

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Unintentional Drowning Among Children: North Carolina, 2018-2022

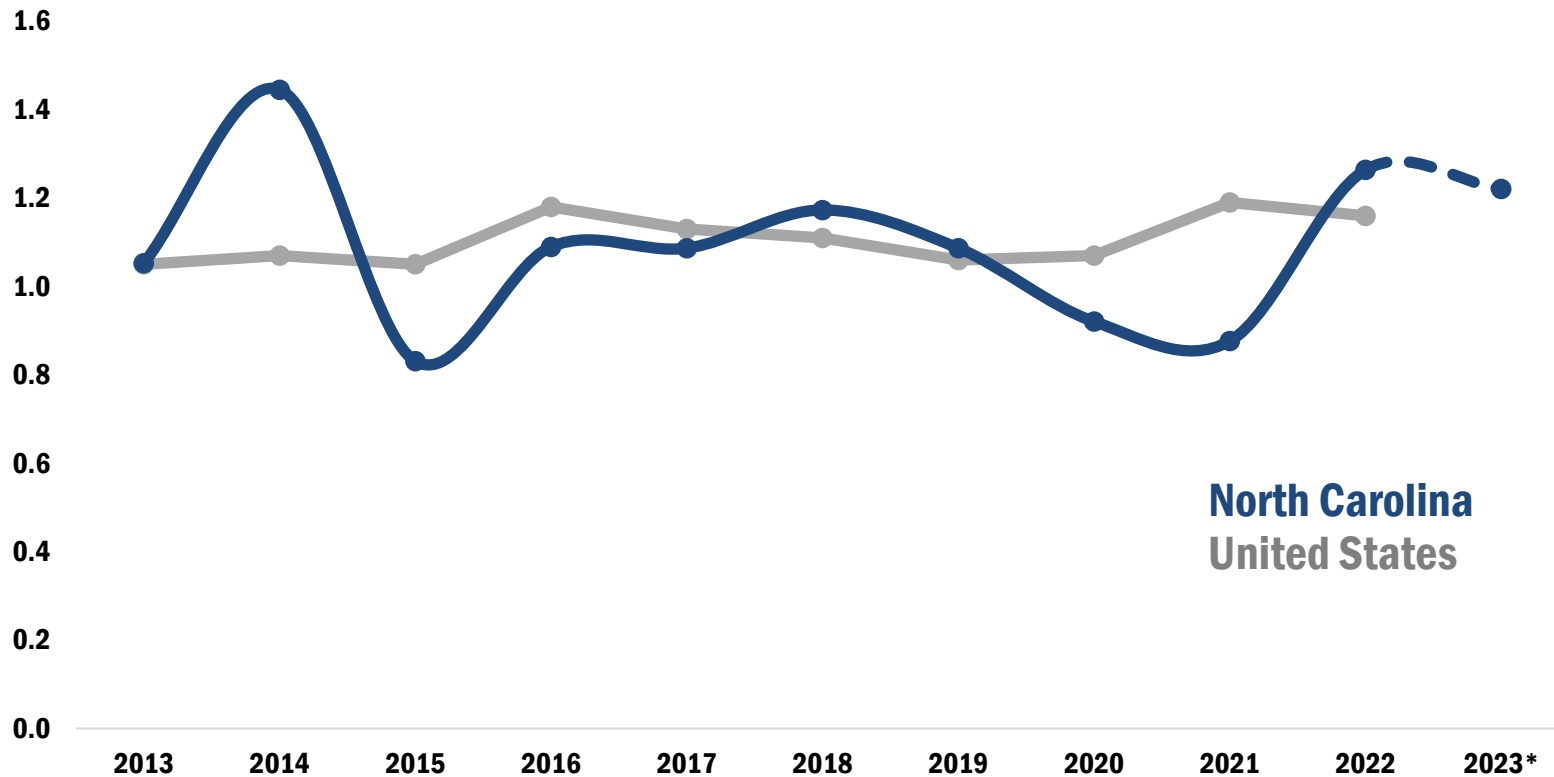
Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence
Prevention Branch

Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

Between 2013 and 2023, 276 children under the age of 18 died because of unintentional drowning in North Carolina

The rate of unintentional drowning death among children was generally lower in North Carolina than in the U.S. as a whole

