



Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Drowning Fatalities Report

Issue 2

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.

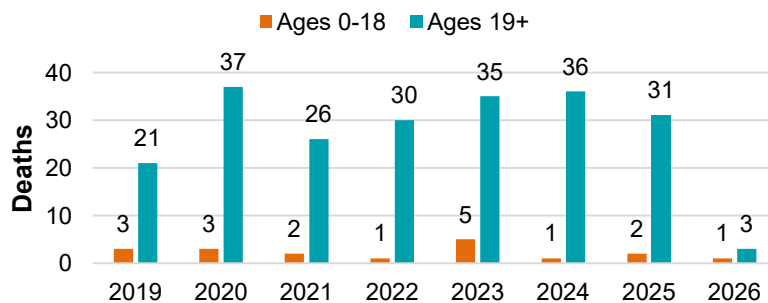
Data in this report include unintentional drowning deaths which were identified using *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10)* underlying cause-of-death codes W65–W74 Accidental drowning and submersion. Cataclysmic storm (X37) was added to the report as there were nine deaths 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 specified 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

Trends

Figure 1. Drowning Deaths Stratified by Age: Pinellas County (2019 - Q1 2026)



From 2019-2025, an average of 32 drowning deaths occurred per year in Pinellas County. Overall, the majority of drowning deaths are individuals greater than 18 years of age (n=214, 92%) (Fig. 1). Among these deaths, the average age of an individual was 56. Among deaths occurring in those aged 0-18 (n=18, 8%), the average age was around 7.

In Pinellas County, trends in drowning deaths from 2019 - Q1 2026 indicate that drowning mortalities historically peak in May and September (Fig. 2). Of note, deaths occurring in September are likely skewed as a result of the cataclysmic deaths that resulted from hurricane Helene in 2024. Overall, the number of deaths remain elevated in the summer months (June - August), likely due to an increase in water-related activities. While data for 2026 are configured into the report, the data only reflect quarter 1. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Figure 2. Drowning Deaths by Month: Pinellas County (2019 - Q1 2026)

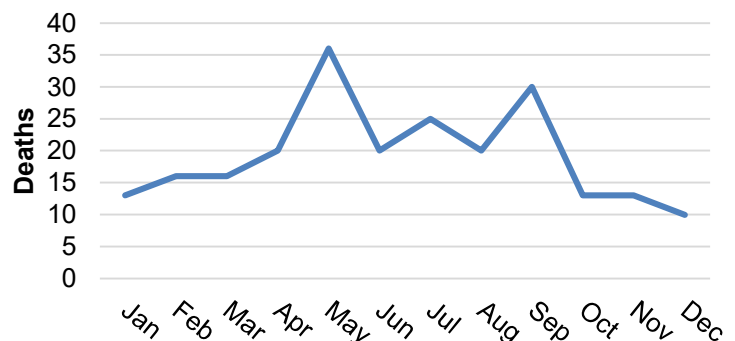
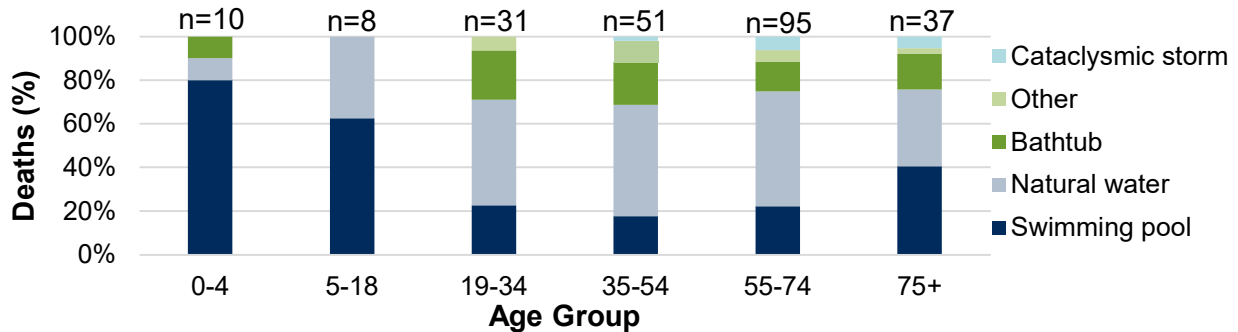


Figure 3. Drowning Deaths by Age Group and Place of Death: Pinellas County (2019 - Q1 2026)



In Pinellas County, drowning deaths are primarily associated with swimming pools, natural bodies of water (e.g., the gulf, intracoastal waterways, lakes), bathtubs, and cataclysmic storms (e.g., hurricanes, flooding). Nearly half of all drowning mortalities occur in natural bodies of water (47%), with the remainder mostly occurring in pools (28%) or bathtubs (16%). For younger populations (0-18 years), the majority of deaths occur in swimming pools (72%). When investigating swimming pool deaths, mortalities primarily occurred at residential (n=10, 77%) rather than community accessible swimming pools (n=3, 33%). On the other hand, deaths among adult populations (19-75+) are mostly related to natural bodies of water (n=104, 49%) and occurred primarily in the gulf (n=34, 33%) and intracoastal waterways (e.g., bays, canals, rivers) (n=27, 26%).

The ZIP Codes of drowning events were matched to the respective city in Pinellas County. Overall, drownings took place in 13 cities (Table 2). Nearly half of drownings occurred in the cities of Saint Petersburg (27%) and Clearwater (20%). Among drownings that occurred in these city locales, events primarily involved natural bodies of water.

As stated, those aged 0-18 make up a small proportion of drowning deaths in Pinellas County (Fig. 1). Among these drownings, events primarily took place in Saint Petersburg (39%) and St Pete Beach (17%) and involved swimming pools. For those aged > 19 years, drownings primarily occurred in Saint Petersburg (26%) and Clearwater (22%) and involved natural bodies of water.

The majority of drowning deaths that occurred in Pinellas County involved a Pinellas resident (65%), while the remainder involved non-Pinellas residents (32%) or an unknown ZIP Code (3%).

Table 2. Pinellas County Drownings by City (2019 - Q1 2026)

City	Deaths
Saint Petersburg	62
Clearwater	47
St Pete Beach	23
Palm Harbor	15
Seminole	15
Madeira Beach	15
Tarpon Springs	10
Dunedin	10
Indian Rocks Beach	10
Largo	10
Pinellas Park	6
Oldsmar	5
Safety Harbor	4