# Rising Drowning Deaths Alarm US Amid Pandemic Challenges



**US Sees Spike in Drowning Deaths Amid Pandemic Disruptions**

**Key Details:**- **What:** A significant increase in accidental drowning rates has been reported in the United States, particularly affecting children under four and minority groups. - **Where:** Nationwide, impacting various demographic groups and locations, including private homes and public pools. - **When:** The rise in drowning incidents has been observed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. - **Who:** The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided the data. Dr. Debra Houry, chief medical officer for the CDC, has highlighted the issue.

**Context:**- After decades of decline, accidental drowning deaths have risen by nearly 10% in recent years. For children under the age of four, drowning rates jumped almost 30% in 2021 and 2022. - Drowning has remained the leading cause of death for preschool-age children. Black Americans and American Indian and Alaska Natives have also experienced higher-than-average increases in drowning rates. - The pandemic possibly disrupted access to swimming lessons and public pools, which may have contributed to the rise.

**Survey Findings:**- A CDC survey revealed that 40 million US adults do not know how to swim. One-third of Black adults and 1 in 7 adults in the general population cannot swim. - Historical discrimination has led to disparities in swimming ability among different racial groups.

**Case Highlight:**- The tragic case of Gordie Statham, a 3-year-old who drowned in his family's pool in 2020, underscores the issue. His mother, Berkeley Champlin, now raises funds for children's swimming lessons to prevent similar incidents.

**Conclusion:**- As the US approaches Memorial Day weekend, the CDC emphasizes the importance of swimming lessons and water safety to reduce drowning risks.

This concise report gives readers an understanding of the rise in drowning rates and the factors involved, helping inform their own perspectives on this critical issue.