

## **Drowning** What You Need to Know

49% of individuals with Autism wander from safe environments and 24% of those individuals have experienced a close call with drowning.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



# Who is at Risk?

Drowning is a leading cause of death for individuals with Autism, who are 160x more likely to drown than their neurotypical peers.



# Where Does it Happen?

Drowning can occur in all bodies of water: pools, canals, oceans, ponds, lakes, etc.



#### Why Are Individuals Drawn to Water?

Water provides both sensory stimulation and enjoyment, making it appealing to many Autistic individuals. Sensory input and feedback from water may include:

- Sound: Calming and guiet
- Feeling: Gentle and enclosed, like a hug (hydrostatic pressure)
- Visual: Reflective patterns
- Buovancy: Feeling light and free
- Deep Pressure: The sensation of being underwater











#### Two Seconds. Two Inches. Two Layers.

Every two seconds, a loved one could wander. Two inches of water could pose a risk. It Takes Two is a national campaign to prevent wandering and drowning incidents among individuals with Autism, Alzheimer's/Dementia, and other developmental disabilities.

#### 91% of accidental drowning deaths

in children with Autism under 14 are due to drowning after wandering has occurred.



### Learn How to Reduce Water Risks: Scan to Learn More

A portion of this project was supported by Grant No. 115PBJA-22-GK-03582-MAPX, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Smart Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.