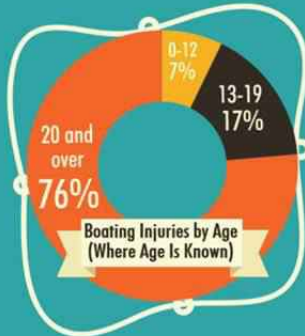


# Boating Safety

## Boating Injuries by Age

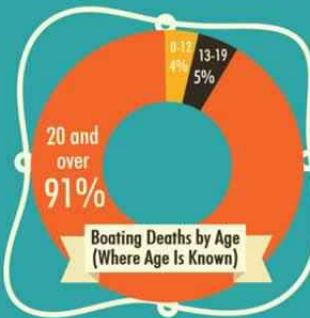


In 2013, there were 2,620 boating injuries

Nearly 1 in 4 of all boating injuries occurred in people under the age of 20<sup>1</sup>

In 2013, there were 560 boating deaths

Nearly 1 in 10 of all boating deaths occurred in people under the age of 20<sup>2</sup>



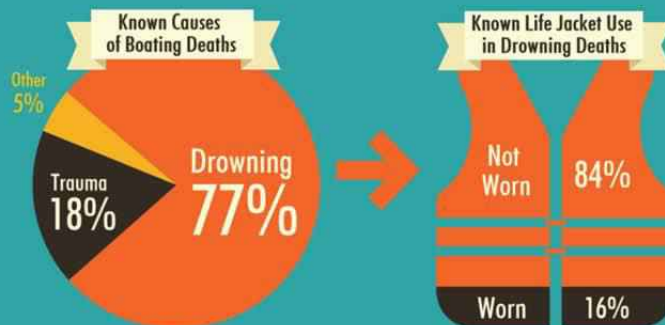
<sup>1</sup> Out of the 2,486 injuries where age was known

<sup>2</sup> Out of the 553 deaths where age was known (USCG Boating, 2014)

## Drowning and Life Jackets

Drowning was the most common cause of boating-related death<sup>3</sup>

In 82% of the drowning deaths, the victim did not wear a life jacket<sup>4</sup>



(USCG Boating, 2014)

<sup>3</sup> Out of the 515 deaths where cause of death was known

<sup>4</sup> Out of the 389 drowning deaths where life jacket use was known

## Risk Factors



Alcohol use was the most common primary factor contributing to death

Top 3 Known Primary Contributing Factors in Deaths  
(Percentage of Boating Deaths Where Cause Is Known)

Alcohol Use  16%

Operator Inattention  12%

Hazardous Waters  11%

(USCG Boating, 2014)

## Safety Tips

- ✓ All passengers should wear life jackets. When adults wear life jackets, their children are more likely to wear them, even into adulthood
- ✓ Do not bring infants on boats until they weigh enough to wear an appropriately-sized life jacket
- ✓ Children are more likely to get hypothermia, so make sure to keep them warm
- ✓ Enforce safe boating rules; teach your children not to run on the boat and to keep hands and feet inside the boat
- ✓ Teens should only operate boats in supervised settings and in accordance with local and state laws
- ✓ Never operate a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and never enter a boat where the operator is intoxicated
- ✓ Always be vigilant about your surroundings, especially regarding other boaters, swimmers, and weather conditions

(Safe Kids Boating Safety Tips, 2014)

For detailed sources: [childrensafetynetwork.org/infographics/boating-safety](http://childrensafetynetwork.org/infographics/boating-safety)

# Boating Safety

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## Boating Injuries by Age

In 2013, there were 2,620 boating injuries

Nearly 1 in 4 of all boating injuries occurred in people under the age of 20 <sup>1</sup>

Boating Injuries by Age (Where Age Is Known)	
Age	Percentage of Boating Injuries
0-12	7%
13-19	17%
20+	76%

In 2013, there were 560 boating deaths

Nearly 1 in 10 of all boating deaths occurred in people under the age of 20 <sup>2</sup>

Boating Deaths by Age (Where Age Is Known)	
Age	Percentage of Boating Deaths
0-12	4%
13-19	5%
20+	91%

<sup>1</sup> Out of the 2,486 injuries where age was known

<sup>2</sup> Out of the 553 deaths where age was known

## Causes of Boating Deaths

Drowning was the most common cause of boating-related death <sup>3</sup>

Known Causes of Boating Deaths	
Cause of Death	Percentage of Boating Deaths
Drowning	77%
Trauma	18%
Other	6%

In 82% of the drowning deaths, the victim did not wear a life jacket <sup>4</sup>

Known Life Jacket Use in Drowning Deaths	
Life Jacket Use	Percentage of Drowning Deaths
Not Worn	84%
Worn	16%

<sup>3</sup> Out of the 515 deaths where cause of death was known

<sup>4</sup> Out of the 389 drowning deaths where life jacket use was known

## Risk Factors

Alcohol use was the most common primary factor contributing to death

Top 3 Known Primary Contributing Factors in Death (Percentage of Boating Deaths Where Cause Is Known)	
Primary Contributing Factor of Death	Percentage of Deaths
Alcohol Use	16%
Operator Inattention	12%
Hazardous Waters	11%

## Safety Tips

All passengers should wear life jackets. When adults wear life jackets, their children are more likely to wear them, even into adulthood

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Never operate a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and never enter a boat where the operator is intoxicated

Always be vigilant about your surroundings, especially regarding other boaters, swimmers, and weather conditions

(Safe Kids Boating Safety Tips, 2014)

## Sources

For detailed sources: <http://childrenssafetynetwork.org/infographics/boating-safety>

United States Coast Guard, Boating Safety Resource Center. (2014). 2013 Recreational Boating Statistics. Retrieved from: <http://www.uscgboating.org/assets/1/AssetManager/2013RecBoatingStats.pdf>

Safe Kids Worldwide. (2014). Boating Safety Tips. Retrieved from: <http://www.safekids.org/tip/boating-safety-tips>

## Additional Resources

Safe Kids Worldwide. (2014). Swimming and Boating Safety Fact Sheet. Retrieved from:

[http://www.safekids.org/sites/default/files/documents/skw\\_swimming\\_fact\\_sheet\\_june\\_2014.pdf](http://www.safekids.org/sites/default/files/documents/skw_swimming_fact_sheet_june_2014.pdf)

United States Coast Guard, Boating Safety Resource Center. How to Choose the Right Life Jacket. Retrieved from:

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BoatUS Foundation, Map of Life Jacket Loaner Programs. Retrieved from: <http://www.boatus.org/life-jacket-loaner/usamap.asp>.