Unintentional Drowning Death Rates (per 100,000) among Children ages 0-17



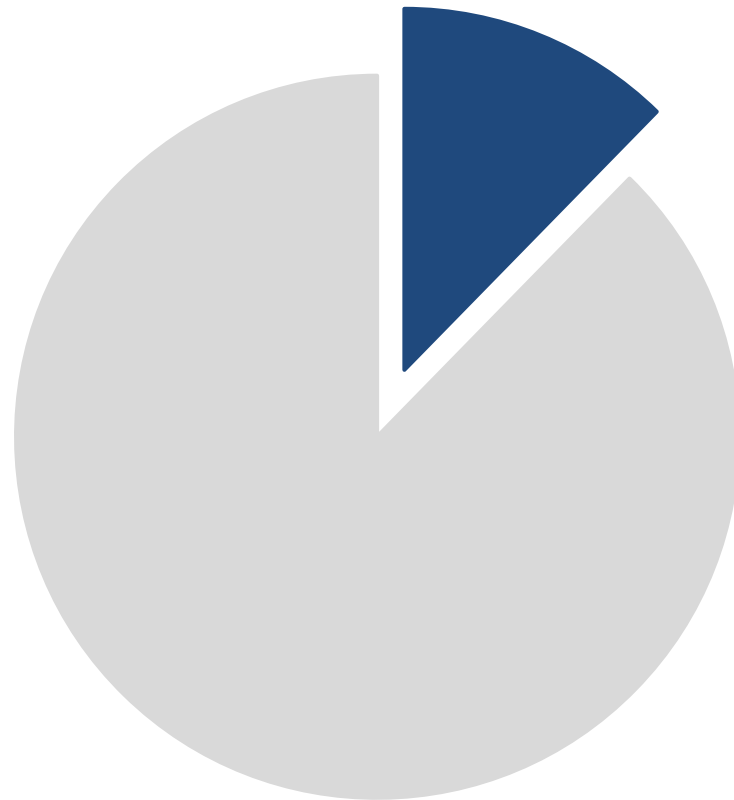
* 2023 death data are provisional and subject to change
Limited to NC residents ages 0-17

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Deaths (2013-2022); US Census Bureau Population Estimates (2013-2022); CDC WISQARS
Analysis by the DPH Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

Unintentional drowning deaths made up 12% of all unintentional injury deaths among North Carolina children under the age of 18 from 2018 to 2022

