

THE DROWNING REPORT

MAY 2026

Provisional Monthly Analysis

PROVISIONAL DATA

164

VICTIM RECORDS DATED MAY 2026

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

38

STATES REPRESENTED

Stored state values

87%

MALE

142 of 164 records

74%

LAKE, RIVER, OCEAN

121 of 164 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 May 2026 dates, not a verified count of drownings that physically occurred during May.

What the 164 dated records show

164

DATED RECORDS

One victim per record

142

MALE

86.6% of records

64

AGE 19 OR UNDER

39.0% of records

121

LAKE, RIVER, OCEAN

73.8% of records

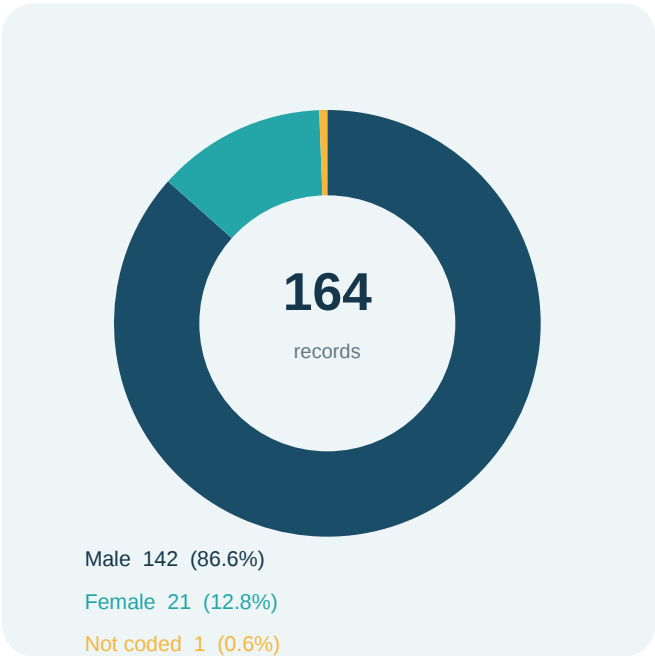
Key findings

- A pronounced male majority**
 - Men and boys account for 142 records (86.6%), compared with 21 female records; one gender value is uncoded. Among coded records, the male-to-female ratio is 6.76 to 1.
- Adults remain the largest age group**
 - Adults age 20 and older account for 100 records (61.0%). Youth age 19 and younger account for 64 records (39.0%).
- Pools and ponds remain central child settings**
 - Of the 41 records involving children age 12 and under, 21 (51.2%) are coded to a home pool or pond. Fifteen of those 21 are home-pool records.
- Open water dominates the monthly file**
 - Lakes, rivers, and ocean/bay/sound settings total 121 records (73.8%). Lakes are the largest single setting with 52 records.
- Fishing, boating and paddling stand out**
 - Fishing or hunting appears in 18 records, motorized boats in 16, paddling craft in 11, and no PFD is explicitly recorded in 13. These documented factors can overlap.
- May is geographically dispersed**
 - Florida leads with 18 records, followed by Texas with 13 and California with 10. New York and Missouri have 9 each; the five leading states account for 59 records (36.0%).

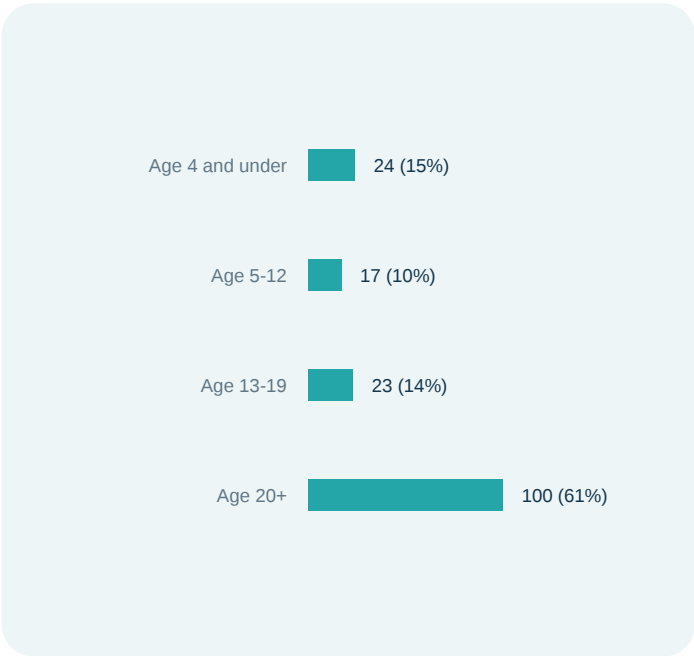
Read every count as provisional

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 164 records is currently marked SOURCE VERIFIED.

Gender



Age cohorts



Male share

142 of 164 records are male (86.6%). Female is coded in 21 records, and one record has no gender value.

Youth profile

64 records involve people age 19 and under: 24 age 4 and under, 17 age 5-12, and 23 age 13-19.

Cohort coverage

An age cohort is present for all 164 May-dated records. There is no uncoded age-cohort row in this monthly file.

Interpretation

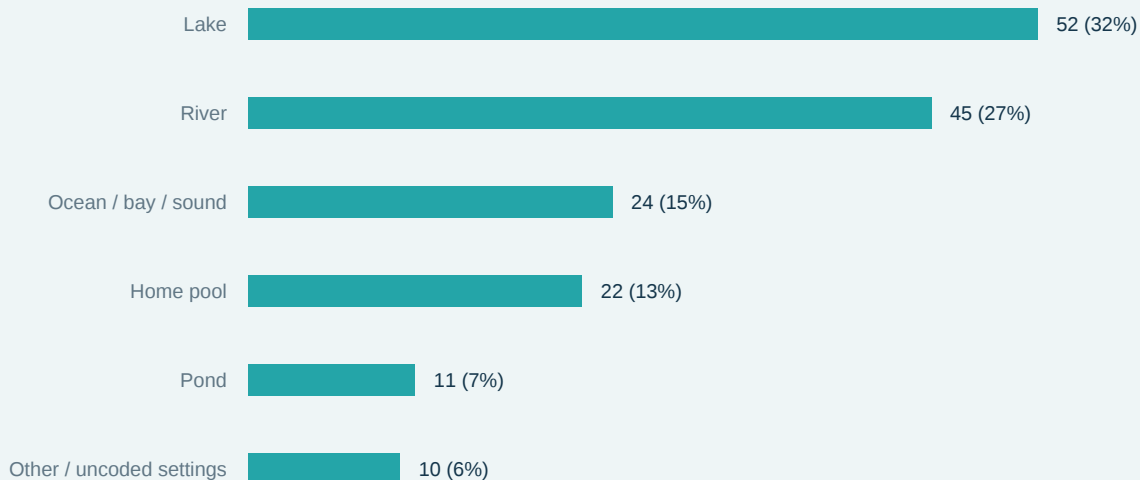
The age groups shown here are the database's operational cohorts, not standard public-health age bands. In particular, the TEEN category includes ages 13 through 19. Percentages use all 164 records as the denominator.

Where the records are concentrated

4

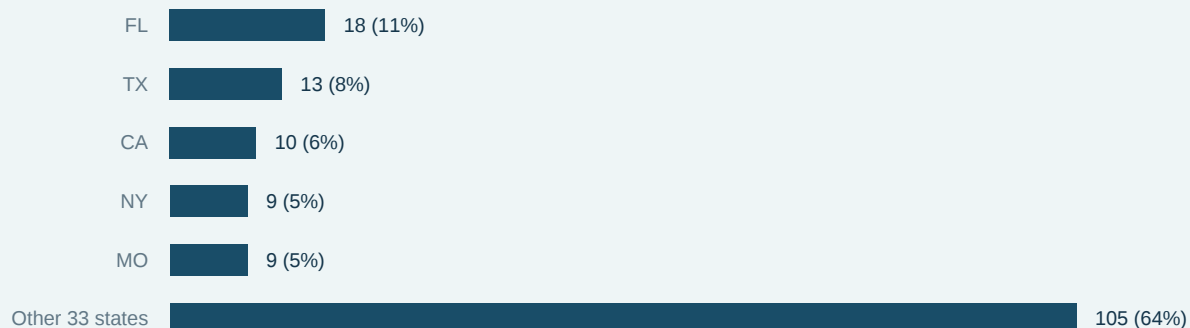
Water setting and stored state

Water setting



Other / uncoded settings combine the remaining 10 May records outside the five largest setting categories.

