**Florida Injury Facts**
Drownings

At A Glance

- Drowning is the leading cause of injury death among children ages 1–4 in Florida.

- Florida's drowning death rate among children ages 1–4 is the highest in the nation.

- Enough children drown each year in Florida to fill three to four preschool classrooms.

- In 2012, 440 Florida residents drowned. There were an additional 343 hospitalizations for non-fatal drownings. Children 1–4 make up 13% of the deaths and 44% of the hospitalizations.

**Fatal Drownings,
by Year and Age, 2008–2012**
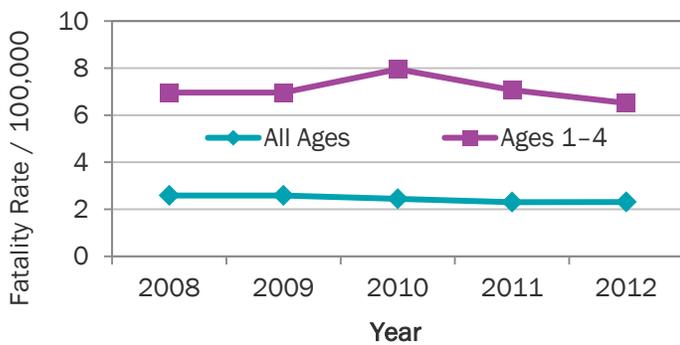
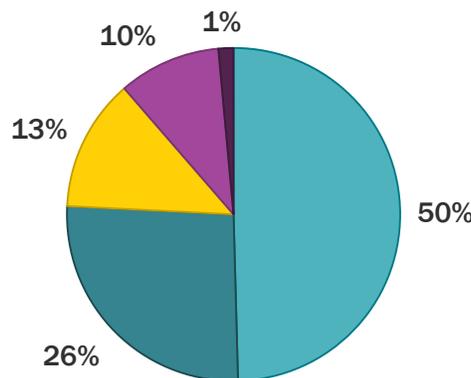**Non-Fatal Drowning Hospitalizations,
by Year and Age, 2008–2012**
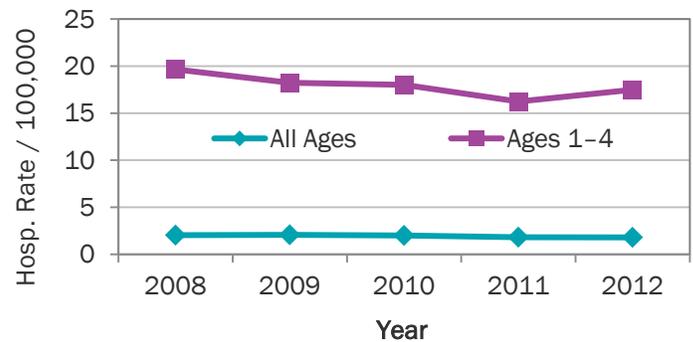
Economic Impact

In 2012:

- The median admission charge for non-fatal drowning hospitalizations was $16,034; total charges exceeded $16 million. The median length of stay was two days.

- Medicaid was the payer source for 50% of these hospitalizations.