Other Unintentional Injury Deaths

Unintentional Drowning Deaths



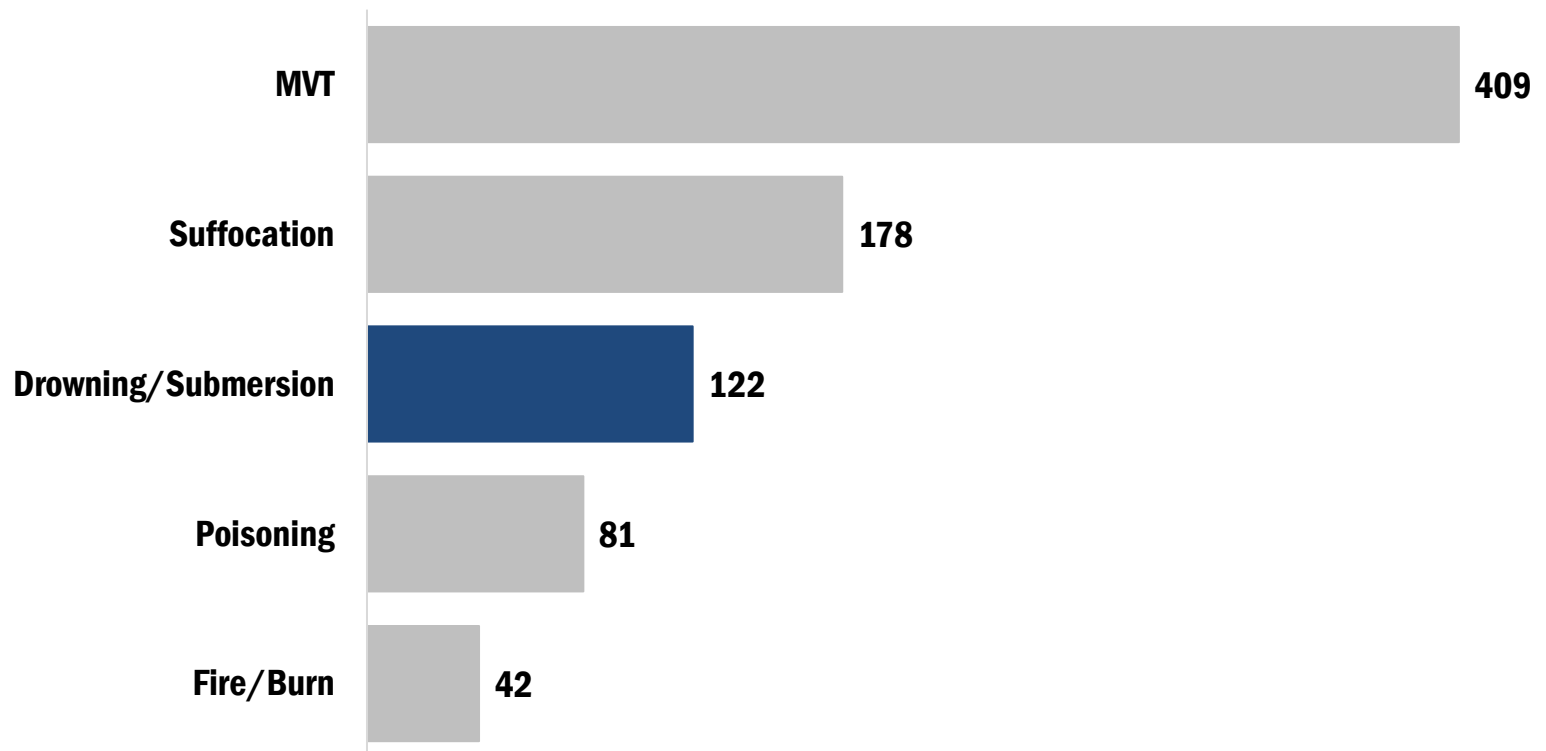
Limited to NC residents ages 0-17

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Deaths (2018-2022)

Analysis by the DPH Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

