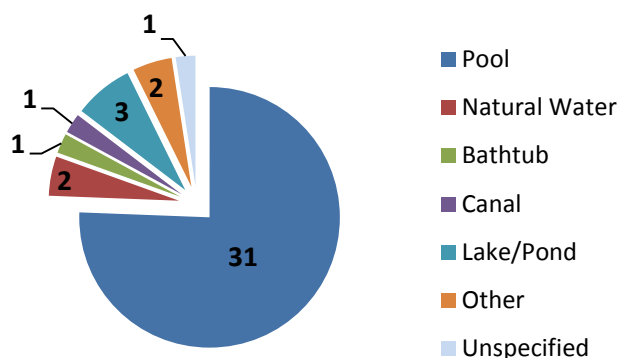
- In 2011 & 2012, Miami-Dade experienced its lowest child drowning incidence with 2 deaths each year (4 total), all of which were pool-related.

**Miami-Dade Unintentional Drowning Incidents
Victims Aged 1 - 4 Years, 2005 - 2012**



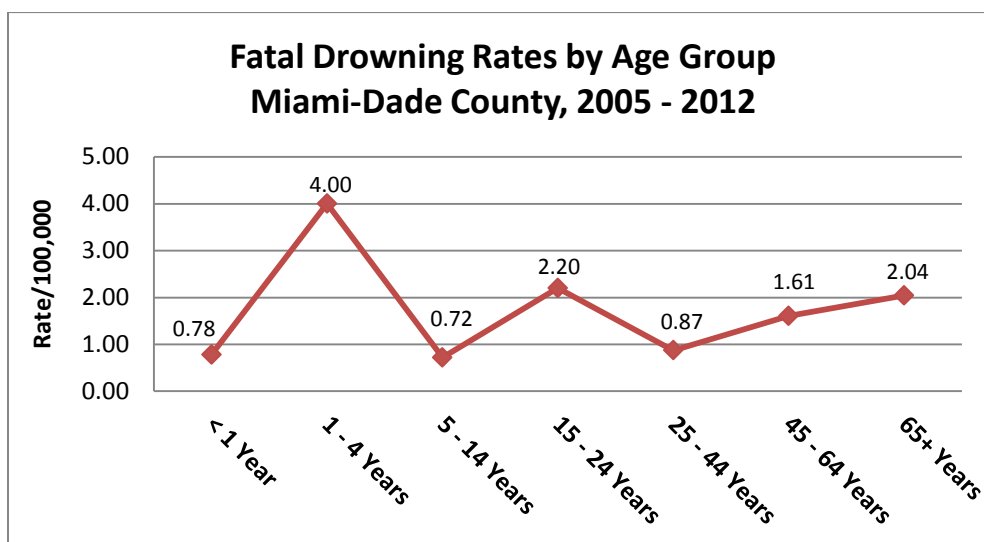
Location of Drowning

- Thirty-one (76%) of age 1-4 drowning incidents occurred in swimming pools. The vast majority of these pool deaths occurred in residential in-ground pools. Six other deaths occurred in natural or man-made water (ocean, lake, pond, canal) and 3 non pool-related deaths occurred within the home (bathtub, bucket, washing machine).

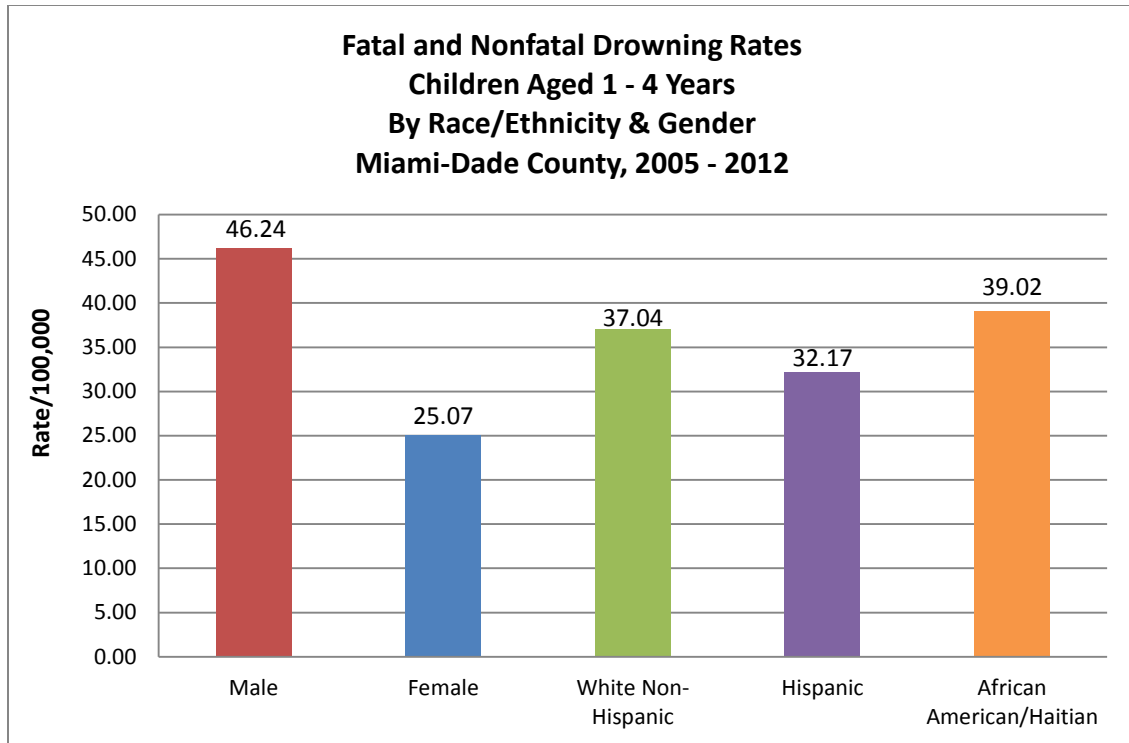


Who is at Risk?

- During 2005 - 2012, the fatal drowning rate for county children aged 1 – 4 years was nearly twice that of any other age group.



- Male children accounted for three-fourths of all fatal drownings. The overall (fatal and nonfatal) drowning rate among male children aged 1 – 4 years was nearly twice that of females.
- Hispanics accounted for approximately 55% of fatal and nonfatal drownings among children aged 1 – 4 years. Overall drowning rates among African American children aged 1 – 4 years were slightly higher among African Americans (39/100,000 population) compared to Hispanics (32/100,000) and White Non-Hispanics (37/100,000).



Drowning Prevention

The Florida Department of Health has developed the following drowning prevention recommendations:

- Children can drown in a matter of seconds. If a child is missing, check the water first.
- There is no substitute for adequate supervision. Children need to be watched. Never leave children unattended in or around pools or spas - not even for a second.
- A child can drown in less time than it takes to answer the telephone.
- Children drown in pools, spas, buckets, toilets and bathtubs. A child can drown in as little as a few inches of water.
- Empty buckets immediately after use and store them upside down and out of a child's reach.
- Never allow a young child to be responsible for a younger sibling or playmate.

The key to preventing swimming pool tragedies is to have layers of protection. This includes placing barriers around your pool to prevent access, using door alarms, closely supervising your child and being prepared in case of an emergency.

- Never disable an alarm or prop open the gate to a swimming pool barrier.
- Learn to swim and teach children how to swim.
- Flotation devices and swimming lessons are not a substitute for adult supervision.
- Remove toys from in and around the pool area, especially riding toys.
- Knowing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can be a lifesaver.