**Non-Fatal Drowning Hospitalization Admission
Charges and Payer Source, Florida Residents, 2012**

Median Admission Charge
$16,034
Total Admission Charges
> $16 million

- Medicaid
- Commercial Insurance
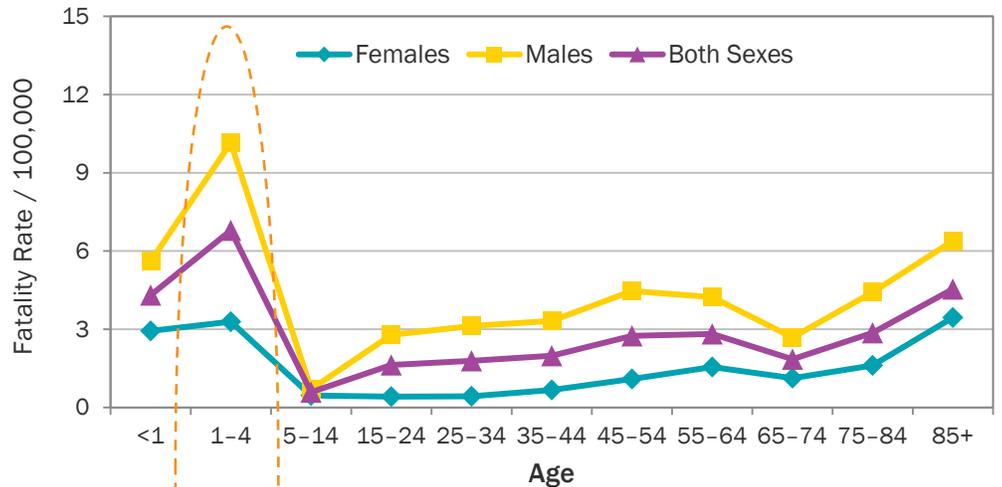- Self-Pay/Underinsured
- Medicare
- Other

Who Is Injured?

In 2012:

- Children ages 1–4 had the highest rates of drowning and non-fatal drowning hospitalization.
- The fatal drowning and non-fatal hospitalization rates among males were 2.2 higher than among females.

Drowning Deaths, by Age and Sex, Florida Residents, 2012

Non-Fatal Drowning Hospitalizations, by Age and Sex, Florida Residents, 2012
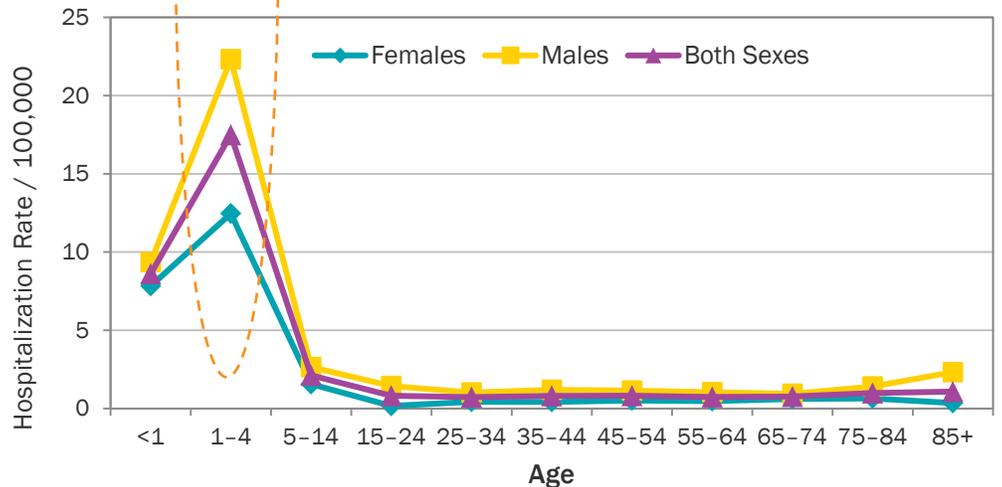
- Males accounted for 72% of drowning deaths and non-fatal drowning hospitalizations combined while females accounted for only 28%.
- White residents accounted for 69% of drowning deaths and non-fatal drowning hospitalizations combined. Black residents accounted for 21% and Other Non-White residents accounted for 9%.

Drowning Deaths and Non-Fatal Hospitalizations, by Sex and Race, Florida Residents, 2012

	Female	Male	White	Black	Other Non-White	Both Sexes, All Races
Deaths	106	334	326	82	32	440
Non-Fatal Hospitalizations	114	229	211	84	41	343

Some records have unknown sex or race; categories may not add up to total.

In 2012:

- The fatal drowning and non-fatal hospitalization rates among Hispanic and Non-Hispanic residents as well as Black residents were very similar.
- Other Non-White residents had the highest non-fatal drowning rates.