Drowning was the third leading cause of unintentional injury death among North Carolina children from 2018 to 2022

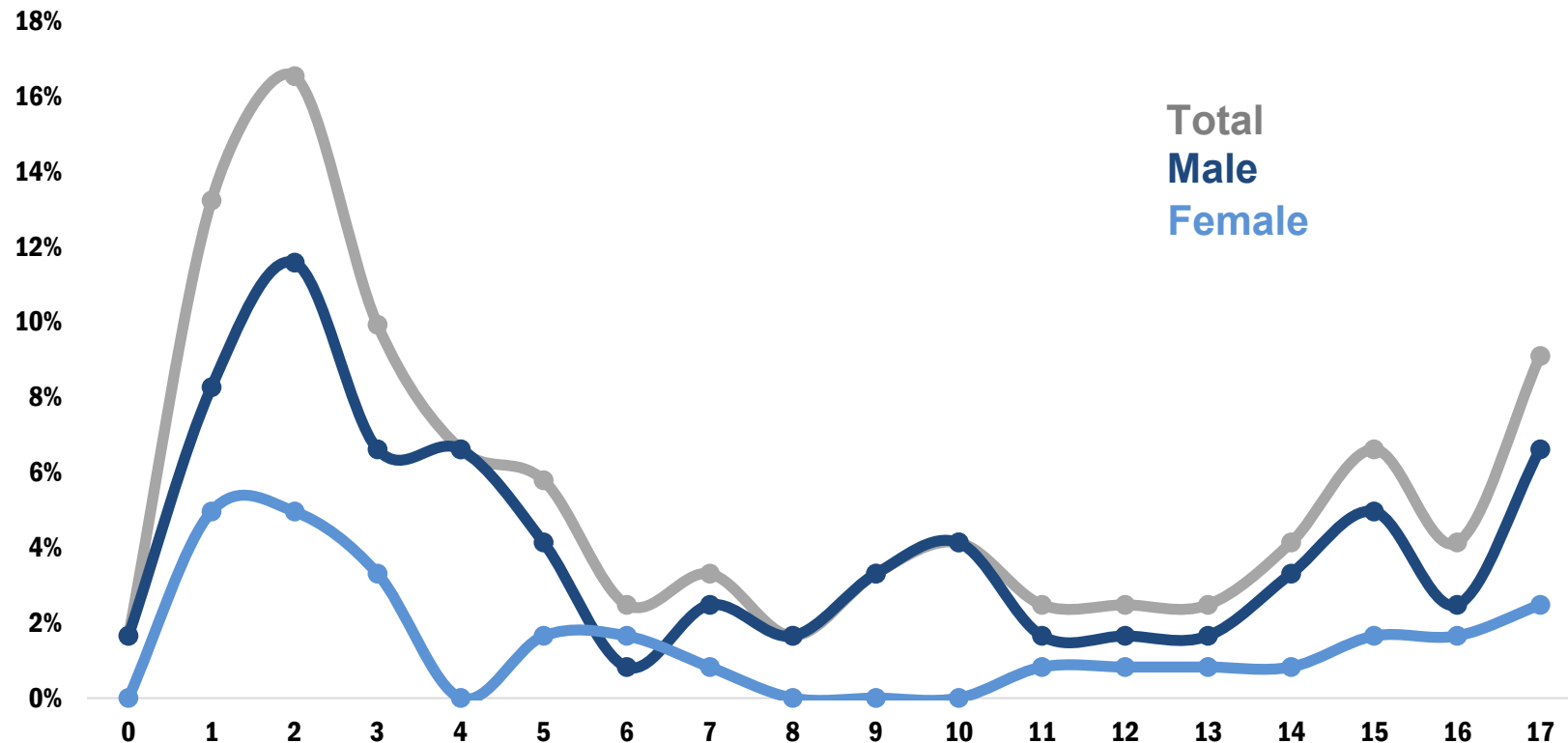
Top 5 Leading Causes of Unintentional Injury Death among Children ages 0-17, 2018-2022



