


Portable Pools: an Emerging Hazard

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- Troy Whitfield, CPSC

➤ Caveats:

- Death counts minimum figures
- Analysis preliminary

Pool Drowning Deaths

- 280 annually, children < 5 years
- At least 90 percent residential
- Additional submersion incidents
- Pool type not quantified

Types of Residential Pools

- In-ground
- Above/on-ground
- Portable

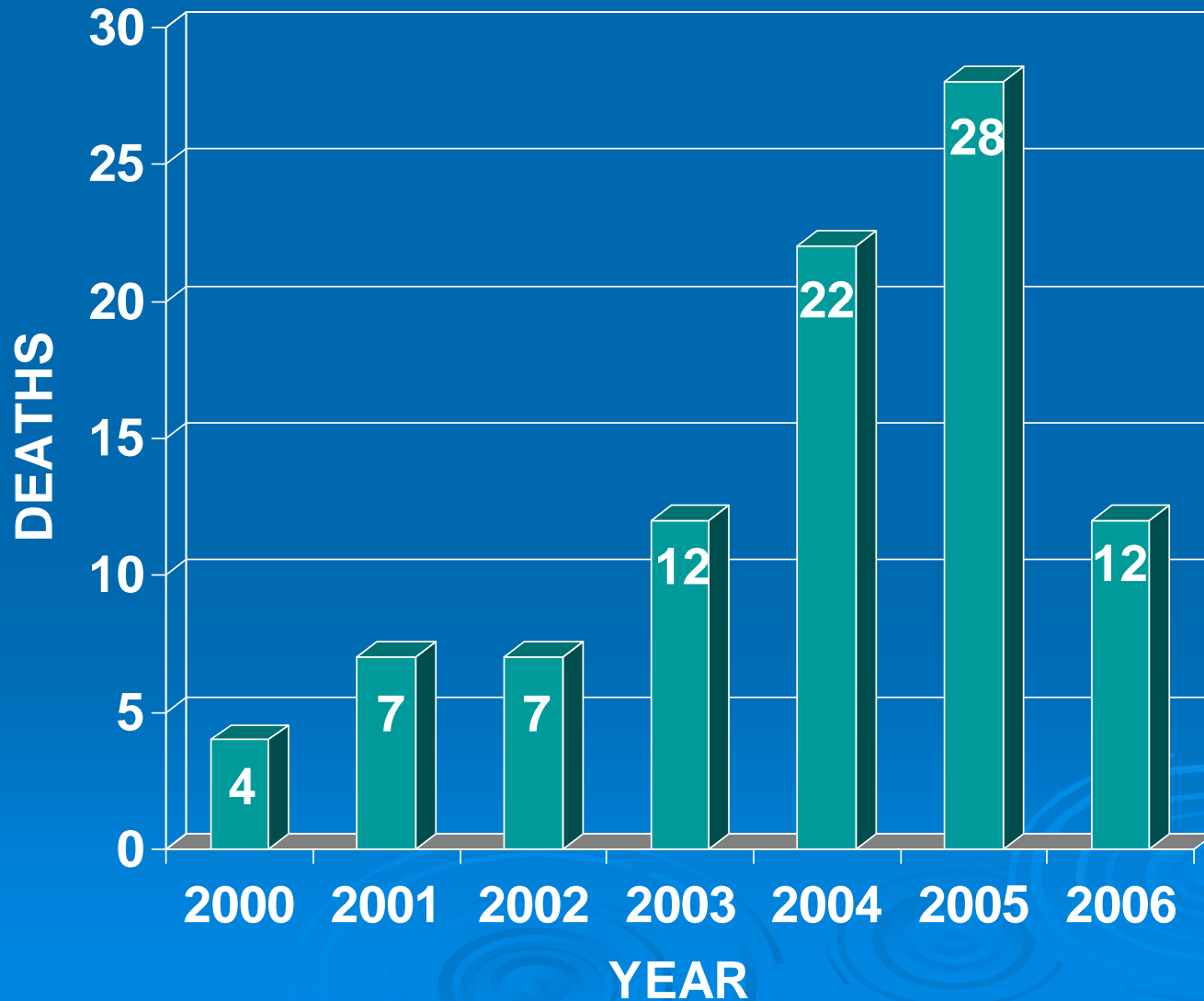
Portable Pools

- Intended for residential use
- Water depth < 36 inches
- Types include:
 - Self-rising
 - Frame
 - Inflatable
 - Big blue
 - Wading, Splash, Kiddy (no pump or filter)

Portable Pools

- Increasingly popular
- Lower cost
- Usually no barrier present
- Safety standard in development

Portable Pools: Drowning Deaths by Year (Victims < 10 years)