Fatal Drowning Deaths and Non-Fatal Hospitalizations, by Hispanic Ethnicity and Race, Florida Residents, 2012
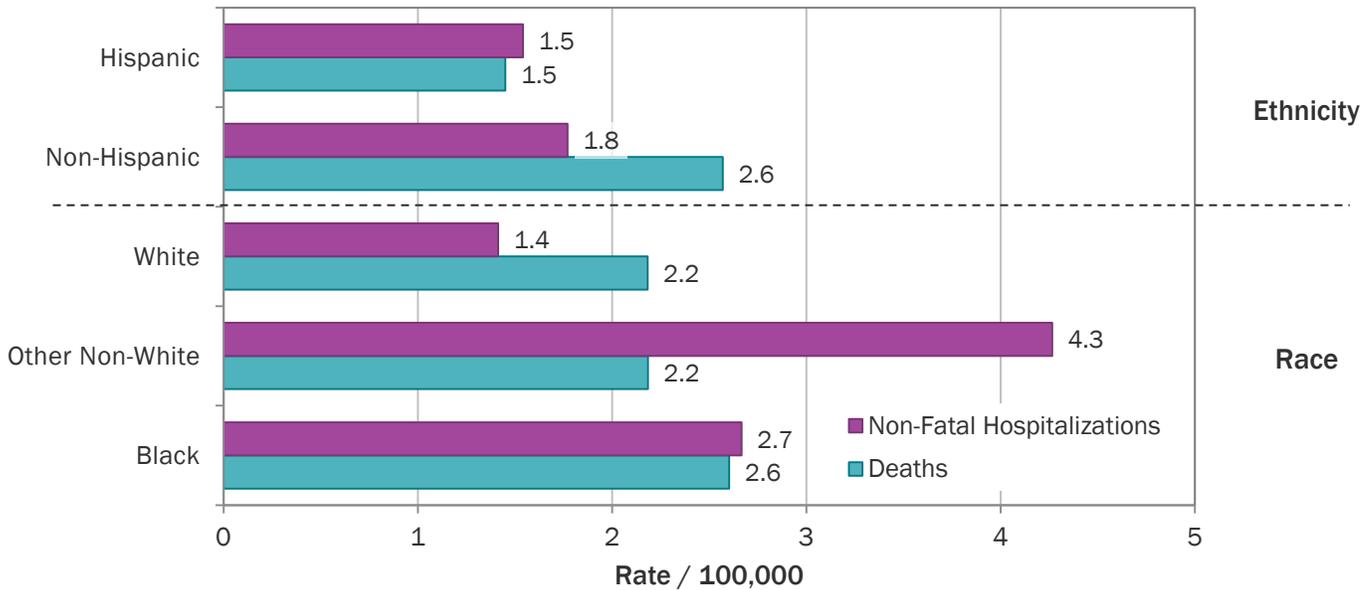

Location Of Fatal Drownings

- Florida residents under the age of 5 were most likely to drown in a swimming pool.
- Florida residents ages 5–9 were most likely to drown in a natural/open body of water.

In 2012:

