



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of the Secretary

Louisiana has the 3rd highest drowning rate in the U. S.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the Louisiana State Child Death Review (CDR) Panel has made drowning prevention a priority for 2016. Our request is simple; please help us elevate the importance of water safety in Louisiana communities to prevent these needless injuries and fatalities.

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death for Louisiana children ages 1-4 years old (about 12 deaths per year).<sup>2</sup>

- 47% were in a pool, hot tub, bathtub or spa compared to only 26% in natural water such as a lake, river, pond, creek or canal.
- For 42% of these deaths, the most prominent risk factor was related to lack of supervision.

Drowning is not always fatal. In Louisiana, about 28 children 1-4 years old are hospitalized each year for drowning related injuries.<sup>3</sup>

To help, we ask that during the months of April-August 2016, you join us in spreading the word about water safety. We recommend two ready to use resources that you can use to spread the word. These are **free** resources for both professionals and community members, and many are available in both English and Spanish.

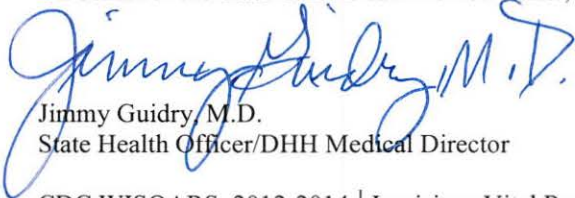
- **Pool Safely** (U. S. Consumer Product Safety Council) [PoolSafely.gov](http://PoolSafely.gov)
  - Includes brochures, tip cards, fact sheets, social media tools, videos, press releases, PSAs and more
- **Children's Safety Network** [ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/injury-topics/drowning-prevention](http://ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/injury-topics/drowning-prevention)
  - Includes infographics, resource guides, data, and links to other resources

Here are some examples of ways to get involved: hold a press conference on water safety, write a letter to the editor, put out posters or tip sheets, help connect kids and parents to free or low-cost swim lessons, ask a business to donate pool safety devices – the options are limitless!

We want to saturate Louisiana with these important messages. Please generate momentum in your community by encouraging at least one partner, person, agency, or business to do the same. Then to gauge the level of support from our members and partners, please email us with any action taken by you and also share with us who you asked to further the effort.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe – this work needs all of us.

On behalf of the State Child Death Review Panel,



Jimmy Guidry, M.D.  
State Health Officer/DHH Medical Director

CDC WISQARS, 2012-2014,<sup>1</sup> Louisiana Vital Records, 2012-2014, <sup>2</sup> Louisiana Hospital Discharge Data 2012-2014,<sup>3</sup>  
[www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html](http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html)