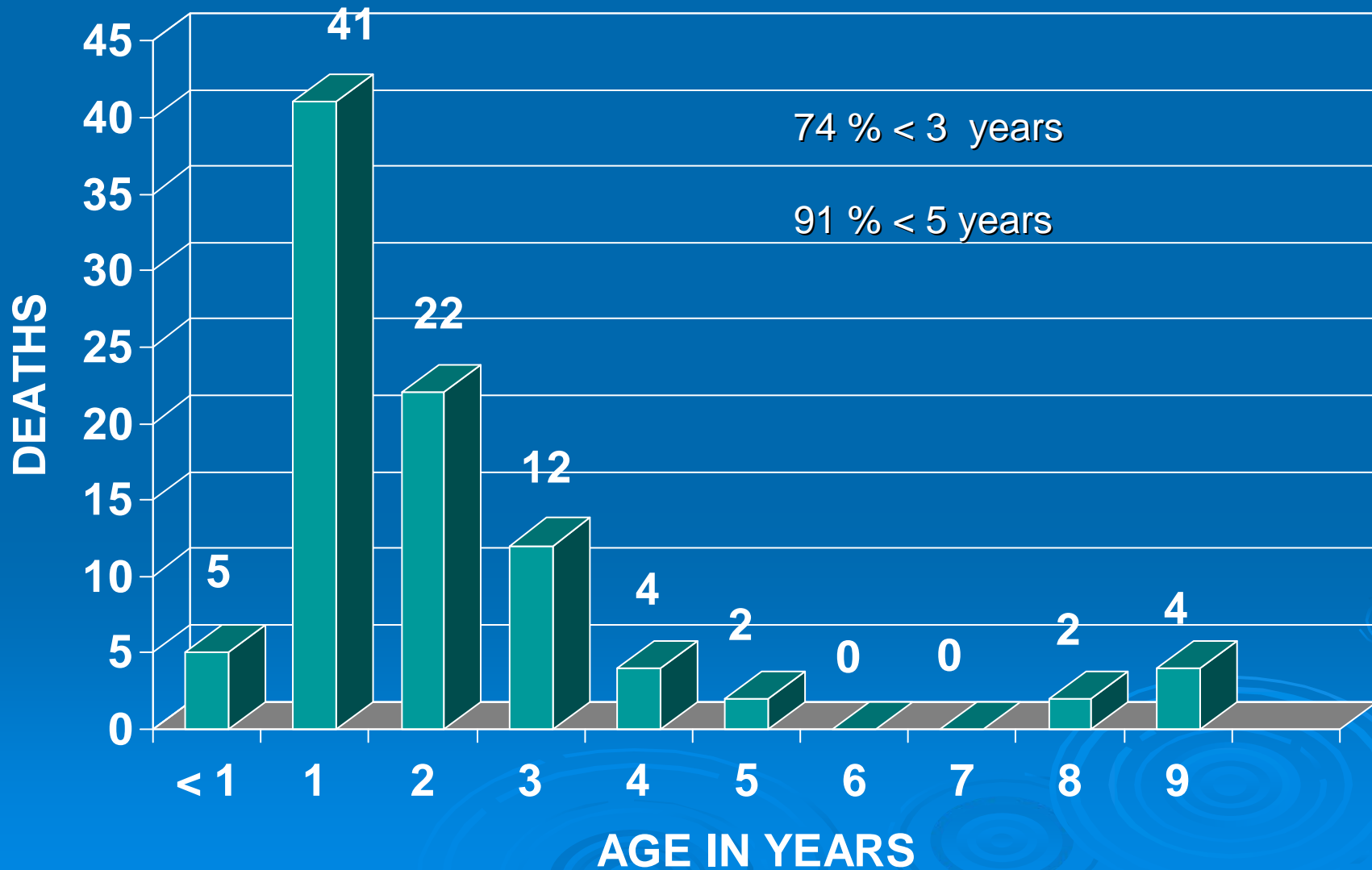


Portable Pools: Deaths by State

Total	92	100%
CA	16	17%
FL	13	14%
OR	7	8%
TX	7	8%
OH	5	5%
IA	4	4%
IN	4	4%
NY	4	4%
AZ	3	3%
OTHER	29	33%

} 47%

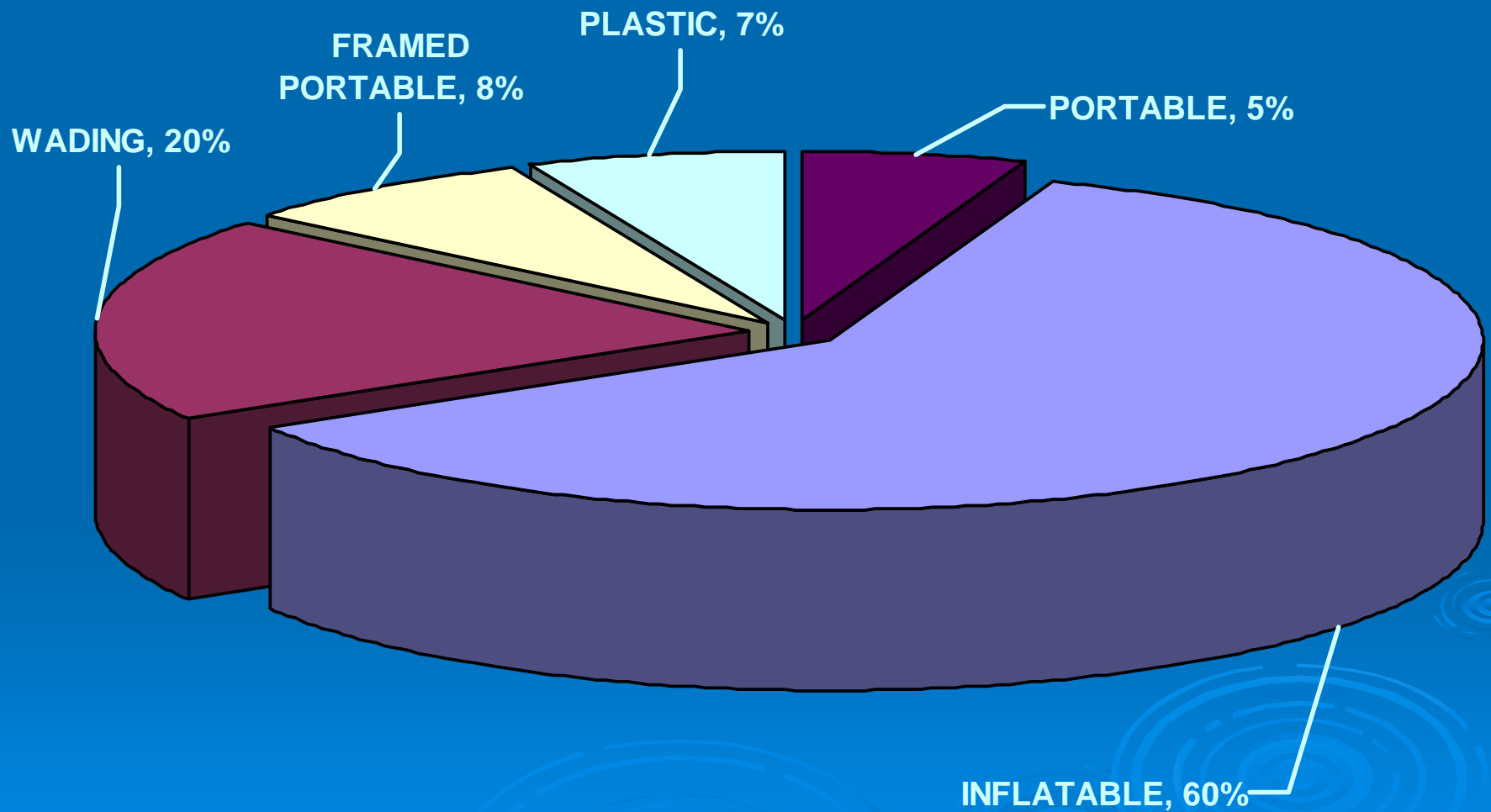
Portable Pools: Age of Victims



Portable Pools: Sex of Victims

- Males – 47 (51 %)
- Females – 45 (49 %)

Portable Pools: Types Involved



Portable Pools: Incident Location

- Victim's Home – 38
- Other Location – 24
 - Grandparent, relative
 - Friend
 - Neighbor
 - Daycare/sitter
- Unknown – 30

Portable Pools: Access

- Few barriers reported
- Often “slipped out of house”
- Unlocked door, window, pet door, gate
- Ladder often left in place

Portable Pools: Supervision

- Caregiver present in or around home
- Victims often thought to be inside
- Victims left with other children in yard or pool
- Victims left alone in yard or pool
- Confusion over who was watching child

Portable Pools: Other Factors

- Pool cover involvement (8 deaths)
- Climability of pool side

Traditional Pool Safety Recommendations

➤ Layers of protection

- Barriers: 4 ft. high, 4-sided
- Self-closing/latching gates
- Door/pool alarms
- Secured steps/ladders on above-ground pools

Safety Recommendations (cont'd)

- Supervision
- Preparation in case of emergency
 - Seconds count
 - Missing child - check pool first
 - Rescue equipment
 - Poolside telephone/emergency numbers
 - CPR training

Portable Pools: Current Actions

- Standards development / research
 - Product improvements
 - Safety devices
 - Incident data review
- Local barrier requirements
- Safety messages to influence behavior

Portable Pools: Discussion

- Which “layers of protection” are reasonable for portable pools?
- What safety improvements should be considered for these products?
- Should more barrier requirements be enacted? Can they be enforced?
- Can we expect to change caregivers behavior?