



THE DROWNING REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

Provisional Monthly Analysis

PROVISIONAL DATA

53

VICTIM RECORDS DATED FEBRUARY 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

44 of 53 records

58%

LAKE, RIVER, OCEAN

31 of 53 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 February 2026 dates, not a verified count of drownings that physically occurred during February.

53

DATED RECORDS

One victim per record

44

MALE

83.0% of records

21

AGE 19 OR UNDER

39.6% of records

31

LAKE, RIVER, OCEAN

58.5% of records

Key findings

- **A pronounced male majority**

Men and boys account for 44 records (83.0%), compared with 9 female records. The male-to-female ratio is 4.89 to 1.

- **Adults remain the largest age group**

Adults age 20 and older account for 32 records (60.4%). Youth age 19 and younger account for 21 records.

- **Child incidents remain concentrated in pools and ponds**

Of the 16 records involving children age 12 and under, 12 (75.0%) were coded to a pool setting of some kind or a pond.

- **Rivers lead the February water settings**

Rivers account for 17 records (32.1%), the largest single setting. Lakes, rivers, and ocean/bay/sound together total 31 records (58.5%).

- **Winter mechanisms remain visible**

The database flags 9 fall-through-ice records. Drugs or alcohol appear in 6 records, motorized boats in 5, and vehicles or machines in 5.

- **Geographic spread is broad**

Illinois has 6 records, Texas 5, and Massachusetts 4. Seven states with at least 3 records account for 27 records (50.9%).

Read every count as provisional

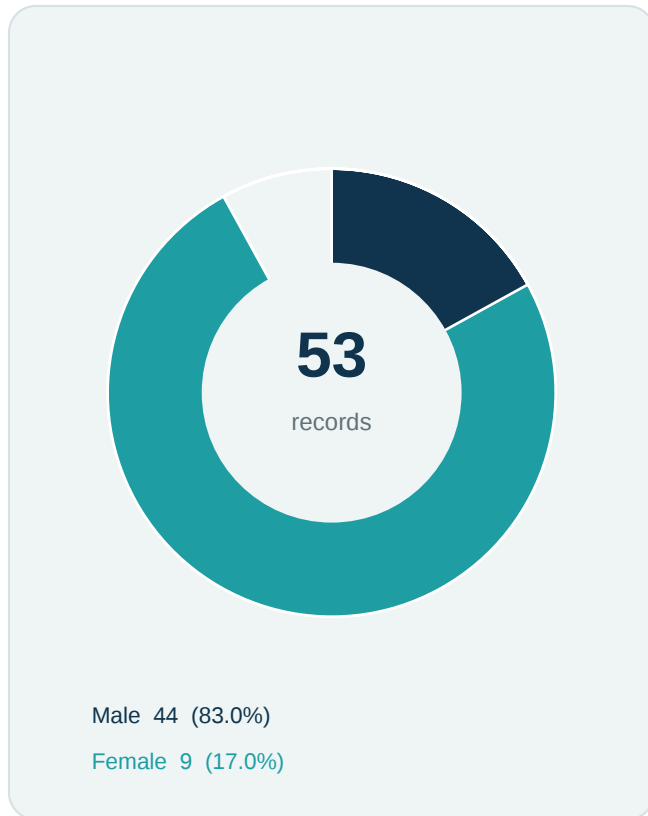
This file is not an official national mortality total and does not support population rates. Circumstance flags overlap, and an unchecked field can mean either that the factor was absent or that the source did not report it. None of the 53 records is currently marked SOURCE VERIFIED.

