**Unintentional Drowning, Ages 0-17 Years, 2012‐2014**

Unintentional drowning is the leading cause of injury deaths to children aged 1 ‐ 4 years. Fatal and nonfatal drowning incidents occur most often in swimming pools for children aged 1 - 4, while drowning incidents for teens aged 15 – 17 years occur most often in natural water (ocean, lakes and rivers).

Between the years 2012‐2014:

* 20 Miami‐Dade County children aged 17 years and under died as a result of drowning. The number of drownings during this time period was the same as in years 2011-2013.
* 88 children were hospitalized as a result of non-fatal drownings.
* 127 children were treated at an emergency department (ED) as a result of non-fatal drownings.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Injury Severity | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | Total |
| Deaths | 5 | 10 | 5 | 20 |
| Hospitalizations | 29 | 20 | 39 | 88 |
| ED Visits | 55 | 44 | 28 | 127 |
| Total | 89 | 74 | 72 | 235 |

* The most common site for fatal and nonfatal drowning incidents was in a swimming pool. Approximately 71% of nonfatal pool drownings occurred among 1 – 4 year olds.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Submersion Type | Fatal | Nonfatal | Overall Percent |
| Swimming Pool | 12 | 144 | 66% |
| Natural Water | 5 |  | 2% |
| Other Specified (Lake/Canal) | 1 |  | < 1% |
| Recreational Swimming |  | 18 | 8% |
| Sport/Scuba Diving/Water Skiing |  | 22 | 9% |
| Bathtub |  | 9 | 4% |
| Other/Unspecified | 2 | 22 | 10% |
| Total | 20 | 215 | 100% |

* During 2014, nonfatal drowning incidents were estimated to cost nearly $1 million in hospitalization and ED visit charges (Table).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2014 Hospital & ED Charges for Nonfatal Drowning Incidents to  Miami-Dade County Residents | | | |
|  | **Number** | **Total Charges** | **Median Charge** |
| Hospitalizations | **39** | **$910,592** | **$9,950** |
| ED Visits | **28** | **$ 69,557** | **$1,634** |
| All Nonfatal Drownings | **67** | **$980,149** | **$4,937** |

The figures below display fatal and nonfatal drowning rates by age group and gender.

* Children aged 0-4 and teenagers aged 15-17 were at greatest risk for fatal drownings. Nine of the twelve fatal drownings among 0-4 year olds occurred in a pool.
* Among children aged 0 – 17 years, males were more than twice as likely as females to die from drownings.
* Children aged 0 – 4 years accounted for approximately 70% if all nonfatal drownings. The nonfatal drowning rate for this group was more than 6-times higher than that of children aged 5 - 17 years.
* Among children aged 0 – 17 years, nonfatal drowning rates for males were more than 1.5-times greater compared to females.