

Project Description: Open Water Safety Checklists

The open water safety checklists are designed to help individuals, organizations, and communities identify gaps in open water safety and policy and program changes to fix the gaps.

Washington State Open Water Drowning Facts

- Drowning is one of the leading causes of unintentional injury death among children and youth.
- 85% of drowning fatalities occurred in open water (lakes, rivers, and the ocean).
- Most drownings occurred while swimming and playing in or near the water.



Overview

The Washington State Department of Health, Seattle Children's Hospital, and Safe Kids Washington developed a swim area safety checklist and community water recreation safety checklist to help individuals, organizations and communities identify opportunities to improve.

How were the checklists developed?

The checklists were developed based on a review of existing public health, education, and environment report cards and report card toolkits and feedback from water recreation and injury prevention experts. The checklists were piloted by 5 Washington State Safe Kids Coalitions, who assessed over 50 open water sites on lakes, rivers, and inland salt water and used the assessment to identify policies and programs to improve open water safety. The checklists were revised based on feedback from the Coalitions, water recreation experts, and injury prevention experts.

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