- 56% of drowning victims under the age of 5 drowned in a swimming pool (38), 6% in a bathtub (4), and 15% in natural/open water (10).
- 33% of drowning victims ages 5–9 drowned in natural/open water (3), and 11% drowned in a swimming pool (1).
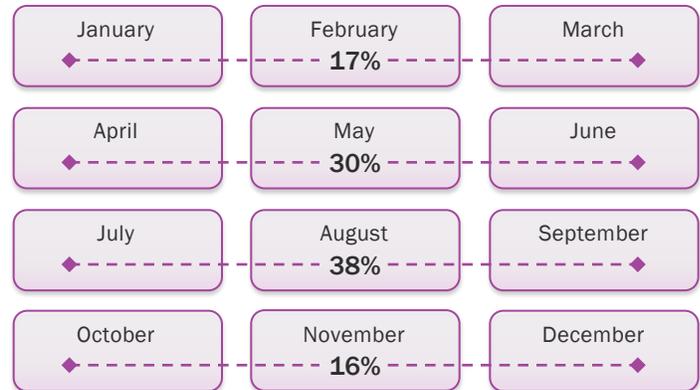- 27% of drowning victims ages 10 and older drowned in natural/open water (98), and 16% in a swimming pool (58).
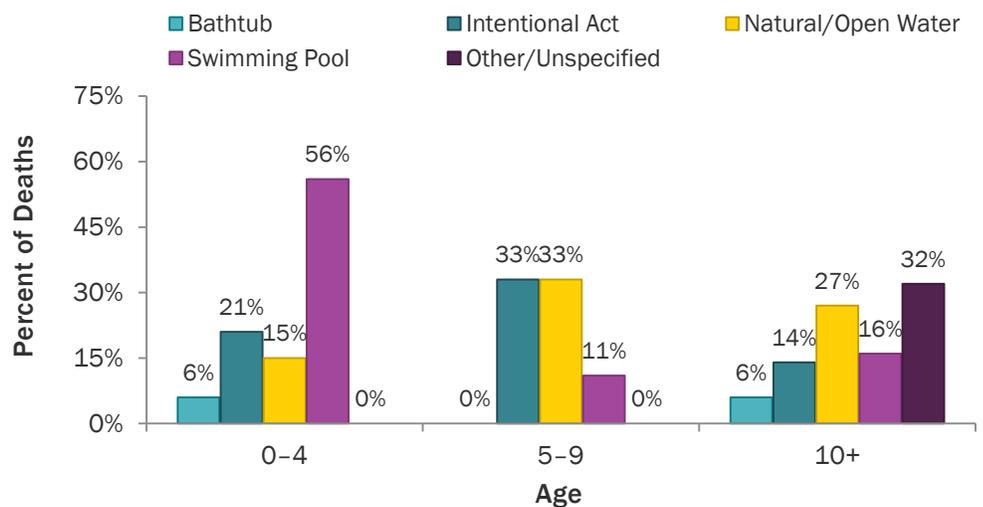
Drowning Deaths, by Age and Place, Florida Residents, 2012

Natural/Open Water includes outdoor lakes, rivers, canals, ponds, etc., even when man-made.

When Do Drownings Occur?

- In Florida, drowning happen year round; however, most fatal and non-fatal drowning combined occur during the spring and summer.

- In 2012, 68% of drowning deaths and non-fatal hospitalizations combined occurred during the months of April through September.

January	February **17%**	March
April	May **30%**	June
July	August **38%**	September
October	November **16%**	December

Intent Of Drownings

97% of drowning deaths and non-fatal hospitalizations combined were unintentional, 2% were suicides or suicide attempts, and 1% was undetermined.

Unintentional drowning does not mean unpreventable drowning. According to the 2012 Florida Child Abuse Death Review Report, the leading cause of verified child abuse/neglect deaths in Florida was drowning. The State Committee reviewed 32 verified child neglect cases involving drowning.

Prevention Tips And Resources

- Promote the Layers of Protection: Supervision, Barriers, and Emergency Preparedness. *WaterproofFL—Pool Safety is Everyone's Responsibility.* www.waterprooffl.com

- Install four-sided isolation fencing with a self-closing and self-latching gate around pools and spas.

- Install alarms on all doors and windows leading to the pool.

- Learn to swim and never swim alone or while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) while participating in open water sports and recreation.

- Operate watercraft safely and legally.

- Never dive into water less than nine feet deep. If you don't know, don't dive.

- Learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Water-Related Injuries: www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/index.html