Limited to NC residents ages 0-17; MVT = Motor Vehicle Traffic
Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Deaths (2018-2022)
Analysis by the DPH Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

Unintentional child drowning deaths were highest among those ages 1-4, followed by ages 15-17

Percent of Unintentional Drowning Deaths among Children ages 0-17 by Age and Sex, 2018-2022



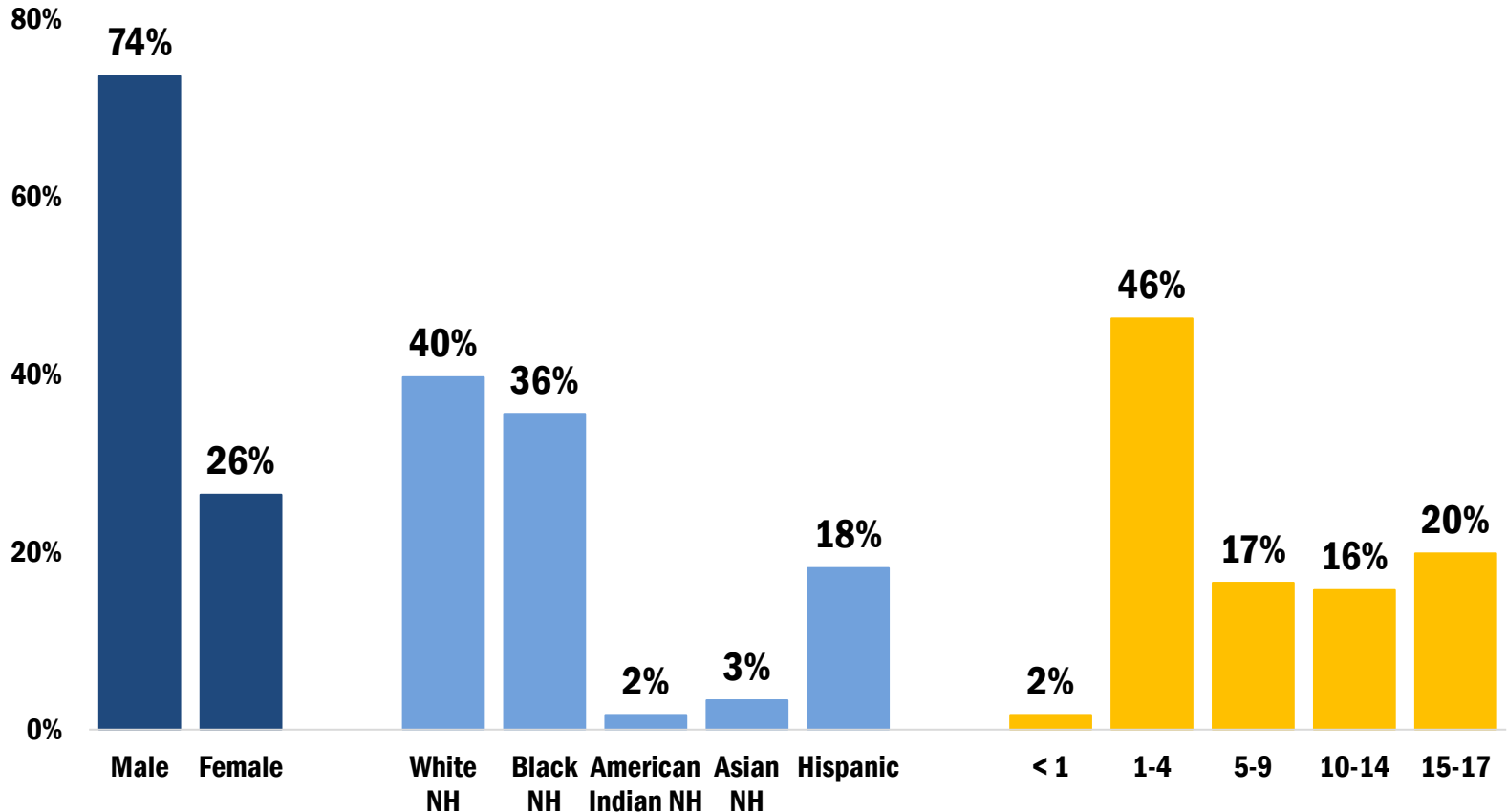
Limited to NC residents ages 0-17

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Deaths (2018-2022)

Analysis by the DPH Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

Percentages of unintentional child drowning were highest among males, NH white residents, and children ages 1-4

Percent of Unintentional Drowning Deaths among Children ages 0-17 by Demographic Group, 2018-2022



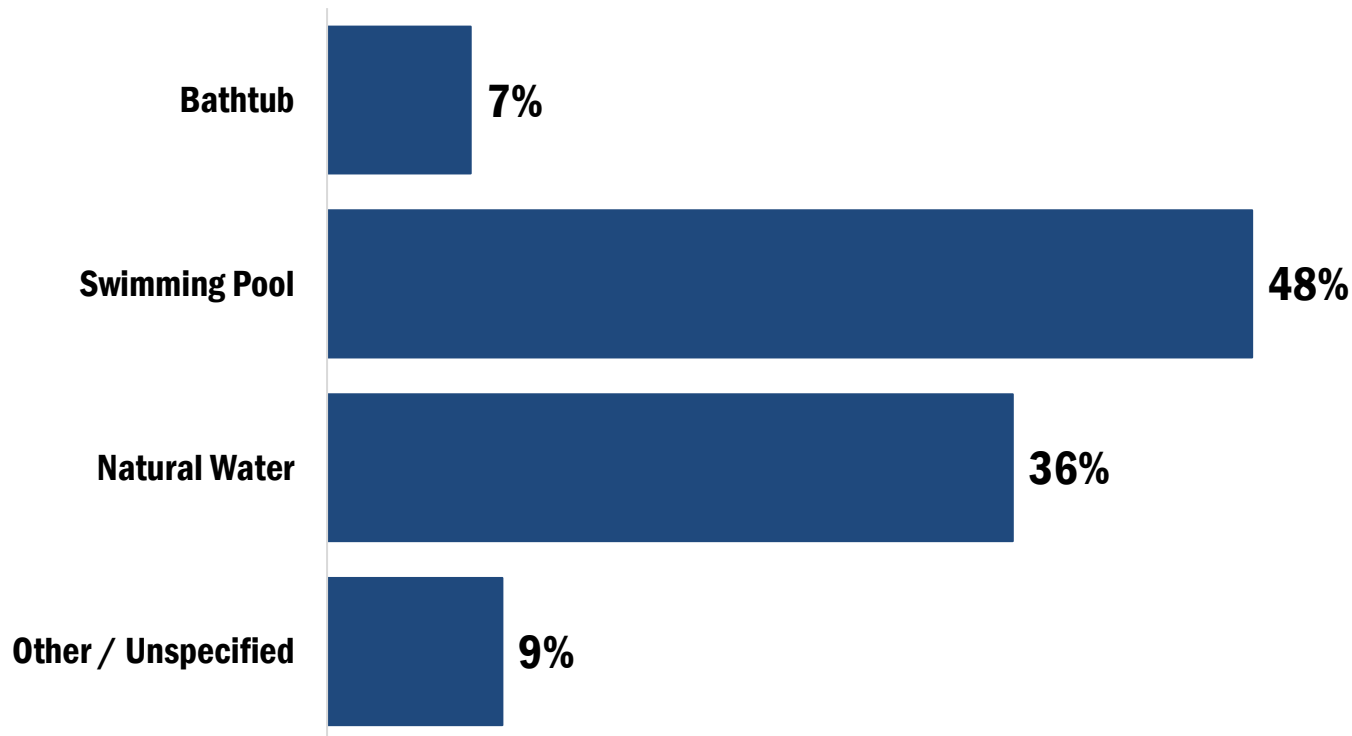
Limited to NC residents ages 0-17; NH = Non-Hispanic

