DROWNINGS IN TARRANT COUNTY

Figure 1. Fatal drowning rates among all age groups by geographical location, 2017

In 2017 there were 27 fatal drownings in Tarrant County

The majority of fatal drownings in 2017 were among adults

Figure 2. Proportion of adult and child fatal drownings by geographical location, 2017

From 2016 to 2017, Tarrant County adult fatal drownings increased 57%

Drowning
Respiratory impairment due to submersion/immersion in liquid. Drownings are classified as fatal (death), non-fatal with injury (morbidity), or non-fatal without injury (no morbidity). Drowning injuries include mild to severe damage to the brain and other organs, which may cause long-term disability. Prior drowning terms, such as wet, dry, near, active, or passive drowning, are no longer used because they are medically unacceptable and can be misleading.

Signs of drowning (difficulty breathing, excessive coughing, and foaming mouth) immediately occur and can last for hours, but do not go away and return later.

Data sources: American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Water Safety USA, World Health Organization
Data Brief provided by: Division of Epidemiology and Health Information

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From 2014-2018 there were 36 fatal child drownings in Tarrant County.

Cook Children’s treated 80 non-fatal child drownings in 2018.

Drowning Prevention and Safety Around Water

**All Water Sources**
- Undistracted adult supervision
- Family CPR training
- Family swimming lessons

**Bathtubs**
- Install child safety devices in the bathroom
- Have all bath items near the tub
- Take the child with you if you have to step away
- Drain the tub immediately

**Open Water Areas**
- Always wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life vests
- Reduce risky behaviors (alcohol, drugs, high speeds, etc.)
- Follow lake/beach warnings
- Do not dive head first
- Watch the weather
- Be aware of dangerous waves and rip currents

**Pool Areas**
- U.S. Coast Guard approved life vests
- Multiple barriers to the pool (four-sided isolation fence with self-closing and latching gates, doors, locks, alarms, etc.)
- Follow pool rules and warnings
- Update drains and cleaning systems
- Empty pool toys when not swimming
- Remove pool toys when not swimming

**Education and Prevention**
Cook Children’s Drowning Prevention
[cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety/Pages/water-safety.aspx]
Fort Worth Drowning Prevention Coalition
[fwdpc.org]
Help for Parents Hope for Kids
[helpandhope.org/Water_Safety/default.asp]
Lifeguard Your Child Campaign
[lifeguardyourchild.org]
Water Safety Club
[cookchildrens.org/members/water-safety-club/Pages/default.aspx]

**Local Swimming Lessons**
- AquaMobile
- AquaKidz
- Aqua-Tots
- Emler Swim School
- Flipkick Swim Academy
- Fort Worth Aquatics
- Fort Worth Family Swim
- Fort Worth Swim School
- Hurst Aquatics
- North Richland Hills Centre Aquatics
- SafeSplash Swim School
- Sigma Swimming
- Sunsational Swim School
- Survival Swim
- The Swim Lesson People
- YMCA...and many more

**Local CPR Classes**
- American Heart Association
- American Red Cross
- CPR Certification Mid-Cities
- LifeLine CPR
- Texas OnSite CPR
- and many more

Data sources: Cook Children’s, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
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