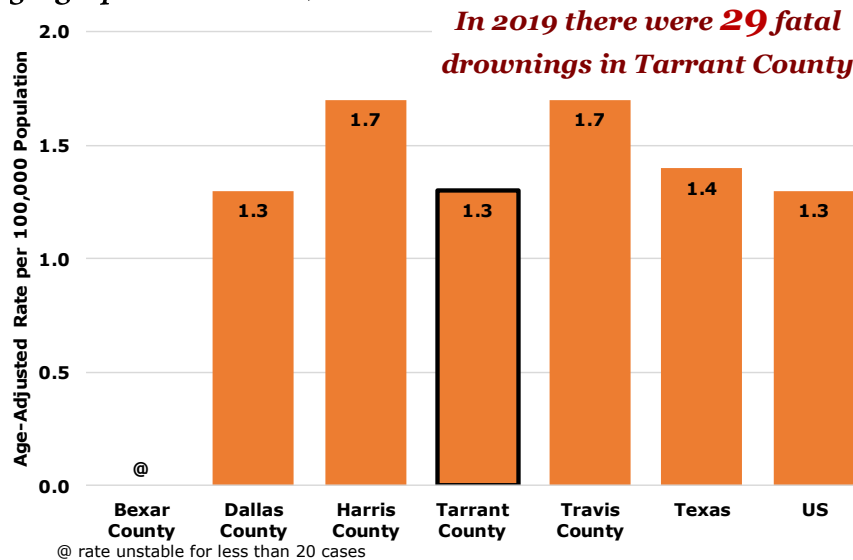


TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF



DROWNINGS IN TARRANT COUNTY

Figure 1. Fatal drowning rates among all age groups by geographical location, 2019



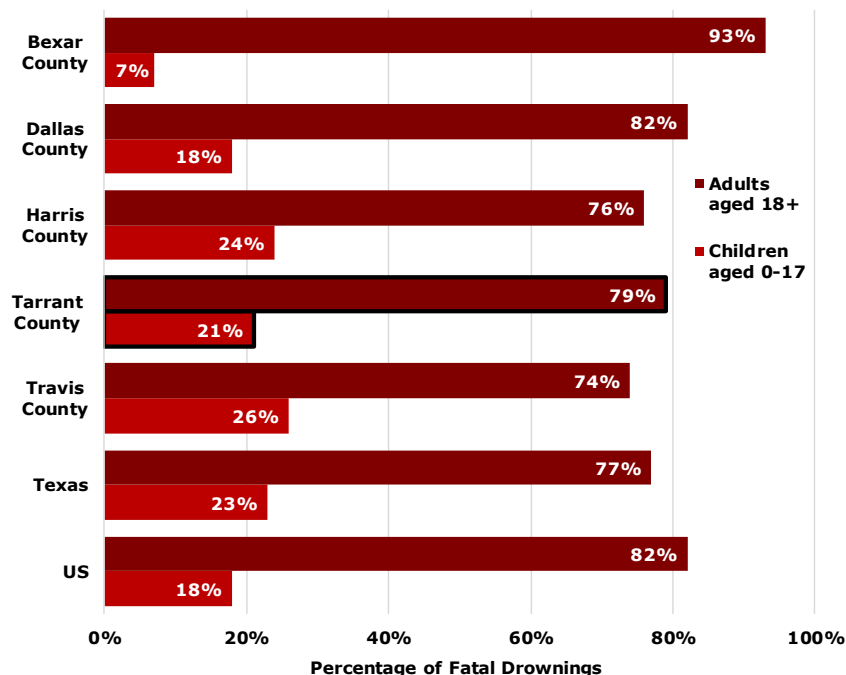
Drowning

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.

The majority of fatal drownings in 2019 were among adults

Figure 2. Proportion of adult and child fatal drownings by geographical location, 2019

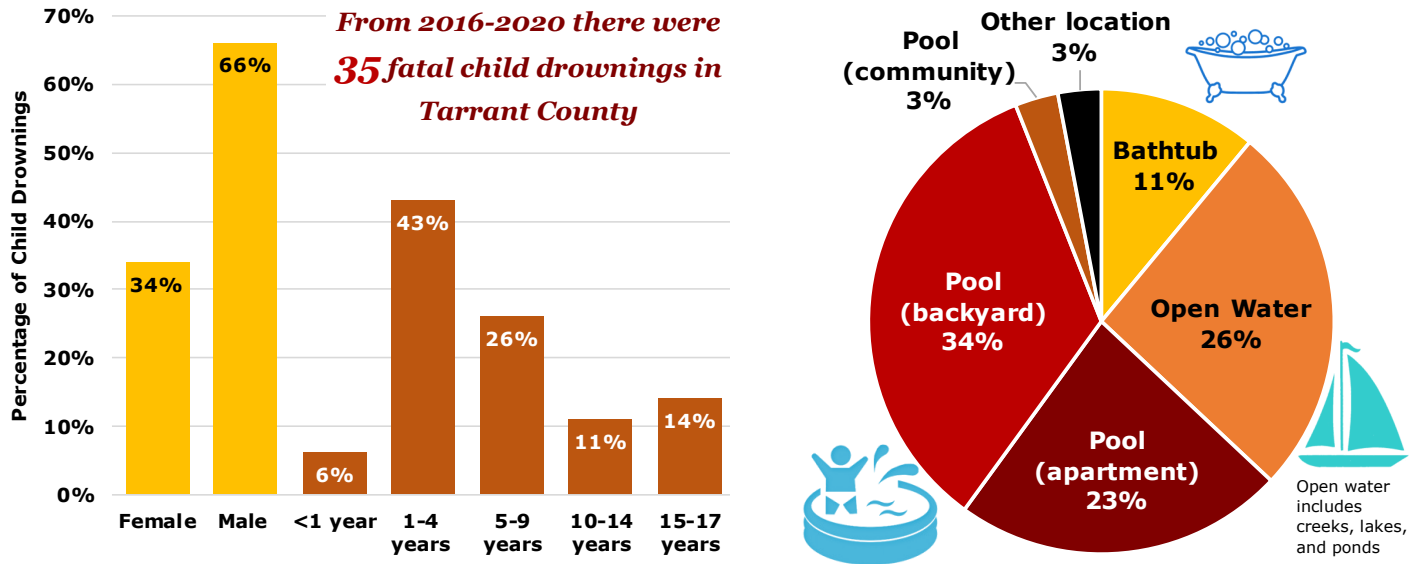


From 2015-2019 fatal drownings were significantly higher among Tarrant County Males



All significant differences detected at the 95% confidence level
 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

Figure 3. Fatal drownings among Tarrant County children by gender, age group, and location, 2016-2020



Cook Children’s in Tarrant County saw **203 non-fatal and 26 fatal drownings** from 2017 to 2020

From 2015-2019 drowning was the **leading cause of unintentional injury deaths** among Tarrant County children aged 1-4 years

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
- Keep 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
- Remove pool toys when not swimming
- Empty kiddie pools and put them away

Education and Prevention

Cook Children’s Lifeguard Your Child Campaign [lifeguardyourchild.org]

Cook Children’s Water Safety Club [cookchildrens.org/members/water-safety-club/Pages/default.aspx]

Fort Worth Drowning Prevention Coalition [fwdpc.org]

Social Media Toolkit: Water Safety [dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Grantees/social_media_toolkits/water_safety.asp]

Water Safety for Kids [getparentingtips.com/toddlers/safety/water-safety-for-kids/]

Local Swimming Lessons

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

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