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Deaths (2018-2022)

Analysis by the DPH Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

Nearly half of unintentional child drownings occurred in a swimming pool and over one-third occurred in a natural water body

Percent of Unintentional Drowning Deaths among Children ages 0-17 by Water Source, 2018-2022



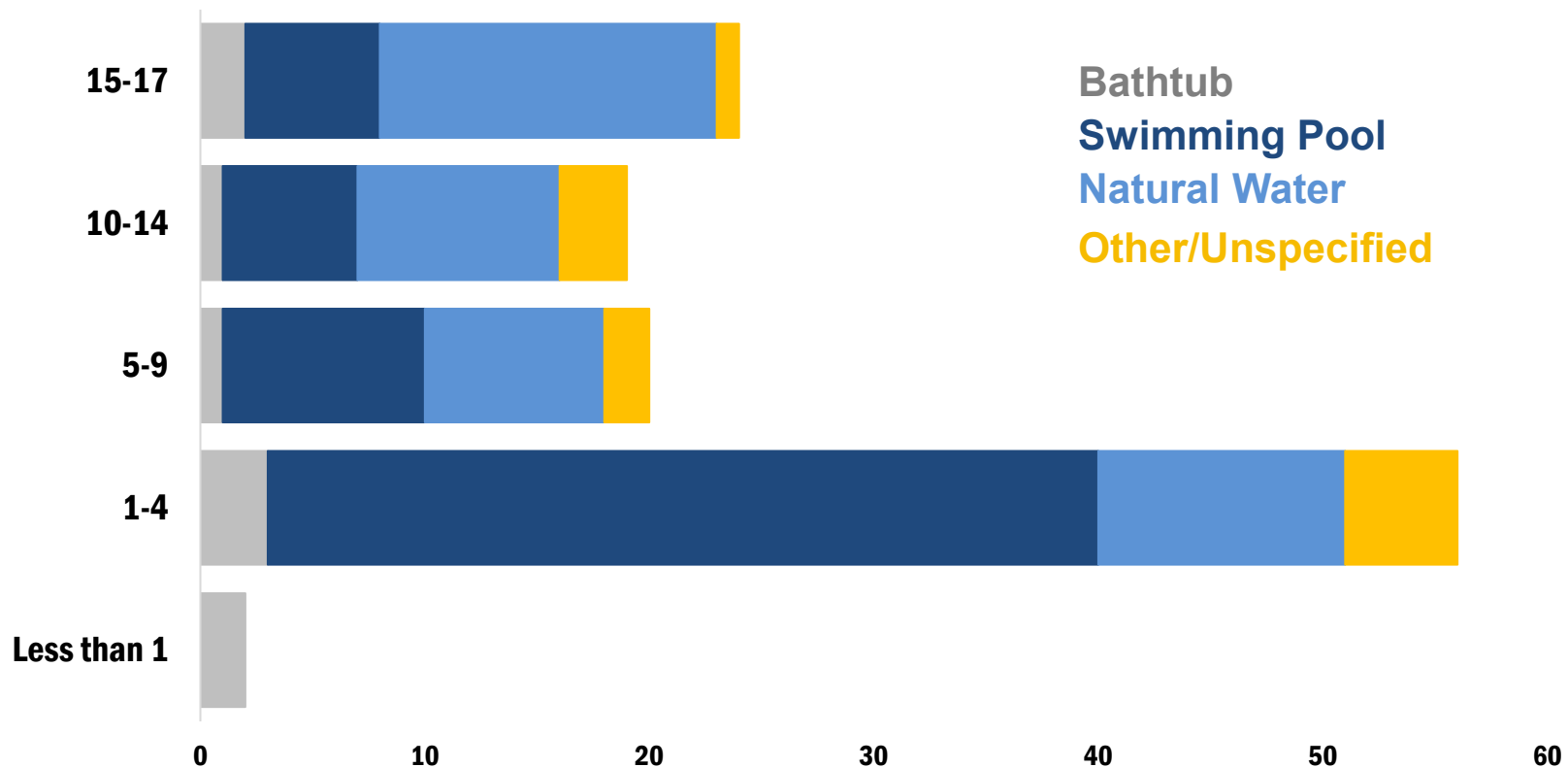
Limited to NC residents ages 0-17

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Deaths (2018-2022)

