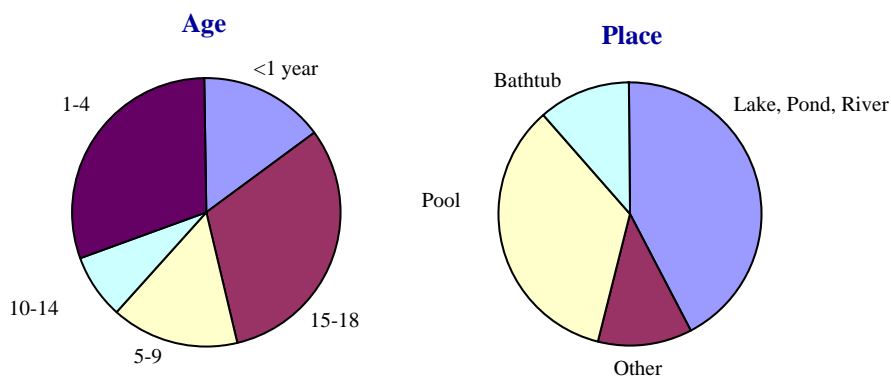


Data & Findings

In 2003, 36 children died in Michigan due to drowning.

Michigan Child Drownings



Major causes of drownings in Michigan are:

- ◆ Not wearing a Life Jacket
- ◆ Overestimating swimming abilities
- ◆ Poor supervision

Initiative Ideas

- ◆ Form a Water Safety Sub-Committee.
- ◆ Place warning labels on items stating risks, such as infant bath seats that may be mistaken as a substitute for supervision.
- ◆ Conduct a community awareness campaign. Placing info on restaurant placemats, in local hotel rooms, on signs at beaches.
- ◆ Set up emergency stations at local beaches. Provide life jackets, rescue equipment, and a phone that dials only 911 in case of emergencies.

Tips for Parents

- ◆ Always **supervise**. Designate a “water watcher” during swim time and even during bath time.
- ◆ Install a **fence** completely around all pools. Use fence gates that are self-closing and self-latching.
- ◆ Be **prepared**. Learn CPR and keep a telephone by the pool.
- ◆ Learn how to **swim**. Enroll your children in swimming and water **safety** courses.
- ◆ Wear a **life jacket**. Every child should wear one. Make sure it is US Coast Guard approved.
- ◆ **Never** swim alone. Always swim with a buddy.
- ◆ Only swim in **designated** areas.



Additional Resources

- ◆ **US Coast Guard:** www.uscg.mil
- ◆ **National SAFEKIDS Campaign:** www.safekids.org
- ◆ **US Red Cross Aquatics Training:** www.redcross.org/services/hss/aquatics/mds2005.html