- National Drowning Prevention Alliance: www.ndpa.org

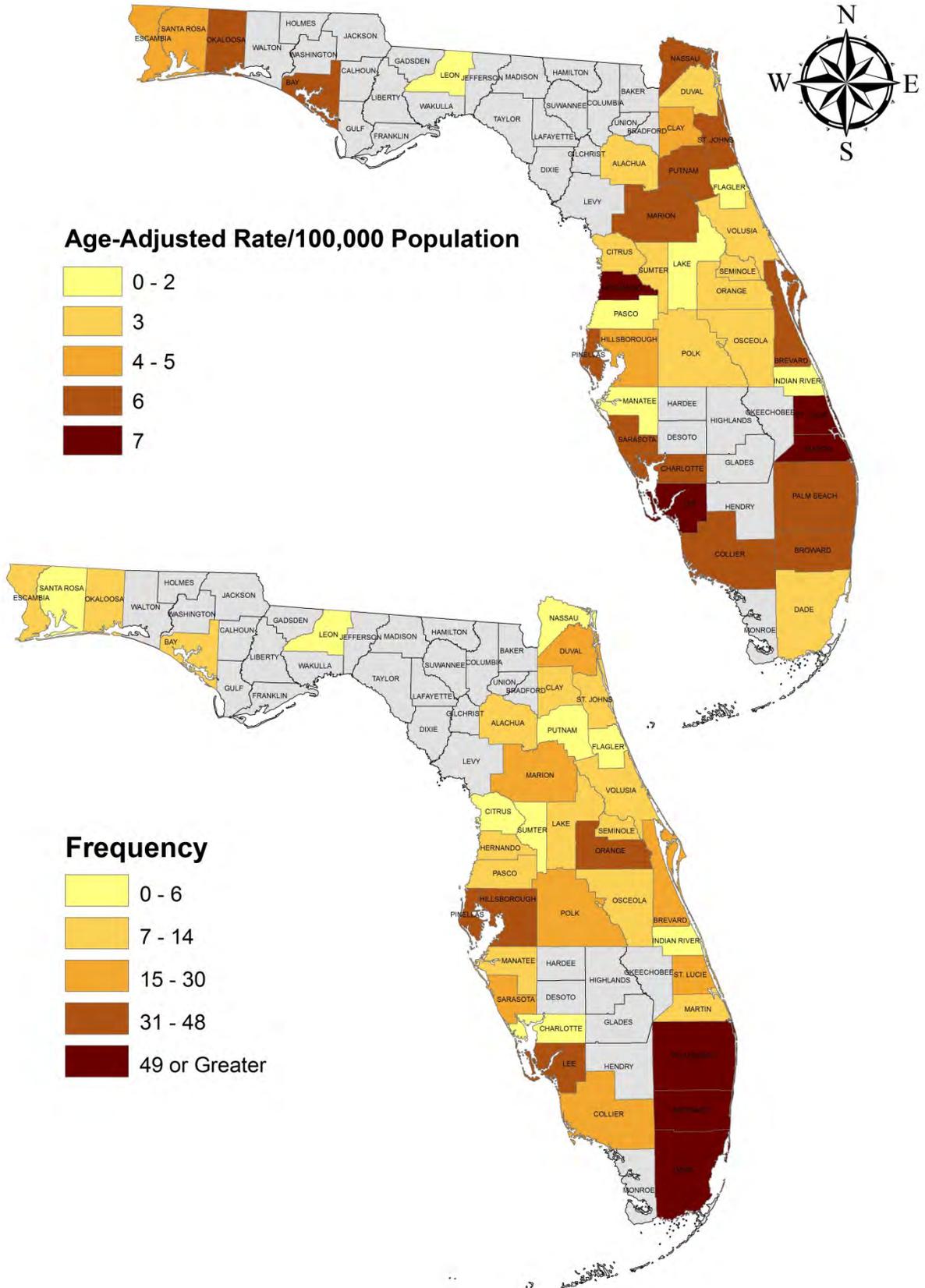- Consumer Product Safety Commission, Pool Safely: www.poolsafely.gov

Data Sources and Case Definitions

Drowning Deaths: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Death Certificates; Underlying Cause of Death ICD-10 W65–W74, X71, X92, Y21, V90, V92.

