

Saturday Lightning Round

Saturday, December 2, 2023, 10:15 AM to 10:50 AM

Session Description:

In this session attendees will learn about a variety of pediatric injuries from drowning to snake bites to firearms and health disparities within these injury mechanisms. Attendees will also see how nursing-centered programs can improve car passenger safety interventions and how regionality and rurality play a role in pediatric injury.

Learning Objectives:

1. To understand differences in pediatric drowning epidemiology across the pre, peri, and post COVID-19 era
2. To illustrate how media reports can inform pediatric drowning prevention efforts
3. To learn how a Child Passenger Safety Nurse Champion education program can increase car seat education and intervention efforts
4. To understand the available literature and its gaps for investigating health outcomes of original adverse childhood events, expanded adverse childhood events, and positive childhood experiences
5. To understand the epidemiology and clinical outcomes of pediatric snake bites in the US and variations by US region
6. To learn about rural youth experiences with firearm-related violence and their perspectives regarding firearm injury prevention strategies
7. To identify how intentionality of firearm injuries varies according to area deprivation index in rural and urban settings.

Moderators:



Wendy J. Pomerantz, MD, MS
Professor of Pediatrics
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Division of Emergency Medicine
wendy.pomerantz@cchmc.org
Twitter @WJPomerantzMD



Sofia Chaudhary, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and
Emergency Medicine
Emory University School of Medicine
Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Physician
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Co-PI/Atlanta IFCK Chapter
schaud3@emory.edu
Twitter @sofiaschaudhary

Treading Water: Fatal Pediatric Drownings in Alabama Pre, Peri and Post COVID Stay-At-Home Orders



Dana Eyerly, MD
PGY-3, Categorical Pediatrics
University of Alabama Birmingham
dreyerly@uabmc.edu

Authors: Dana Eyerly, MD; Alicia Webb, MD; William King, Dr. PH; Michele Nichols, MD; Kathy Monroe, MD, MSQI

Background: Drowning is a leading cause of injury death in children ages 1-4 years. However, few studies report on the descriptive epidemiology of childhood drowning changes during the COVID epidemic. Our objective was to describe the epidemiology of state reported child drownings in the pre, peri and post COVID periods. One of our research hypotheses was that Alabama's statewide stay-at-home order (during COVID) resulted in a significant decrease in the numbers of drownings reported compared to other years.

Methods: Death records were obtained from the Alabama Department of Public Health for drownings during the years 2016-2021, for children ages 0-17 years old in Alabama. We labeled three time periods: 2016-2019 as pre-COVID, 2020 as peri-COVID and 2021 as the post-COVID period. Numbers of drownings and other key demographics were compared between the three study periods. State reported drownings were provided as an Excel file. Basic descriptive analyses were performed using Excel and Epi Info Version 7.1, (CDC). Year to year comparisons in the numbers of drownings were evaluated statically using the Poisson test of counts. Median age differences by location of drowning were compared using the Kruskal Wallis ANOVA and Dunn's post hoc multiple comparison tests.

Results: There were a total of 104 drowning fatalities reported, with 84 drownings in the pre-COVID era, 6 in peri-COVID and 14 post-COVID. The peri-COVID year had significantly lower numbers of reported drownings ($p=0.003$) compared to all other years. Median age was found to be higher among "Open Water/ Pond" drowning victims compared to those drowning in "Bath Tub" ($p<0.0001$) and "Pool, Hot Tub, Spa" ($p=0.001$). Pre-COVID, 52% of drownings were in children ages 1-4 years old, while there were not any drownings in children ages 1-4 years peri-COVID. 60% of drownings occurred in open water for the peri-COVID era as opposed to 33% pre-COVID and 38% post-COVID.

Conclusions: Pre-COVID, pools were the setting for the most drownings in children ages 0-17 years old in the state of Alabama. We theorize that social gathering restrictions peri-COVID led to less pool parties at homes and the closing of public pools, decreasing potential drowning settings. Rate of drownings began increasing again in the post-COVID era, likely due to the openings of public pools and social gatherings. It is unusual that the drownings of children ages 1-4 years were so