Demographic profile

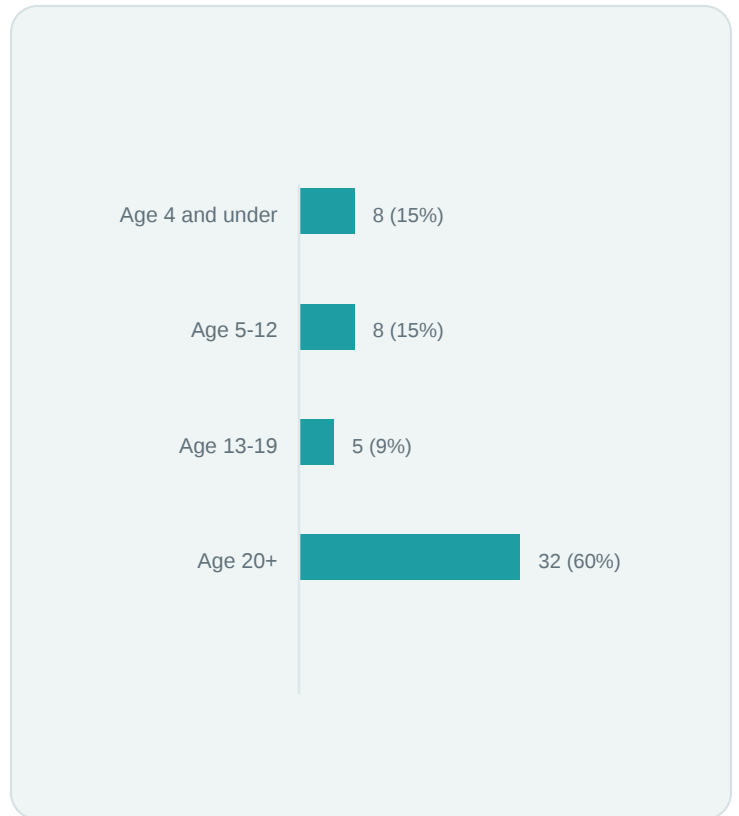
3

Gender and age cohort distribution

Gender



Age cohorts



Male share

44 of 53 records are male. The male majority is visible across both youth and adult records.

Children age 12 and under

16 records involve children age 12 and under. Twelve are coded to a pool setting or pond, making access and supervision a central child-safety signal.

Cohort coverage

An age cohort is present for all 53 records. February therefore has 100% cohort coverage in the current file.

Interpretation

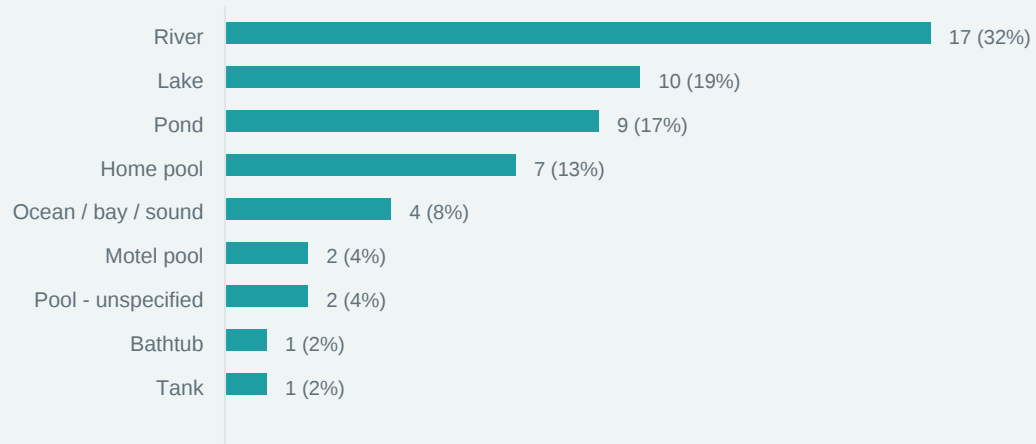
The age groups shown here are the database's operational cohorts, not standard public-health age bands. In particular, the TEEN category includes ages 13 through 19. Percentages use all 53 records as the denominator.