Non-Fatal Drowning Hospitalizations: Agency for Health Care Administration, Hospital Discharge Data; Records with Injury Principal Diagnosis and Drowning External Cause of Injury Code ICD-9 CM E830, E832, E910, E954, E964, E984; or Any Drowning Diagnosis ICD-9 CM 994.1.
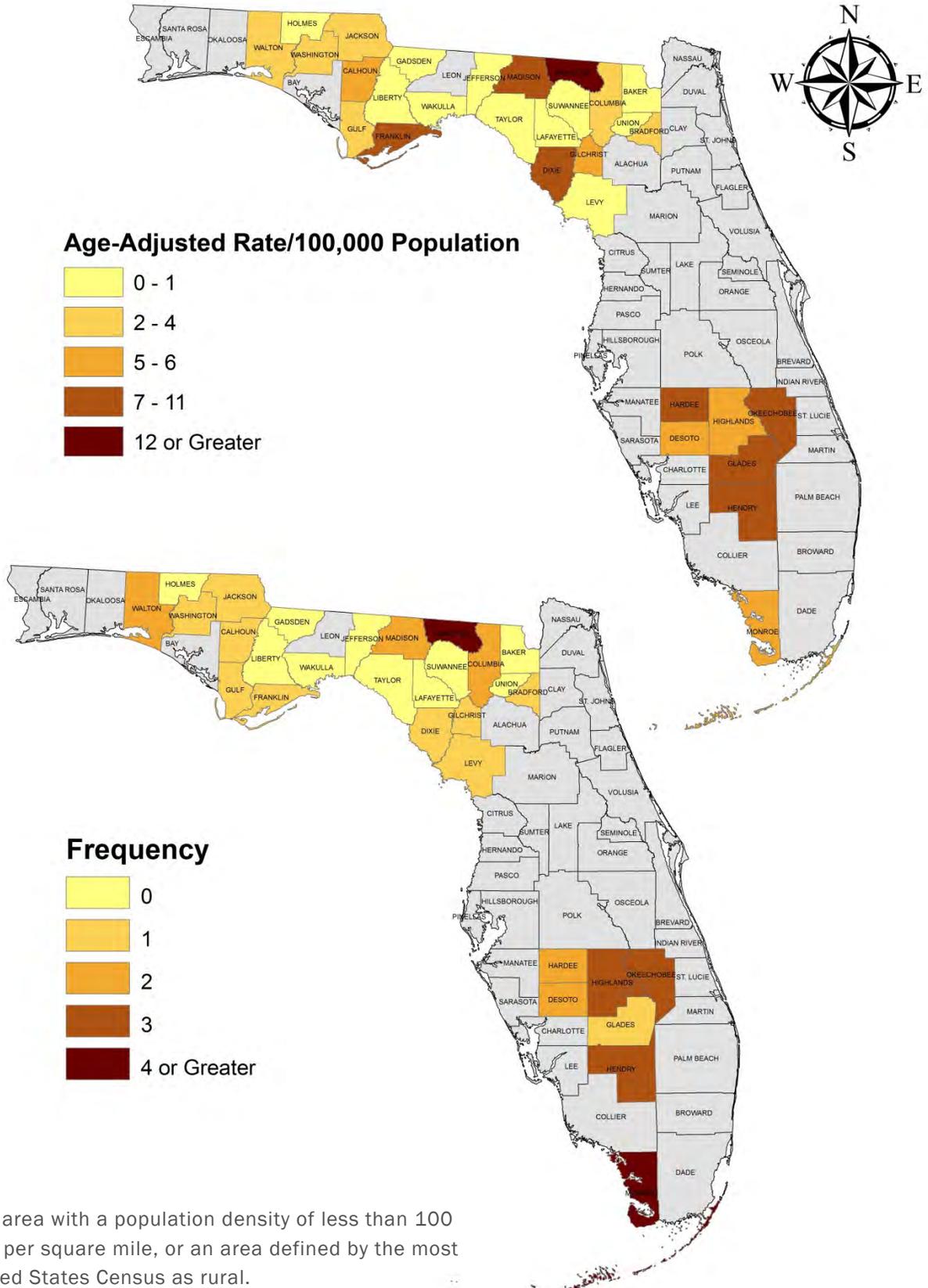
County By County Comparison: Non-Rural Counties

Drowning Deaths and Non-Fatal Hospitalizations, Florida Residents of Non-Rural Counties, 2012

Age-Adjusted Rate/100,000 Population

- 0 - 2
- 3
- 4 - 5
- 6
- 7

Frequency

- 0 - 6
- 7 - 14
- 15 - 30
- 31 - 48
- 49 or Greater

County By County Comparison: Rural* Counties

Drowning Deaths and Non-Fatal Hospitalizations, Florida Residents of Rural Counties, 2012

Age-Adjusted Rate/100,000 Population

- 0 - 1
- 2 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 11
- 12 or Greater

Frequency

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 or Greater

* Rural — An area with a population density of less than 100 individuals per square mile, or an area defined by the most recent United States Census as rural.