

# Child Fatality Review Program

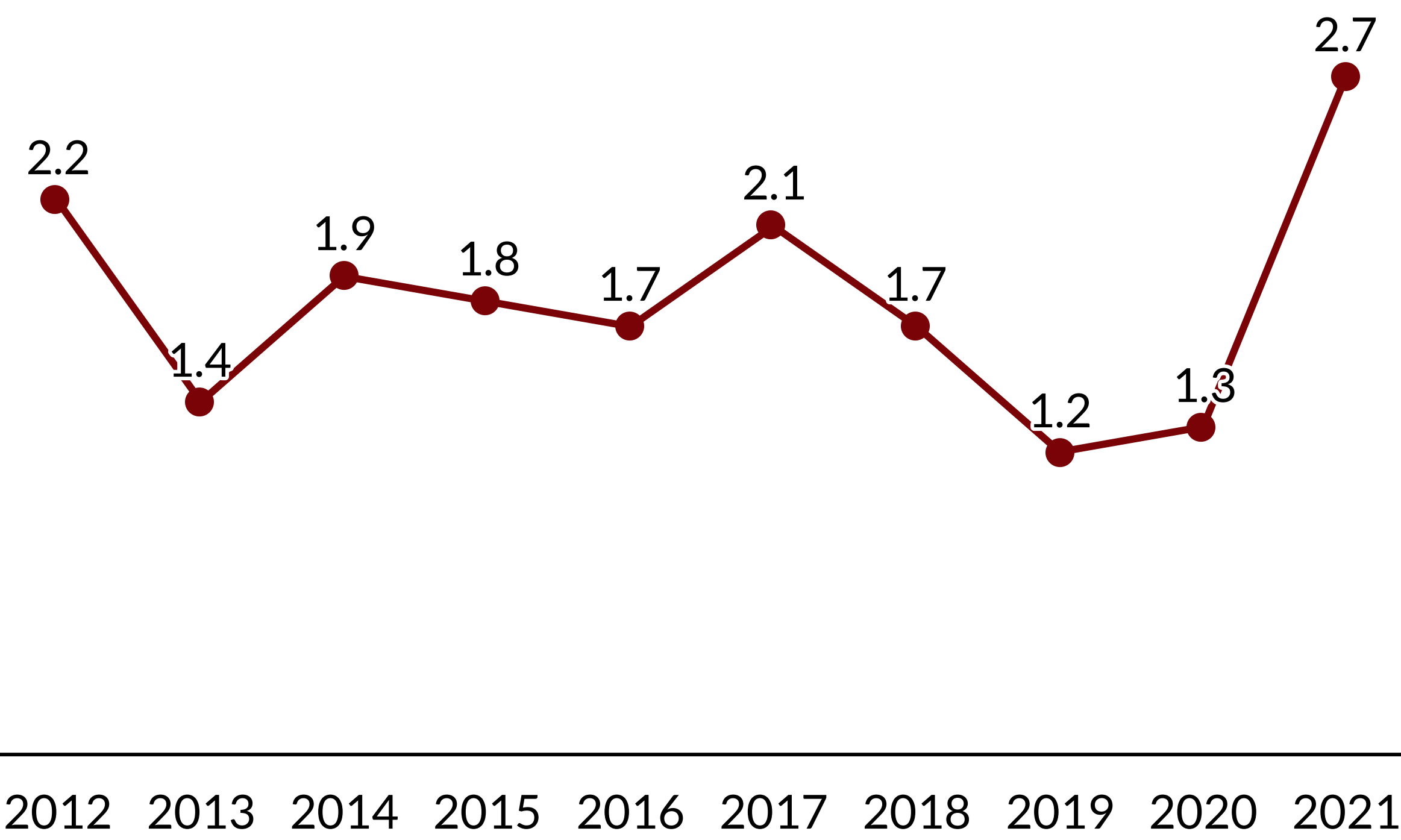
29th Annual Report

2021 Drowning Deaths\*  
Birth through 17 years of age

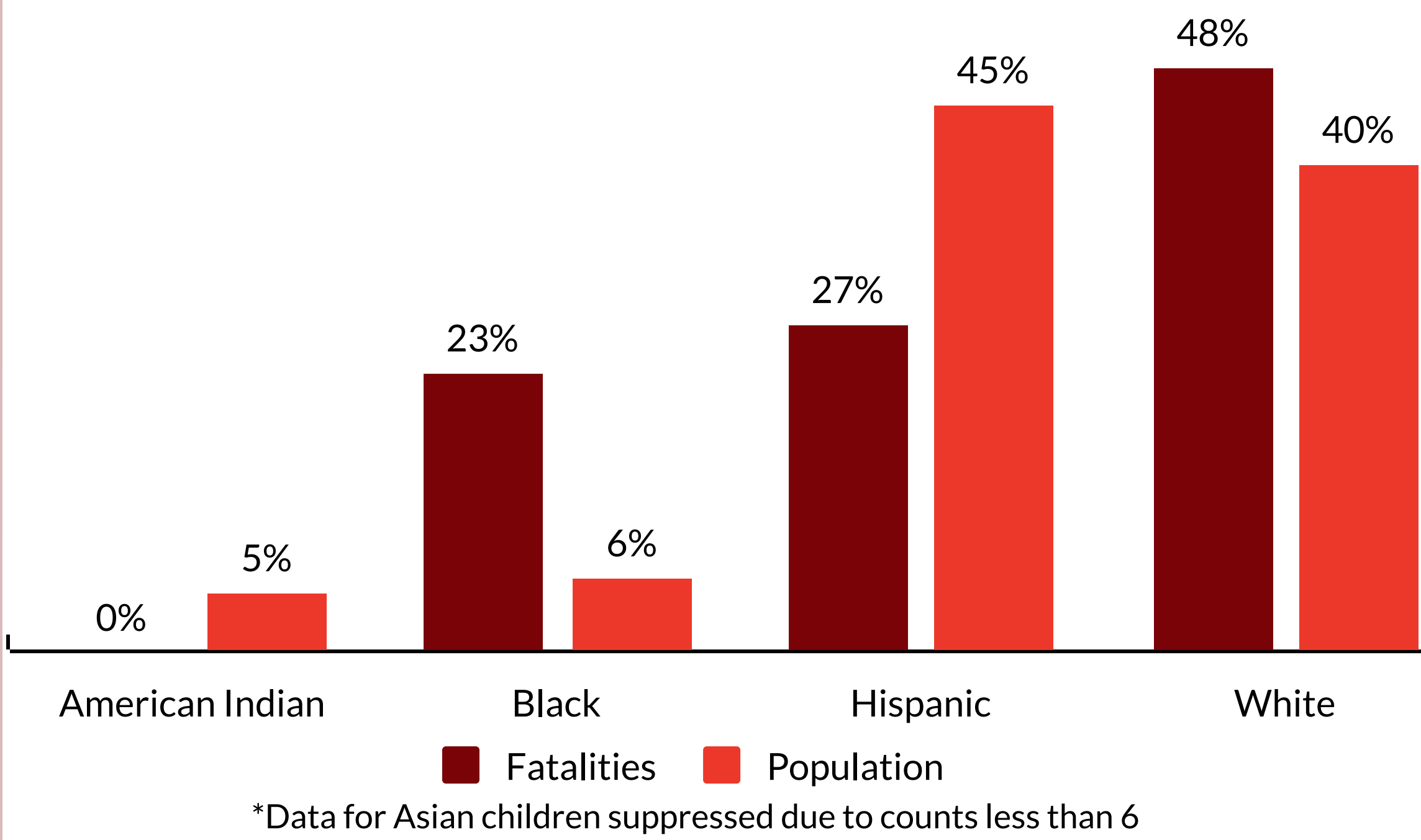
## 44 children died due to drowning

**Manner of death:** The circumstances of the death. A death is categorized as one of the following: accident, homicide, natural, suicide, or undetermined.  
**Cause of death:** The illness, disease, or injury responsible for the death.

