



THE DROWNING REPORT

JANUARY 2026

Provisional Monthly Analysis

PROVISIONAL DATA

69

VICTIM RECORDS DATED JANUARY 2026

A focused analysis of demographic patterns, water settings, geography, recorded circumstances, and data quality in THE DROWNING REPORT database.

25

STATES REPRESENTED

Stored state values

83%

MALE

57 of 69 records

67%

LAKE, RIVER, OCEAN

46 of 69 records

CRITICAL DATE LIMITATION

Before August 4, 2026, the database Date field was commonly used for the report, recovery, or identification date rather than the incident date. These are therefore **records carrying January 2026 dates**, not a verified count of drownings that physically occurred during January.

69

DATED RECORDS

One victim per record

57

MALE

82.6% of records

24

AGE 19 OR UNDER

34.8% of records

46

LAKE, RIVER, OCEAN

66.7% of records

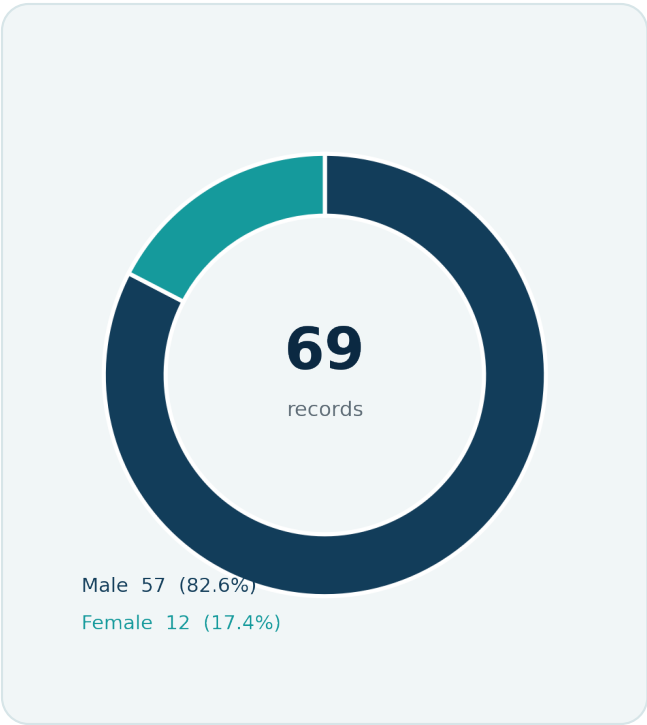
Key findings

- **A pronounced male majority**
Men and boys account for **57 records (82.6%)**, compared with 12 female records. The male-to-female ratio is 4.75 to 1.
- **Adults remain the largest age group**
Adults age 20 and older account for **44 records (63.8%)**. Youth age 19 and younger account for 24 records.
- **Child risk clusters around pools and ponds**
Of the 17 records involving children age 12 and under, **12 (70.6%)** were coded as a home pool or pond.
- **Open water dominates the monthly file**
Lakes, rivers, and ocean/bay/sound settings total **46 records (66.7%)**. Lakes are the largest single setting with 21 records.
- **Winter mechanisms are highly visible**
The database flags **15 fall-through-ice records**. Motorized boats appear in 9 records, fishing or hunting in 7, and no PFD in 6.
- **Five states hold more than half the file**
California, Florida, Michigan, Texas, and Illinois account for **38 records (55.1%)**. The other 31 records are distributed across 20 states.

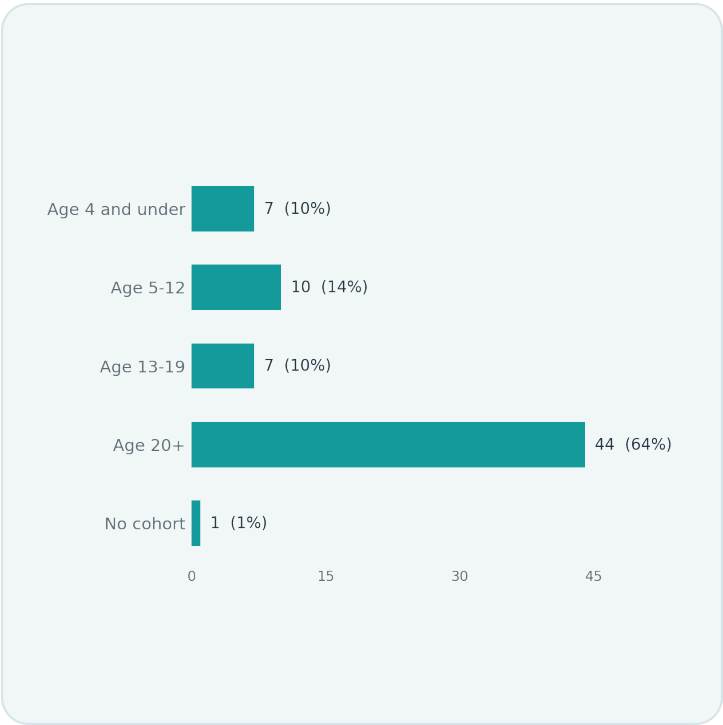
Read every count as provisional

This file is not an official national mortality total and does not support population rates. Circumstance flags overlap, and an unchecked field can mean either that the factor was absent or that the source did not report it. None of the 69 records is currently marked SOURCE VERIFIED.

Gender



Age cohorts



Male share

57 of 69 records are male. This is the strongest demographic imbalance in the January file and appears across both youth and adult records.

Children age 12 and under

17 records involve children age 12 and under. Six are coded to home pools and six to ponds, making those two settings the central child-safety signal.

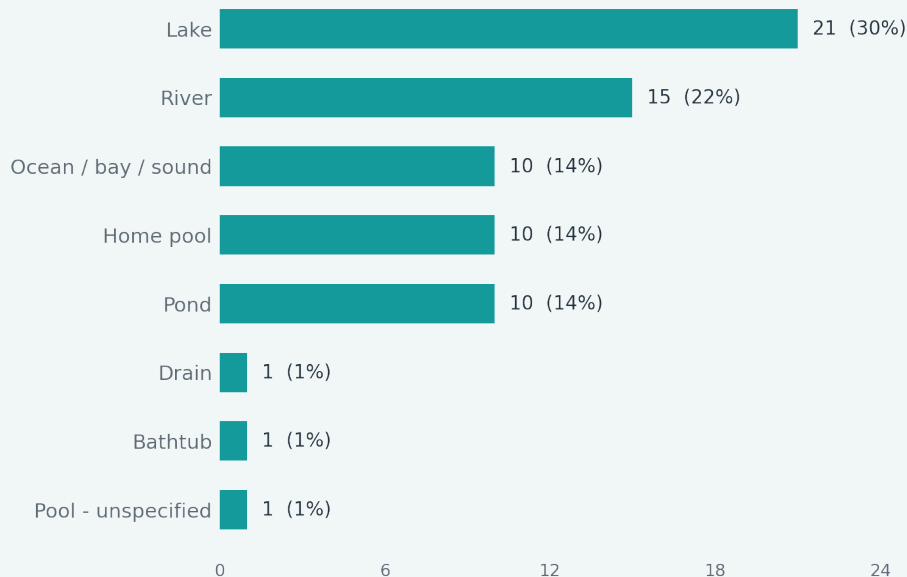
Cohort coverage

An age cohort is present for 68 of 69 records. One record carries an automated warning for having neither an age nor a cohort.

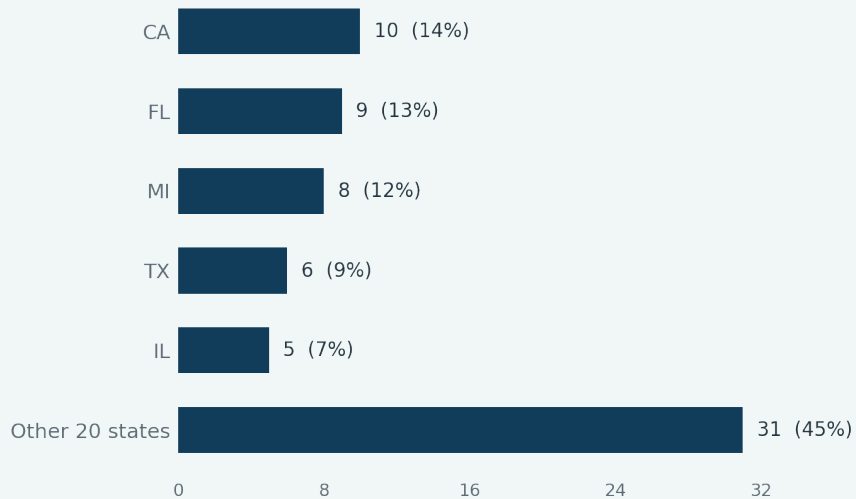
Interpretation

The age groups shown here are the database's operational cohorts, not standard public-health age bands. In particular, the TEEN category includes ages 13 through 19. Percentages use all 69 records as the denominator, including the one record without a cohort.

