



Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Drowning Fatalities Report

Issue I

The Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Vital Statistics stores data on births and deaths occurring in Florida. Data from Vital Statistics are preliminary and subject to change; data may be delayed up to three months. This report will be updated and distributed quarterly.

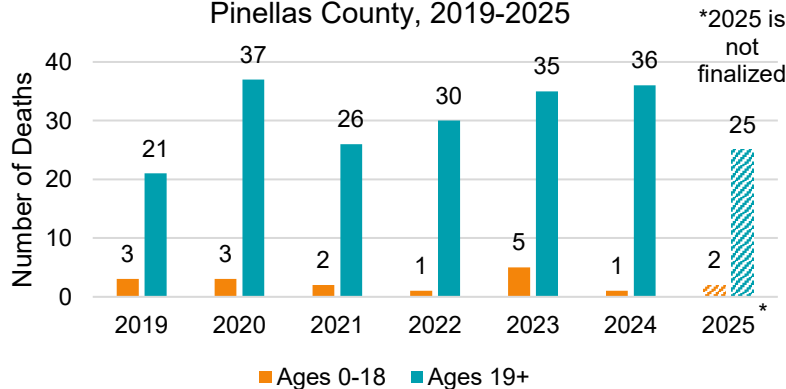
Data in this report include unintentional drowning deaths which were identified using *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10)* underlying cause-of-death codes W65–W74 Accidental drowning and submersion. Cataclysmic storm (X37) was added to the report as there were nine deaths related to Hurricane Helene in 2024. Intentional drowning deaths, and deaths in which the intent could not be determined, were excluded from this report. Additionally, deaths due to water transport accidents, such as boat crashes, were excluded from this report. Data presented in this report are drownings occurring in Pinellas County and not exclusively Pinellas County residents.

Table 1. Drowning Location Types by ICD-10 Code

Location	ICD-10 Code
Bathtub	W65
	W66
Swimming pool	W67
	W68
Natural water	W69
	W70
Other specified and unspecified	W71
	W72
	W73
	W74
Cataclysmic storm	X37

Drowning Deaths by Year and Month

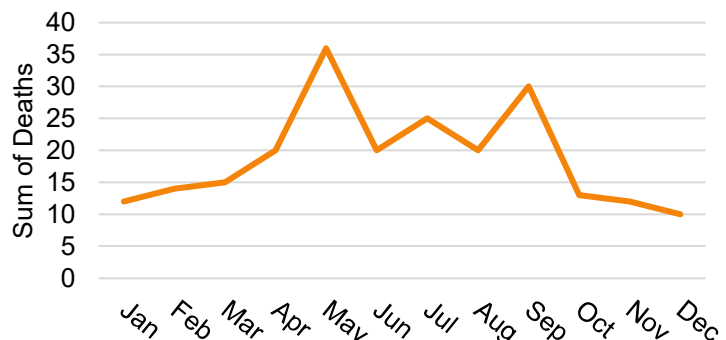
Figure 1. Drowning Deaths by Year: Pinellas County, 2019-2025



The figure to the left shows drowning deaths by year from 2019 to 2025 in Pinellas County. Drowning deaths were highest in 2020 and 2023, when 40 deaths were reported each year. Drowning deaths have decreased in 2024 and 2025, although data from 2025 are still preliminary and may increase.

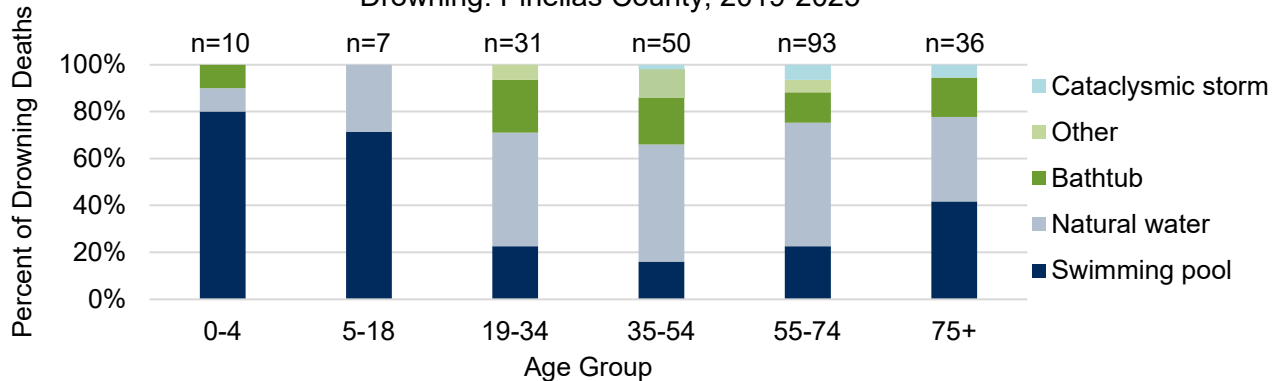
The figure to the right displays the sum of drowning deaths by month from 2019 to 2025. The month with the highest number of drowning deaths in Pinellas County from 2019 to 2025 was May, followed by September. The September data might be skewed due to the nine deaths occurring under the cataclysmic storm category during Hurricane Helene in 2024. June, July, and August also had a high number of deaths. This is likely attributable to an increase in water-related activities during the summer.

Figure 2. Drowning Deaths by Month: Pinellas County, 2019-2025



Drowning Deaths by Place of Drowning and Age Group

Figure 3. Percentage of Drowning Deaths by Age Group and Place of Drowning: Pinellas County, 2019-2025



The figure above shows the percentage of drowning deaths by age group and place of drowning in Pinellas County. Other places of drowning include storm drains, intracoastal waterways, or canals. For children ages 0 to 18 years old, 76% of drowning deaths occurred in swimming pools. Based on review of free text associated with the records, most swimming pools were at a residence, such as the decedent's home or another person's home, and only a few were at other pools such as a community pool or hotel pool. For the drowning deaths among children in natural water, most occurred at the beach. For individuals over 18 and under 75, drowning deaths most commonly occurred in natural bodies of water such as lakes, ponds, gulfs, or bays.

Drowning Deaths by ZIP Code

The map to the right shows the number of drowning deaths by the ZIP Code in which the drowning occurred. The 33706 ZIP Code had the most drowning deaths, which includes St. Pete Beach. The ZIP Code with the second highest number of drowning deaths was 33767, which includes Clearwater Beach. Similarly, the 33708 ZIP Code, which includes Madeira Beach and Redington Beach, had the third highest number of deaths. The majority of drowning deaths among children occurred in the St. Petersburg area.

Among the top three ZIP Codes with the most drowning deaths since 2019, over two-thirds of the drownings occurred in natural bodies of water. Additionally, in ZIP Code 33706, fourteen percent of drownings occurred each in swimming pools or due to cataclysmic storms.

Two-thirds of drowning deaths were Pinellas County residents (66%), while the remaining third were listed as having out of county residences (32%) or had an unknown ZIP Code (3%).

