

DROWNING INCIDENTS ANALYSIS

April 2026 | National Report

117 Total Incidents	36 States Affected	84.6% Male Victims	FL #1 Highest State
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Prepared by the Drowning Report Database
Reporting Period: April 1–30, 2026



Executive Summary

April 2026 recorded 117 drowning incidents across the United States, as captured in the Drowning Report database. The data reveals that the majority of incidents occurred in natural water bodies, with lakes and rivers accounting for over 60% of all cases.

Males were disproportionately affected, comprising 84.6% of all victims — consistent with long-standing national trends. Florida led all states with 16 incidents, followed by South Carolina (9), Texas (8), and California (8). Notable incident spikes on April 3 (8 incidents), April 12 (7), and April 18 (9) suggest a correlation with weekend and recreational activity peaks.

Ethnicity data remains incomplete for the majority of records (96 of 117 cases), limiting full demographic assessment. Among recorded cases, African American and Hispanic populations each represent approximately 9–10% of known-ethnicity victims. These findings underscore the urgent need for targeted prevention strategies in high-risk states and among vulnerable populations.

1. National Overview

117 Total Incidents	36 States + DC	30 Active Report Days	3.9 Avg. Daily Incidents
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A total of 117 drowning incidents were recorded during April 2026 across 36 states and the District of Columbia. The monthly average translates to approximately 3.9 incidents per day, with significant variation across dates. The highest single-day count was 9 incidents on April 18, and the month ended with a lower volume on April 30 (1 incident).

2. Geographic Distribution

2.1 Incidents by State

Florida accounted for the highest number of incidents (16), representing 13.7% of the national total. South Carolina (9), California (8), and Texas (8) followed. The southeastern United States demonstrated a particularly elevated risk profile, with Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Virginia together accounting for 46 incidents — 39% of the national total.

State	Incidents
Florida	16
South Carolina	9
California	8
Texas	8

State	Incidents
Tennessee	6
Georgia	5
Louisiana	5
Pennsylvania	5
Virginia	5
Arizona	4
Hawaii	4
North Carolina	4
Missouri	3
Oregon	3
Arkansas	3
Minnesota	2
Mississippi	2
New Hampshire	2
New York	2
Ohio	2
Oklahoma	2
Washington	2
Illinois	2
Alabama	1
Colorado	1
Connecticut	1
DC	1
Indiana	1
Kansas	1
Kentucky	1
Maryland	1
Michigan	1
Nebraska	1
New Jersey	1
Vermont	1
Wisconsin	1

3. Location Analysis

3.1 Incidents by Location Type

Natural water bodies dominate the incident landscape. Lakes (36 incidents) and rivers (35 incidents) together account for 60.7% of all drowning events. Open ocean incidents (13) represent a meaningful third category, concentrated primarily in coastal states. Home pools (10) and ponds (11) round out the top five most hazardous environments.

Controlled water environments such as motel pools, apartment pools, and bathtubs collectively account for only 8 incidents (6.8%), suggesting that while private and commercial pools present risks, natural uncontrolled water bodies are the primary hazard.

Location Type	Incidents
Lake	36
River	35
Ocean	13
Pond	11
Home Pool	10
Motel Pool	3
Bathtub	2
Pool	2
Tank	2
Apartment Pool	1
Basement	1

4. Demographic Analysis

4.1 Gender Distribution

A pronounced gender disparity is evident, with 99 male victims (84.6%) compared to 18 female victims (15.4%). This pattern is consistent with national historical data, where males consistently represent the majority of drowning fatalities due to higher rates of risk-taking behavior, unsupervised swimming, and alcohol-related water activities.

Gender	Incidents	% of Total
Male	99	84.6%
Female	18	15.4%

4.2 Ethnicity

Ethnicity data was absent in 96 of 117 records (82.1%), significantly limiting demographic analysis. Among the 21 records with ethnicity data, 11 involved African American victims and 10 involved Hispanic victims. Improved data collection practices are essential to accurately assess and address potential disparities in drowning risk across racial and ethnic groups.

Ethnicity	Incidents	% of Total
Not Recorded	96	82.1%
African American	11	9.4%
Hispanic	10	8.5%

5. Temporal Trends

The daily distribution of drowning incidents across April 2026 reveals three notable spikes: April 3 (8 incidents), April 12 (7 incidents), and April 18 (9 incidents). A review of the calendar indicates that these dates coincide with or immediately precede weekend periods. The concentration of incidents mid-month and on high-activity weekend days supports the hypothesis that leisure and recreational activity is a significant contributing factor to drowning risk.

The lowest incident days (April 8, 10, 30) appear to align with weekdays or period-end slowdowns, further reinforcing the weekend activity correlation.

Date	Incidents
April 18	9
April 3	8
April 12	7
April 13	7
April 22	6
April 14	6
April 5	5
April 9	5
April 26	5
April 6	4
April 11	4
April 16	4
April 19	4
April 20	4
April 27	4

Date	Incidents
April 29	4
April 1	3
April 2	3
April 4	3
April 15	3
April 24	3
April 25	3
April 7	2
April 17	2
April 21	2
April 23	2
April 28	2
April 8	1
April 10	1
April 30	1

6. Key Insights & Recommendations

Based on the April 2026 data, the following five priority areas are identified for targeted intervention:

#	Priority Area	Recommended Action
1	Natural Water Body Safety	Implement enhanced surveillance and safety signage at lakes, rivers, and ponds. Prioritize lifeguard deployment at high-traffic natural swimming areas, especially during weekends and holidays.
2	Male-Targeted Outreach	Develop public awareness campaigns specifically tailored to adult males, addressing risk-taking behavior and promoting personal flotation device (PFD) use in open water environments.
3	High-Risk State Interventions	Allocate increased prevention resources to Florida, South Carolina, Texas, and California. Coordinate with state agencies to implement localized education and enforcement programs.
4	Data Collection Improvement	Mandate ethnicity reporting in drowning incident documentation to enable full demographic analysis and ensure equitable distribution of prevention resources.
5	Weekend & Holiday Campaigns	Launch targeted safety messaging campaigns ahead of holiday weekends, when incident spikes are observed. Partner with recreational businesses and parks to disseminate safety information.

End of Report

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