Analysis by the DPH Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

Unintentional drowning deaths among younger ages occurred most often in swimming pools, whereas older ages occurred most often in natural bodies of water

Counts of Unintentional Drowning Deaths among Children ages 0-17 by Water Source and Age Group, 2018-2022



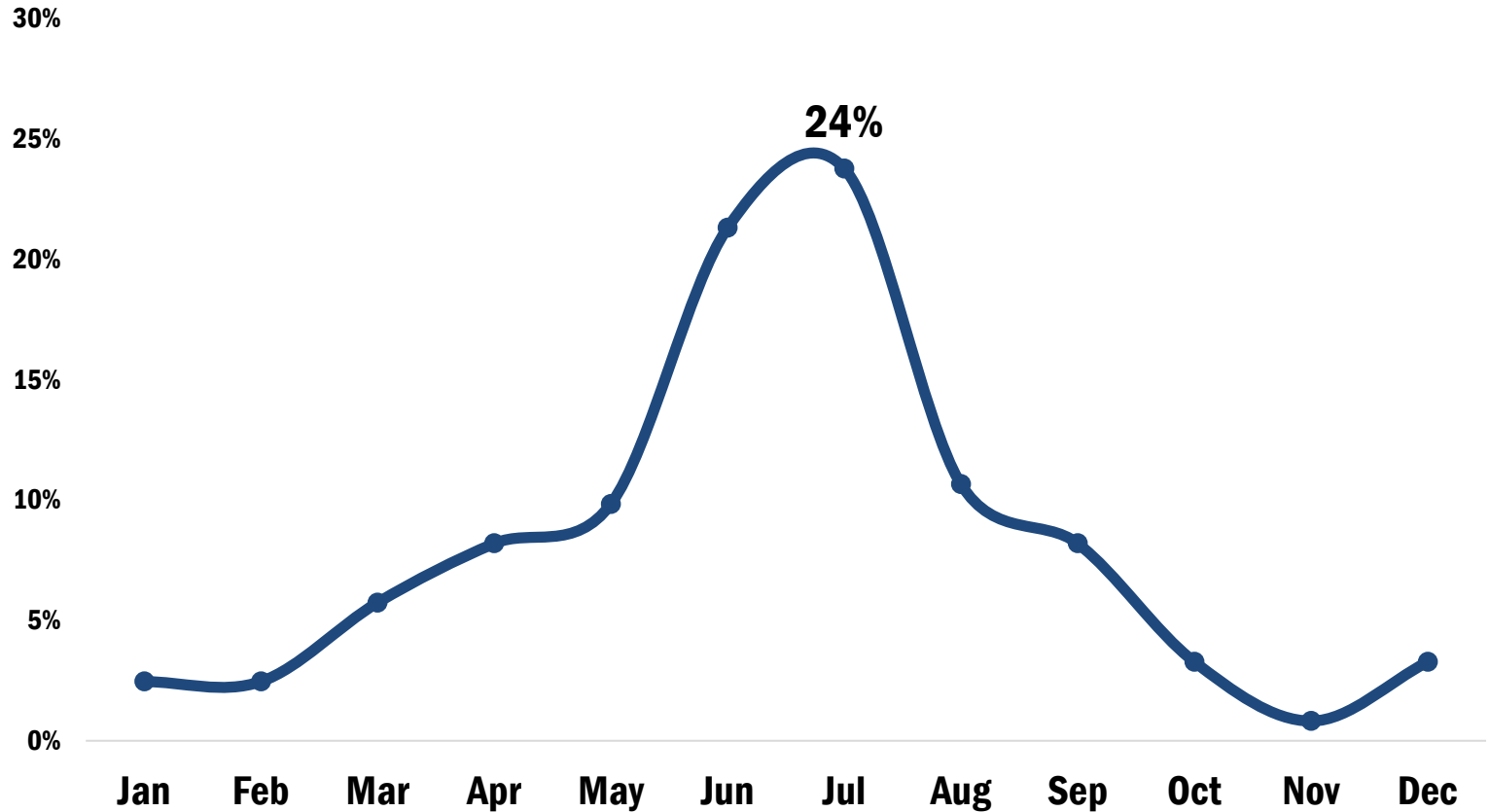
Limited to NC residents ages 0-17

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Deaths (2018-2022)