Water setting

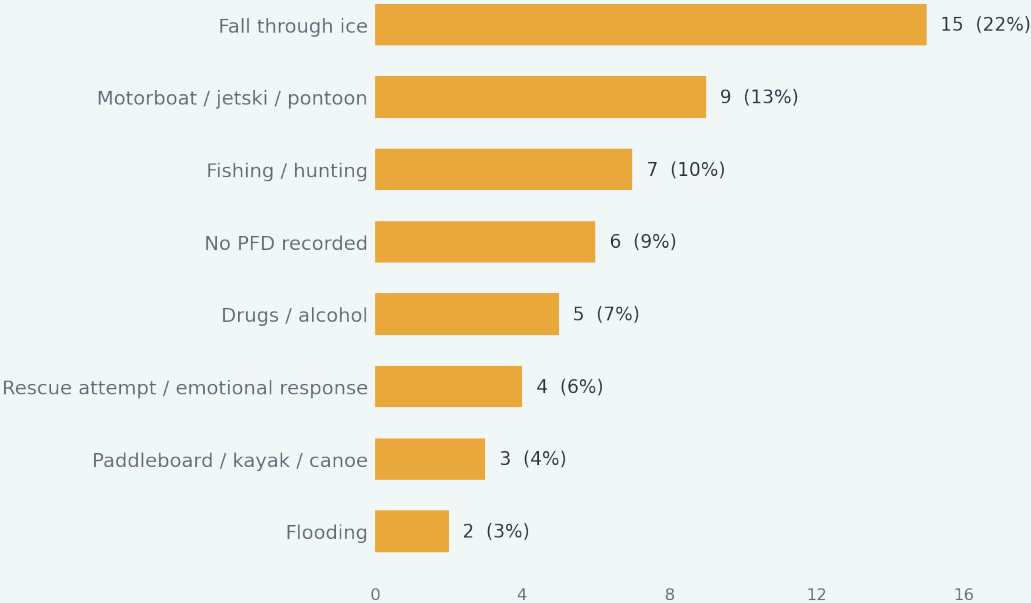


Top states



State counts use stored database values and have not been individually source-audited for this report.

Flags can overlap and should be treated as minimum counts



1. Winter ice safety

With 15 records flagged, January's leading circumstance is ice failure. Prevention communication should pair ice-condition warnings with clear rescue guidance: call for help, reach or throw from shore, and avoid creating a second victim.

2. Life jackets around boats and fishing

Motorized boats appear in 9 records, paddling craft in 3, and fishing or hunting in 7. Six records explicitly note no PFD, a floor rather than a complete non-wearing count.

3. Pools and ponds remain year-round child hazards

Six of the 10 home-pool records and six of the 10 pond records involve children age 12 and under. Winter weather does not erase access risk. Barriers, door alarms, active supervision, and rapid missing-child response remain relevant all year.

4. Rescue and weather awareness

Four records are flagged as rescue attempts or emotional responses, two involve flooding, and one involves waves or a rip current. The shared prevention thread is situational judgment before entry: assess conditions, summon trained help, and use flotation or reaching equipment.

Why the January figures are provisional

0**SOURCE VERIFIED**

No records marked verified

19**ENTRY WARNINGS**

Mostly formatting checks

0**POSSIBLE DUPLICATES**

No duplicate flags

68**AGE COHORTS**

98.6% coverage



Scope

The report includes every victim record whose stored Date falls from January 1 through January 31, 2026. Each Airtable row is counted once. No attempt was made to estimate unreported deaths or reconcile the file to CDC, medical-examiner, or vital-statistics totals.

Critical date limitation

The Date field changed meaning on August 4, 2026. Earlier records may use the news-report date, body-recovery date, or identification date instead of the incident date. Because the January records were created before that rule change, the monthly count cannot be described as a verified incident-month total.

Interpretation rules

Percentages use 69 as the denominator unless stated otherwise. Circumstance categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, a single boating death may also be coded as fishing, no PFD, and fall through ice. Totals across factors must not be added together.

What a blank field means

For several fields, blank or unchecked does not mean the factor was absent. It can mean the source did not state the information or the record has not yet been fully screened. The factor counts in this report are therefore minimum documented counts.

Ethnicity is intentionally omitted

The database schema warns that historical ethnicity values include unsourced inference and should not be published until the field is re-sourced or cleared. This report follows that restriction.

Recommended cleanup before a final January edition

1) verify the incident date against the source for all 69 records; 2) resolve the 19 automated entry warnings; 3) audit stored state and place values; 4) mark records SOURCE VERIFIED only after the source, date, location, and demographic fields have been checked.

State-by-state record counts

State	Records	Share
CA	10	14.5%
FL	9	13.0%
MI	8	11.6%
TX	6	8.7%
IL	5	7.2%
AZ	3	4.3%
TN	3	4.3%
HI	2	2.9%
IN	2	2.9%
MA	2	2.9%
MD	2	2.9%
NH	2	2.9%
OH	2	2.9%

State	Records	Share
WA	2	2.9%
CO	1	1.4%
KS	1	1.4%
LA	1	1.4%
MO	1	1.4%
MS	1	1.4%
NY	1	1.4%
OR	1	1.4%
RI	1	1.4%
SC	1	1.4%
VA	1	1.4%
WI	1	1.4%

Definitions used in this report

Record count: one victim per Airtable row. Multi-victim events therefore contribute more than one record.

Youth: the database cohorts CHILD 4&U; CHILD 5 to12, and TEEN 13 to19 combined.

Lake, river, ocean: the PLACE values LAKE, RIVER, and OCEAN/BAY/SOUND combined. Ponds are shown separately.

Recorded factor: a checked circumstance field. Factors can overlap, and unchecked fields are not reliable evidence of absence.

Provisional: counts have not been fully source-verified and may change after incident-date, location, duplicate, or classification review.

SOURCE NOTE

THE DROWNING REPORT Airtable database, table THE DROWNING REPORT, queried August 13, 2026. This report does not reproduce source articles and is not an official CDC or vital-statistics publication.