

The State of Drowning

2025 Annual Report — United States

Source: The Drowning Report incident database (TAETI / TDR). **Records analyzed:** 2,029 individual drowning incidents, all dated calendar year 2025 (January 1 – December 31). Each record is linked to a news report, so this is a media-sourced incident log rather than a vital-statistics file; fields such as ethnicity are populated only where the underlying source noted them.



Executive Summary

The database logged **2,029 drownings in 2025**. The picture is consistent with national patterns but carries a strong signature of its own: this is overwhelmingly a **natural-water, adult-male, summer** dataset.

- **81.9% happened in natural or open water** — rivers, lakes, the ocean, and ponds. Pools of all kinds account for just 13.5%.
- **79.3% of victims were male**; 19.9% were female.
- **64.4% of incidents involved an adult 20+**. Children and teens each make up roughly 11–12%.
- **Summer dominates:** June–August alone account for 54.1% of the year, with July the single deadliest month (519 incidents, 25.6%).
- **Texas leads every state** (327 incidents, 16.1%) — roughly double the next-highest state.

When — Seasonality

The curve is steep. The four warm-season months (May–August) hold the majority of the year, and July alone is the deadliest month by a wide margin.

Month	Incidents	% of Year	Distribution
Jan	69	3.4%	
Feb	78	3.8%	
Mar	91	4.5%	
Apr	132	6.5%	
May	180	8.9%	
Jun	321	15.8%	
Jul	519	25.6%	
Aug	257	12.7%	
Sep	138	6.8%	
Oct	106	5.2%	

Month	Incidents	% of Year	Distribution
Nov	69	3.4%	
Dec	69	3.4%	

Who — Age

By age checkbox, adults 20+ account for the clear majority, while the three child/teen bands are each near 11–12%. (49 records had no age box checked.) Among the 1,406 records carrying a usable numeric age (median age 27), the 0–4 group is the largest single child band — consistent with the national finding that toddlers are a peak-risk group.

Age Group (checkbox)	Count	% of All	Numeric Age (n=1406)	Count	% Known
Adult 20+	1306	64.4%	0-4	211	15.0%
Teen 13–19	241	11.9%	5-12	149	10.6%
Child 4 & under	227	11.2%	13-19	197	14.0%
Child 5–12	218	10.7%	20-29	183	13.0%
			30-49	273	19.4%
			50-69	271	19.3%
			70+	122	8.7%

Sex

Male **1,608 (79.3%)** • Female **404 (19.9%)** • Blank 17. This roughly 4-to-1 male skew matches the national figure of nearly 80% almost exactly.

Where — Location

Location flips sharply by age — the single most important pattern in the data. Young children drown overwhelmingly in **home pools**, while adults drown in **rivers and lakes**.

Place	Incidents	% Known	Distribution
River	694	34.4%	
Lake	592	29.4%	
Ocean	225	11.2%	
Home Pool	200	9.9%	
Pond	150	7.4%	
Apartment Pool	36	1.8%	
Pool	29	1.4%	
Bathtub	27	1.3%	

Place	Incidents	% Known	Distribution
Ditch	22	1.1%	
Flooding	12	0.6%	

Children 4 & under drown in...	% in Group
Home Pool	49.8%
Pond	11.5%
Lake	9.3%
Bathtub	7.5%
River	7.0%

Adults 20+ drown in...	% in Group
River	38.4%
Lake	33.7%
Ocean	14.5%
Pond	5.1%
Home Pool	3.8%

Contributing Factors

Boating-related causes cluster together — jetski/boats, paddlecraft, and no-life-jacket flags reinforce the open-water story. Flooding being the single most-flagged factor is notable and suggests weather-driven events were a meaningful share of 2025 captures.

Factor	Incidents	% of All	Distribution
Flooding	239	11.8%	
Jetski Boats Pontoons	214	10.5%	
No PFD No Life-Jacket	150	7.4%	
Fishing Hunting	124	6.1%	
Machine Auto Vehicle	117	5.8%	
Paddleboard Kayak Canoe	103	5.1%	
Waves Ripcurrent	80	3.9%	
Rescue Attempt Emotional Response	67	3.3%	
Drugs Alcohol	60	3.0%	
Rafts Floats Tubing	33	1.6%	
Fall Through Ice	29	1.4%	
Cliff Bridge Jumping	28	1.4%	
Guards Present	26	1.3%	
Fleeing Police	24	1.2%	

Where — Top States

All 50 states appear (0 records have a blank state). Texas's lead is striking — nearly double the next state — and, combined with the flooding signal, may reflect specific 2025 flood events.

State	Incidents	% of All	Distribution
TX	327	16.1%	
FL	153	7.5%	
CA	153	7.5%	
MI	71	3.5%	
GA	71	3.5%	
NY	71	3.5%	
AZ	64	3.2%	
NC	62	3.1%	
IL	61	3.0%	
TN	59	2.9%	

Ethnicity

Recorded in only 17.8% of records (362 of 2,029), so treat as indicative, not representative of all incidents. Among those where it was noted:

Ethnicity (where recorded)	Count	% of Known
Hispanic	190	52.5%
African American	146	40.3%
Indian	25	6.9%
Native American	1	0.3%

Generated from The Drowning Report database • 2,029 records • calendar year 2025 • Total Aquatic Education & Training Institute (TAETI)