Analysis by the DPH Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

Unintentional child drownings were highest in the summer months, nearly one-quarter of which occurring in July

Percent of Unintentional Drowning Deaths among Children ages 0-17 by Month, 2018-2022

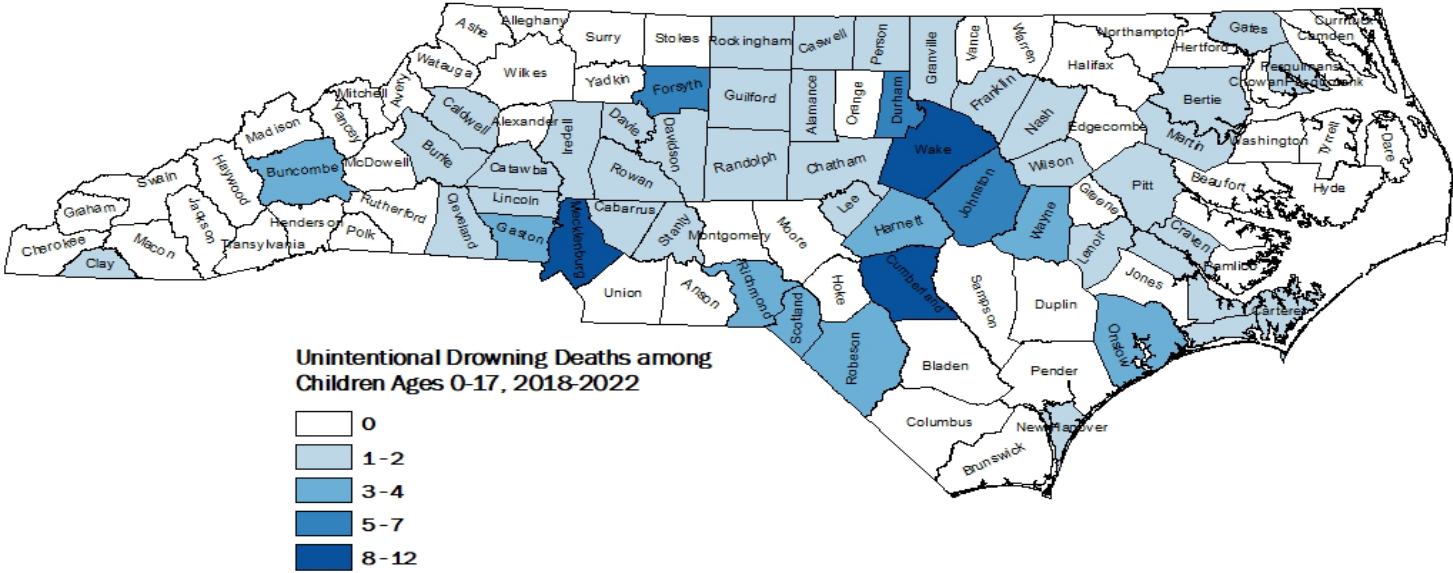


Limited to NC residents ages 0-17

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Deaths (2018-2022)

Analysis by the DPH Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

Wake, Mecklenburg, and Cumberland counties had the highest counts of unintentional drowning deaths among children under the age of 18 from 2018 to 2022



Limited to NC residents ages 0-17

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Deaths (2018-2022)

Analysis by the DPH Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

Unintentional drownings are preventable

- Top Safety Tips

- Watch children when they are in or around water
- Teach yourself and children to swim
- Learn CPR and basic rescue skills
 - Learn how to perform CPR on children and adults
- Ensure swimming pools have 4-sided fencing at least 4 feet high

Resources

- **Safe Kids North Carolina**
 - www.ncosfm.gov/community-risk-reduction/safe-kids
- **Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch**
 - injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Drowning Prevention**
 - www.cdc.gov/drowning/about
- **National Drowning Prevention Alliance**
 - ndpa.org
- **US Consumer Product Safety Commission – Pool Safety**
 - www.poolsafely.gov

Questions?

Katie.McDaniel@dhhs.nc.gov

**Injury and Violence Prevention Branch
Division of Public Health**

www.injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov