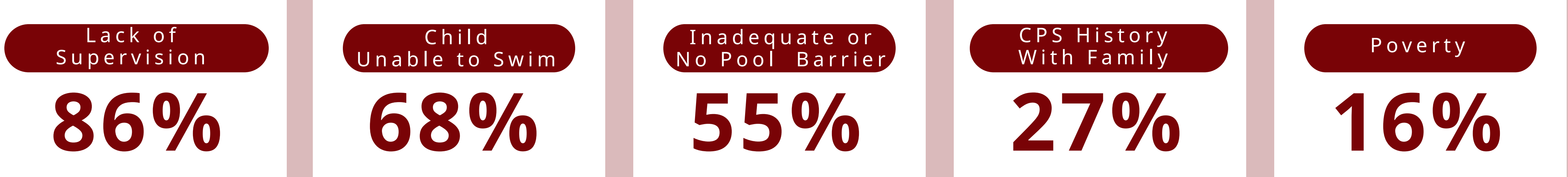
### Mortality Rate per 100,000 Children



### Race/Ethnicity of the Child Compared to Population\*



### Leading Potential Contributing Factors



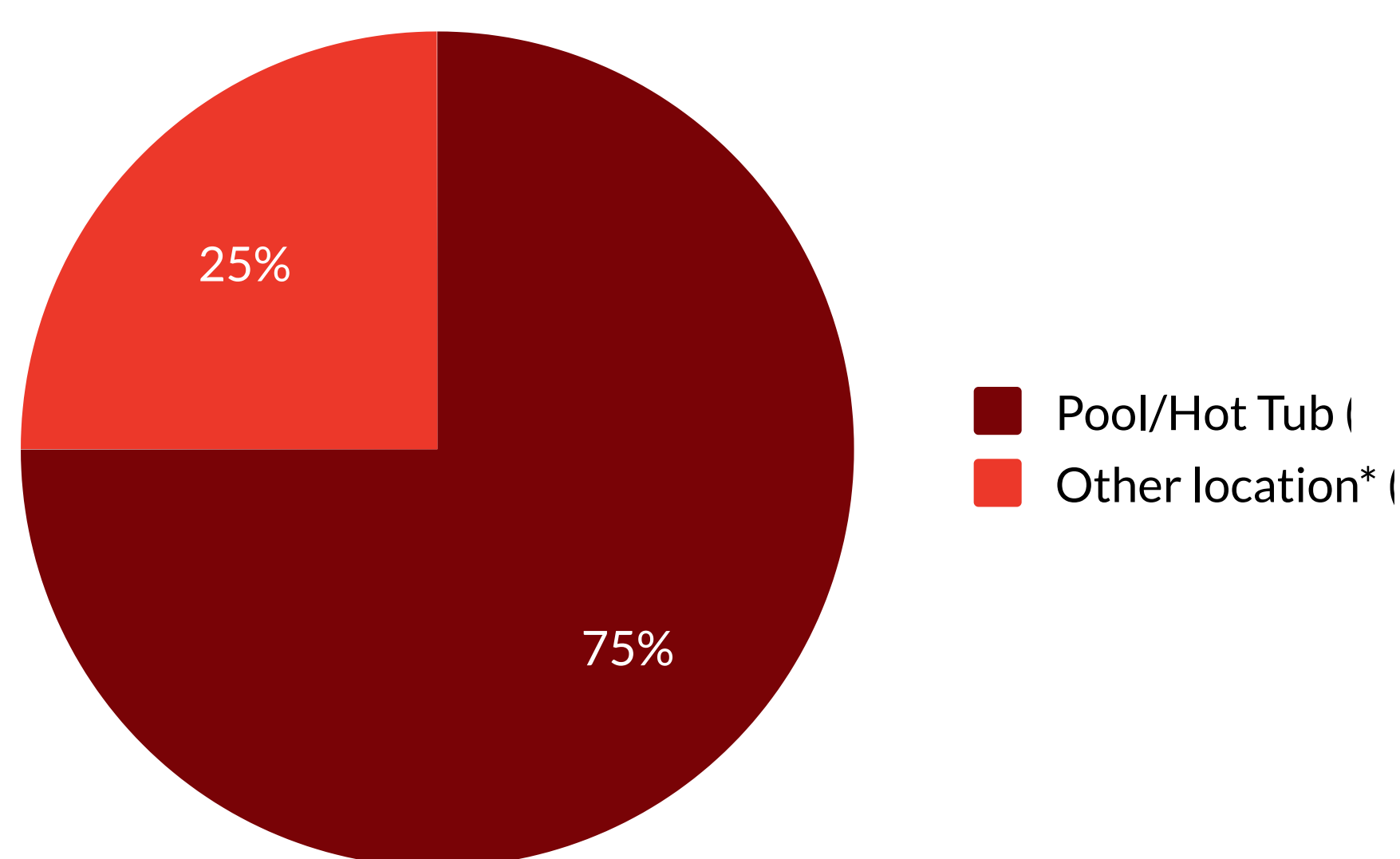
### Age of the Child



The child was not in sight of the supervisor in

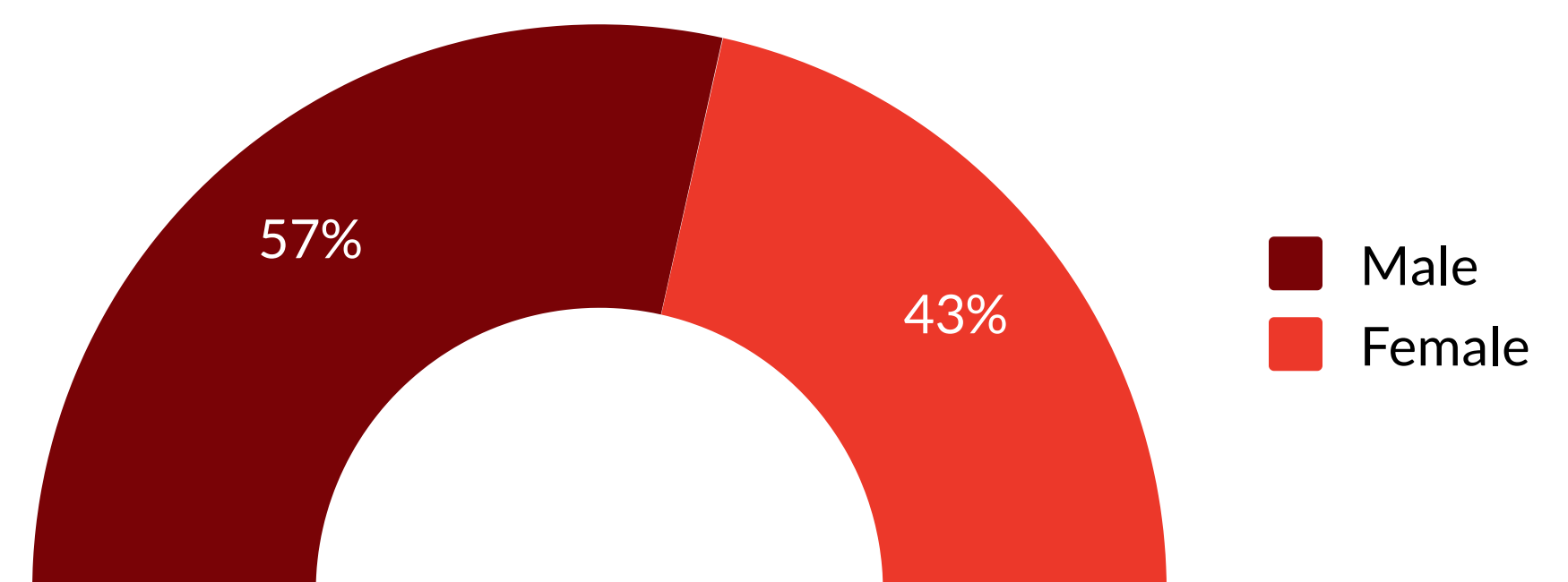
**96%** of drowning deaths

### Drowning Deaths by Location



\*Other locations include bathtub, open water, and flashflood wash

### Sex of the Child



**100%** of drowning deaths were preventable

\*Data in this report may differ from vital records data. Vital records data is on Arizona residents only. The Child Fatality Review Program investigates the deaths of all children who die in Arizona regardless of state residency.

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## Drowning Deaths\*

### Prevention Recommendations

- Increase public awareness of the dangers of drowning for children.
- Caregivers should never leave children unattended near pools or pool areas. There should be a focused adult supervisor that is responsible for watching children that are in or around open water, pools, and spas. Adult supervision is key in preventing children from drowning. These points should continue to be reiterated and drowning prevention education should be expanded.
- Pools need to be enclosed on all four sides by a wall, fence, or barrier to ensure restricted access to young children.
- Pool enclosures need to be at least 5 feet tall and 20 inches from the water's edge and have a gate at least 54 inches above the floor that swings away from the pool. The gate should have a self-closing/latching mechanism. These specifications can reduce the chance of children having unsupervised time around water.
- There should be no openings in pool enclosures that are wide enough for a child to get through or under. There should also be no protrusions, like handholds, which can be used to climb the enclosure. This will prevent small children from overcoming the boundary that is in place to protect them.
- Teaching children to swim after the age of 1 is one of the most effective interventions that can reduce child drowning.
- Parents should have their children wear properly fitted coast guard approved life jackets when on a boat, dock, or near bodies of water.
- Inform parents that inflatable swimming aids and personal flotation devices are not a substitute for a life jacket.
- Emphasize the importance of constant supervision for children in baths and how rapidly a drowning can occur.
- Increase warning resources (e.g., signage) and awareness of the dangers of flash flood areas.
- Provide families with evidence-based drowning prevention education and barrier code information.
- Encourage health care providers to discuss water safety prevention measures with families who present at the hospital with a near-drowning incident.
- Increase awareness and caregiver education about pool safety with a special focus on high-risk groups such as families with young children and children with special needs.
- Increase the availability and accessibility of low-cost swim lessons for children including non-English speaking families.
- Partner with home and pool rental companies (i.e., Airbnb, Vrbo, Swimply) to encourage enhanced safety features for renters with children. This could include information regarding pool fencing, alarms, and other safety features.
- Increase education and community awareness on water safety ABCs.