

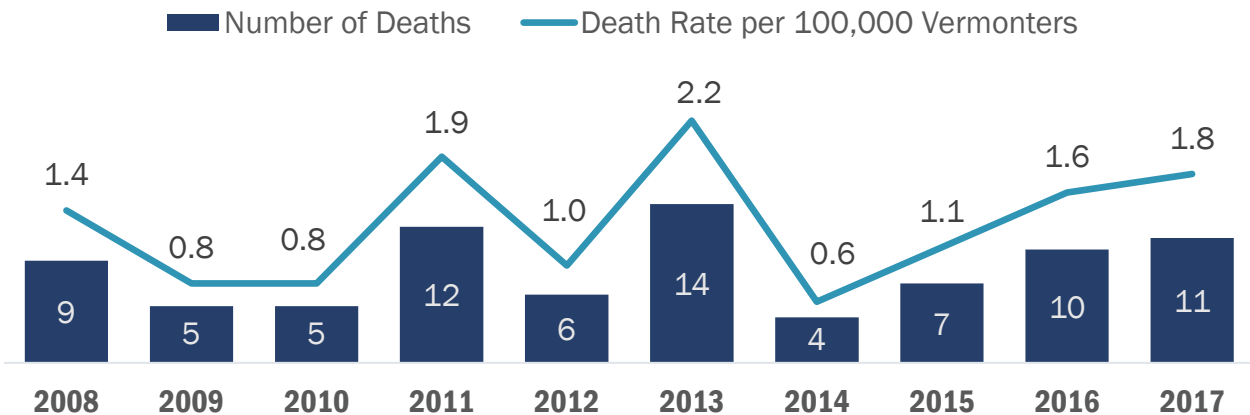
Drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States.¹ In Vermont, the rate of unintentional drowning deaths (1.8 per 100,000 Vermonters) has not significantly changed since 2008 (1.4 per 100,000 Vermonters) and is similar to the 2017 national rate of 1.1 deaths per 100,000 people¹. Most deaths due to unintentional drowning are seen among white males ages 25 to 44 years, while hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits are most common among males 14 years and younger.

- **In Vermont, the majority of deaths due to unintentional drowning are among white, non-Hispanic males ages 25 to 44 years.**
- **Rates of hospitalizations and emergency department visits due to unintentional drowning are most common among males 14 years and younger.**

Drowning Deaths and Hospitalizations/ED Visits

In Vermont, 8 deaths on average occur each year due to unintentional drowning. There were 11 deaths in 2017.

**Unintentional Drowning Deaths and Rates per 100,000
Vermont Occurrences, 2008-2017**



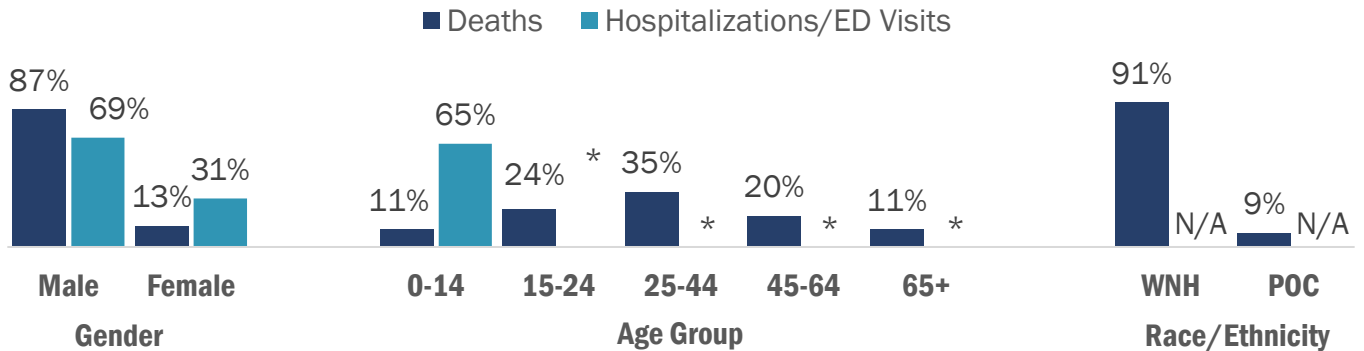
Source: Vital Statistics, 2008-2017

Between 2013 and 2017, about nine in ten (91%) drowning deaths occurred in natural bodies of water such as lakes, ponds and rivers. Nine in ten (91%) deaths were among white non-Hispanic (WNH) persons, compared with persons of color (POC). Additionally, 87% of the drowning deaths occurring in Vermont during this time were among Vermont residents.

Unintentional Drowning

In 2016 and 2017, the majority of hospitalizations and ED visits related to unintentional drowning were among males (69%) and children 14 years and younger (65%). Similarly, 81% of hospitalizations and ED visits were among Vermont residents.

Unintentional Drowning Deaths[†] and Hospitalizations/ED Visits[‡] In Vermont by Demographics



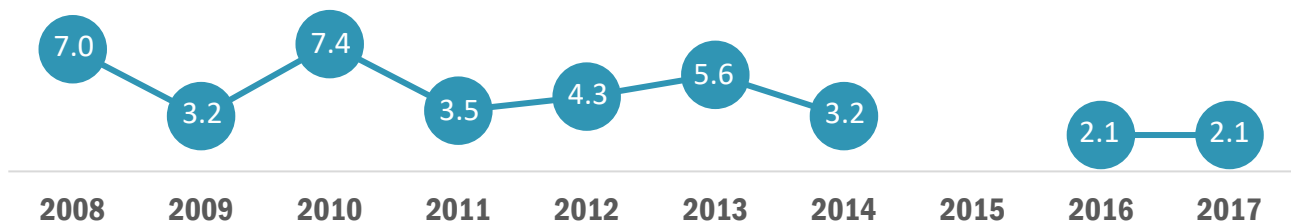
* Too few hospitalizations/ED visits to report.

N/A = Race/ethnicity data not available in Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set.

Source: [†] Vital Statistics, 2013-2017; [‡] Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set, 2016-2017

From 2008 through 2017, an average of 27 hospitalizations and ED visits occurred each year as a result of drowning. In 2017, there were 2.1 hospitalizations and ED visits per 100,000 people for unintentional drowning at Vermont hospitals.

Unintentional Drowning Hospitalization/ED Visit Rates In Vermont per 100,000 People, 2008-2017



Note: Data from 2015 has been omitted due to transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM. Caution should be taken when comparing 2014 and earlier to 2016 and 2017.

Source: Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set, 2008-2017

For more information on Water Safety in Vermont, visit: healthvermont.gov/watersafety

For questions about this data brief, contact: Kate Emmons, kate.emmons@vermont.gov

The Injury Prevention Program would like to acknowledge the work of Alex Friedrichsen, Vermont Department of Health, who was responsible for creating this data brief.

References:

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WISQARS. Accessed Dec 2019.