Top states

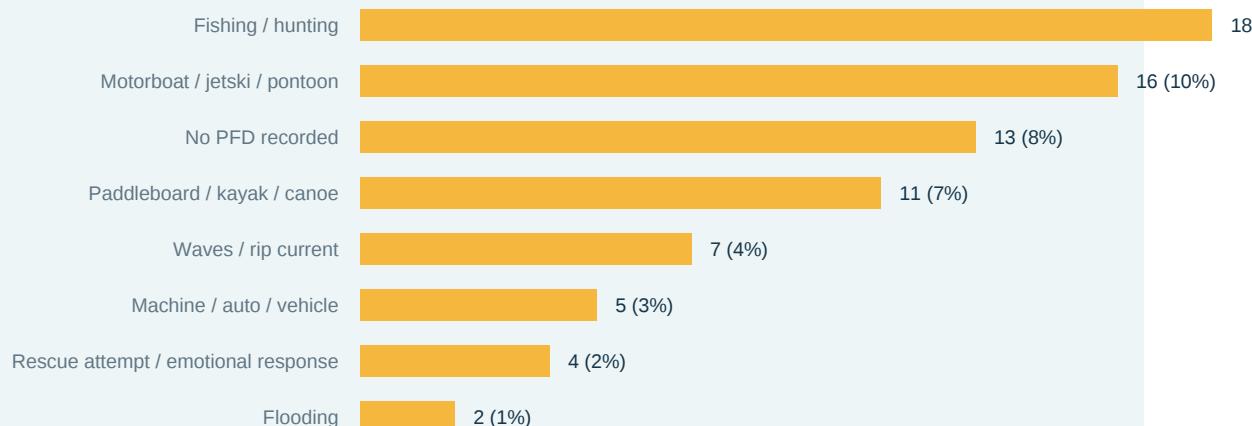


State counts use stored database values and have not been individually source-audited for this report.

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 18 records, motorized boats in 16, and paddling craft in 11. Thirteen records explicitly note no PFD, a minimum documented count rather than a full measure of non-wearing.

2. Open-water and surf decisions

Lakes, rivers, and ocean/bay/sound settings account for 121 records (73.8%). Waves or rip currents are flagged in 7. Check conditions, use appropriate flotation, and avoid entering beyond ability.

3. Rescue, vehicles and flooding

Rescue attempts or emotional responses are flagged in 4 records, vehicles or machines in 5, and flooding in 2. These incidents call for reach-throw rescue, roadway caution, and rapid use of trained responders.

4. Home pools remain a young-child hazard

May contains 22 home-pool records. Fifteen involve children age 12 and under, including 12 age 4 and under. Four-sided barriers, door alarms, active supervision, and rapid missing-child response remain central prevention tools.

Methodology and data quality

6

Why the May figures are provisional

0

SOURCE VERIFIED

No records marked verified

63

ENTRY WARNINGS

38.4% of records

0

POSSIBLE DUPLICATES

No duplicate flags

164

AGE COHORTS

100.0% coverage



Scope

The report includes every victim record whose stored Date falls from May 1 through May 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 164 as the denominator unless stated otherwise. Circumstance categories are not mutually exclusive. A single death may be coded as boating, fishing, no PFD, waves, rescue, or 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 these May 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 May edition

1) verify the incident date against the source for all 164 records; 2) resolve the 63 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.

Leading state record counts

State	Records	Share
FL	18	11.0%
TX	13	7.9%
CA	10	6.1%
NY	9	5.5%
MO	9	5.5%
AL	7	4.3%
MI	7	4.3%
PA	7	4.3%

State	Records	Share
SC	6	3.7%
AZ	5	3.0%
GA	5	3.0%
KS	5	3.0%
TN	5	3.0%
NC	4	2.4%
OK	4	2.4%
Other 23 states	50	30.5%

Other 23 states groups 50 records across the remaining represented states; May includes 38 states in total.

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.