Where the records are concentrated

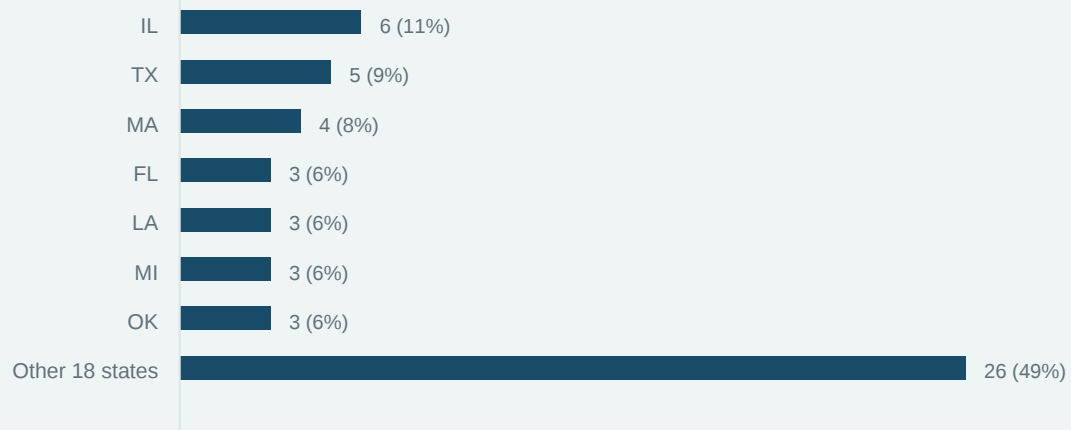
4

Water setting and stored state

Water setting



Top states

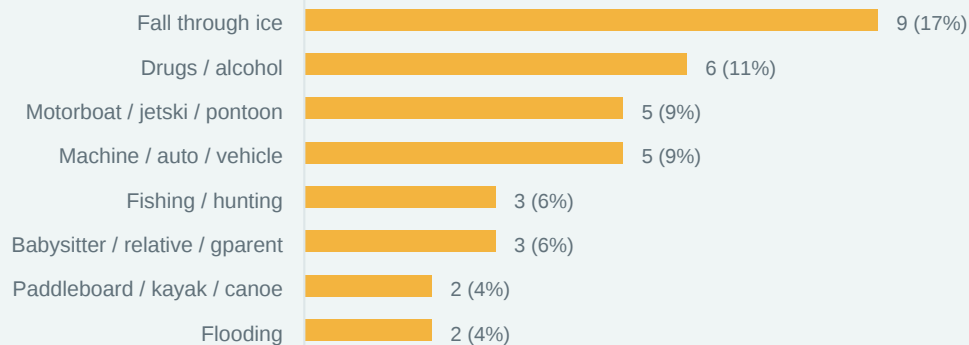


State counts use stored database values and have not been individually source-audited for this report.

Recorded circumstances and prevention themes

5

Flags can overlap and should be treated as minimum counts



1. Winter ice safety

With 9 records flagged, February's leading documented circumstance is ice failure. Prevention communication should pair ice-condition warnings with rescue guidance: call for help, reach or throw from shore, and avoid entering unstable ice.

2. Watercraft and life jackets

Motorized boats appear in 5 records, paddling craft in 2, and fishing or hunting in 3. Only 1 record explicitly notes no PFD, which should be read as a minimum documented count rather than a complete non-wearing total.

3. Pools and ponds remain child hazards

Twelve of the 16 records involving children age 12 and under are coded to a pool setting or pond. Barriers, door alarms, active supervision, and rapid missing-child response remain relevant year-round.

4. Vehicles, alcohol, and weather

Drugs or alcohol are flagged in 6 records, vehicles or machines in 5, and flooding in 2. These factors point beyond recreational swimming alone and reinforce the need for water-risk awareness around roads, shorelines, and impaired decision-making.

Methodology and data quality

6

0

SOURCE VERIFIED

No records marked verified

17

ENTRY WARNINGS

Mostly formatting / field checks

0

POSSIBLE DUPLICATES

No duplicate flags

53

AGE COHORTS

100.0% coverage



Scope

The report includes every victim record whose stored Date falls from February 1 through February 28, 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 53 as the denominator unless stated otherwise. Circumstance categories are not mutually exclusive. A single record can be coded to more than one factor, so 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 February 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. Factor counts 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 February edition

1) verify the incident date against the source for all 53 records; 2) resolve the 17 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
IL	6	11.3%
TX	5	9.4%
MA	4	7.5%
FL	3	5.7%
LA	3	5.7%
MI	3	5.7%
OK	3	5.7%
AZ	2	3.8%
GA	2	3.8%
HI	2	3.8%
MN	2	3.8%
MO	2	3.8%
NC	2	3.8%

State	Records	Share
NJ	2	3.8%
TN	2	3.8%
CA	1	1.9%
CO	1	1.9%
IN	1	1.9%
MD	1	1.9%
ME	1	1.9%
MS	1	1.9%
NM	1	1.9%
VA	1	1.9%
VT	1	1.9%
WI	1	1.9%

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.