

THE DROWNING REPORT

MARCH 2026

Provisional Monthly Analysis

PROVISIONAL DATA

83

VICTIM RECORDS DATED MARCH 2026

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

26

STATES REPRESENTED

Stored state values

84%

MALE

70 of 83 records

69%

LAKE, RIVER, OCEAN

57 of 83 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 March 2026 dates, not a verified count of drownings that physically occurred during March.

March at a glance

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What the 83 dated records show

83

DATED RECORDS

One victim per record

70

MALE

84.3% of records

29

AGE 19 OR UNDER

34.9% of records

57

LAKE, RIVER, OCEAN

68.7% of records

Key findings

- **A pronounced male majority**
Men and boys account for 70 records (84.3%), compared with 13 female records. The male-to-female ratio is 5.38 to 1.
- **Adults remain the largest age group**
Adults age 20 and older account for 53 records (63.9%). Youth age 19 and younger account for 29 records.
- **Ponds and pools remain prominent**
Fourteen pond records and 11 pool-setting records total 25 incidents (30.1%) across water hazards that remain important outside the summer season.
- **Open water dominates the monthly file**
Lakes, rivers, and ocean/bay/sound settings total 57 records (68.7%). Lakes are the largest single setting with 31 records.
- **Fishing and boating are highly visible**
Fishing or hunting appears in 9 records, motorized boats in 8, paddling craft in 5, and no PFD is explicitly recorded in 5.
- **Texas and Florida lead stored state counts**
Texas and Florida each have 13 records, California 9, Pennsylvania 5, and Arizona 4. Those five states account for 44 records (53.0%).

Read every count as provisional

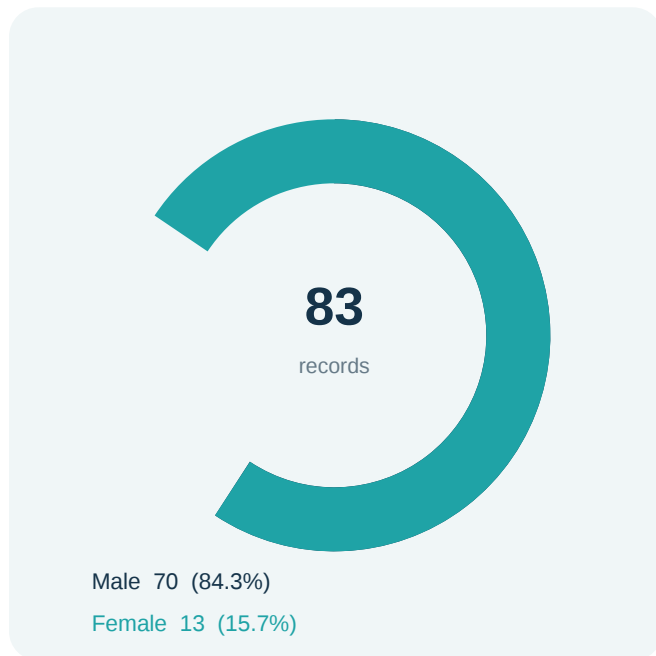
This file is not an official national mortality total and does not support population rates. Circumstance flags overlap, and an unchecked field can mean either that the factor was absent or that the source did not report it. None of the 83 records is currently marked SOURCE VERIFIED.

Demographic profile

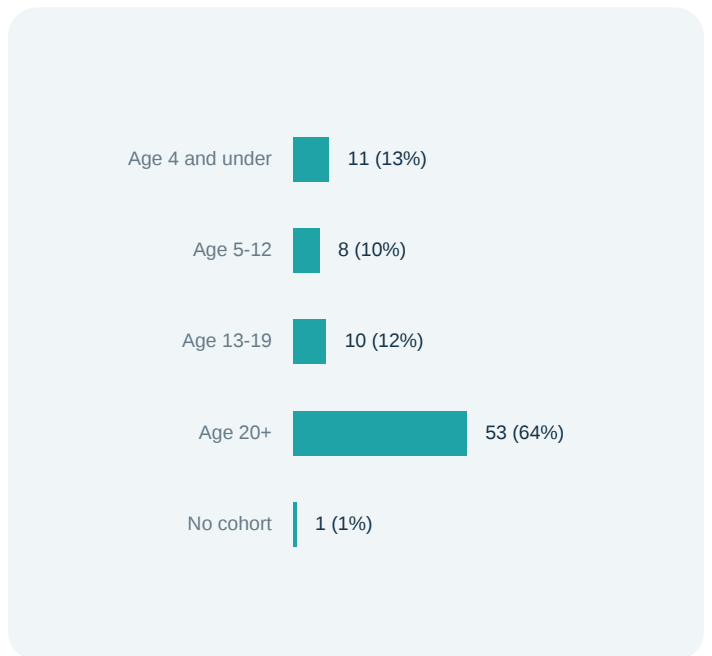
3

Gender and age cohort distribution

Gender



Age cohorts



Male share

70 of 83 records are male. The male majority is even stronger than in the prior two monthly files in this series.

Youth profile

29 records involve people age 19 and under: 11 age 4 and under, 8 age 5-12, and 10 age 13-19.

Cohort coverage

An age cohort is present for 82 of 83 records. One record carries an automated warning for having neither an age nor a cohort.

Interpretation

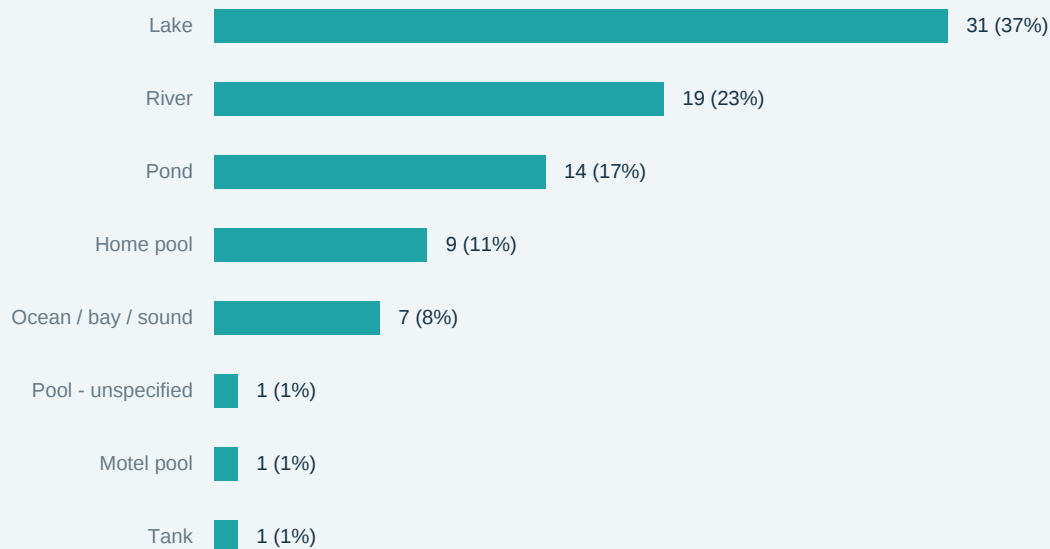
The age groups shown here are the database's operational cohorts, not standard public-health age bands. In particular, the TEEN category includes ages 13 through 19. Percentages use all 83 records as the denominator, including the one record without a cohort.

Where the records are concentrated

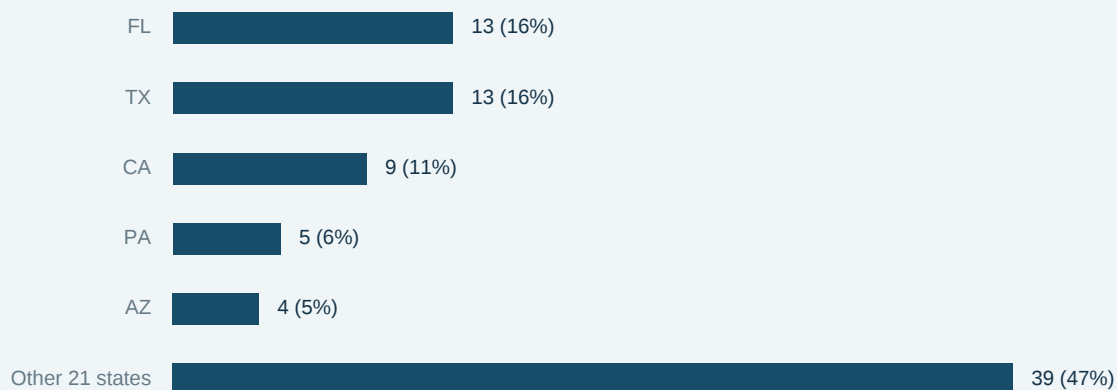
4

Water setting and stored state

Water setting



Top states

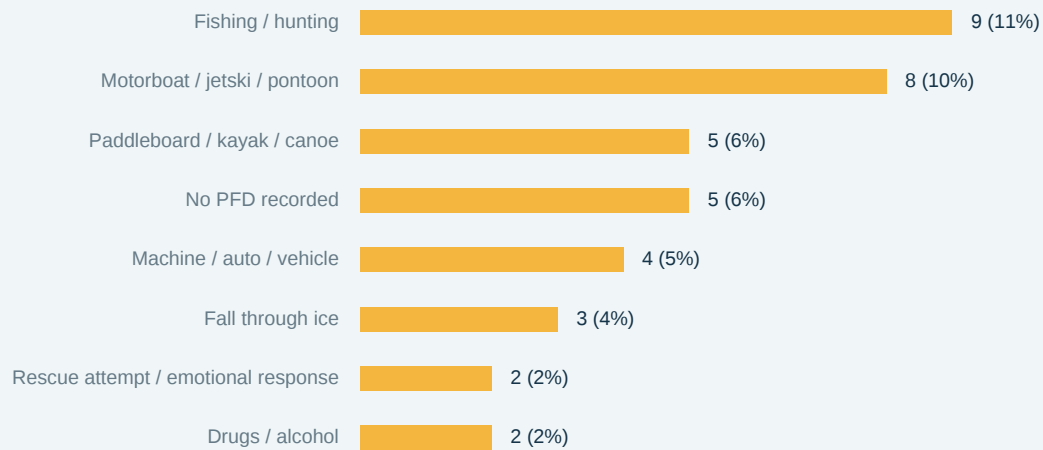


State counts use stored database values and have not been individually source-audited for this report.

Recorded circumstances and prevention themes

5

Flags can overlap and should be treated as minimum counts



1. Life jackets around boats and fishing

Fishing or hunting appears in 9 records and motorized boats in 8. Five records explicitly note no PFD, which is a minimum documented count rather than a full measure of non-wearing.

2. Paddling and spring open water

Five records involve paddleboards, kayaks, or canoes. As water recreation increases, cold-water exposure, flotation, weather awareness, and conservative trip planning remain central prevention messages.

3. Ice risk has not disappeared

Three March records are flagged as fall-through-ice incidents. The seasonal transition can be deceptive: weakening ice and warming air do not make cold water or late-season ice safe.

4. Vehicle and rescue decisions

Vehicles or machines appear in 4 records and rescue attempts or emotional responses in 2. Prevention messaging should emphasize staying out of moving water and using reach-or-throw rescue methods when possible.

Methodology and data quality

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Why the March figures are provisional

0

SOURCE VERIFIED

No records marked verified

27

ENTRY WARNINGS

32.5% of records

0

POSSIBLE DUPLICATES

No duplicate flags

82

AGE COHORTS

98.8% coverage



Scope

The report includes every victim record whose stored Date falls from March 1 through March 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.

Interpretation rules

Percentages use 83 as the denominator unless stated otherwise. Circumstance categories are not mutually exclusive. A single death may be coded as boating, fishing, no PFD, and another factor at the same time. Totals across factors must not be added together.

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 March records were created before that rule change, the monthly count cannot be described as a verified incident-month total.

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 March edition

1) verify the incident date against the source for all 83 records; 2) resolve the 27 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
FL	13	15.7%
TX	13	15.7%
CA	9	10.8%
PA	5	6.0%
AZ	4	4.8%
GA	3	3.6%
KY	3	3.6%
MI	3	3.6%
NC	3	3.6%
OH	3	3.6%
SC	3	3.6%
WA	3	3.6%
CO	2	2.4%

State	Records	Share
IN	2	2.4%
OK	2	2.4%
TN	2	2.4%
AL	1	1.2%
AR	1	1.2%
ID	1	1.2%
IL	1	1.2%
MA	1	1.2%
MO	1	1.2%
MT	1	1.2%
NJ	1	1.2%
OR	1	1.2%
VA	1	1.2%

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.