

# ***UNITED STATES LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION***

## **National Lifesaving Statistics Report 2024**

### **Background**

Since its inception as the National Surf Life Saving Association in 1964, the chapters and agencies involved in lifesaving efforts in the United States have endeavored to record the activity performed by their lifeguards. These records have been compiled in a statistical format to record the various categories of activity performed by these agencies. The Association, now known as the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA), has published this information for many years for several purposes. The main function is to educate the public about the profession of lifesaving. The statistics also serve to highlight particular professional areas of interest, provide tools in agency budget development, and further the knowledge base about the open water environment. This report highlights the 2024 statistics of the USLA. Complete records of USLA statistics dating to 1960 may be downloaded from USLA's Website at [www.usla.org](http://www.usla.org).

### **The United States Lifesaving Association**

The United States Lifesaving Association is a non-profit, professional organization of lifeguards who work at open water beaches (both surf and inland). Members are organized into chapters, which are generally formed by reason of a common employer of the member lifeguards. Since this is not a union, membership extends to all ranks of lifeguards and there is strong participation from management level employees through line lifeguards. Open water lifeguard agencies, most of which are governmental bodies, participate in USLA through their employees and benefit through various means, such as promulgation of public safety material, collection and dissemination of statistics, development of lifeguard educational material, and the USLA Lifeguard Agency Certification Program.

### **Beaches, Collection and Categories**

The USLA collects lifesaving statistics for all beaches affiliated agencies and also accepts reports from other ocean beaches indirectly associated with the USLA. The collection efforts date to 1960 and for much of the first twenty years, focused exclusively on California beaches, especially the greater Southern California area. In the late 1980's, collection efforts began in earnest for the entire United States. This reporting system reflects more than thirty years of active national statistics collection, with a gradual progression from a west coast based report to the more national look presented here. USLA now reports lifesaving statistics from nine geographical regions of its organization. Typically, more than 140 agencies/beaches report each year, with total agency numbers increasing annually. These include most of the major United States beach lifeguard agencies such as the County of Los Angeles, the State of California, the City of San Diego, the City of Huntington Beach, the City and County of Honolulu, the County of Volusia, the City of Fort Lauderdale, Cape May and Long Beach Township, New Jersey.

<b>2024 National Lifesaving Statistics</b>	<b>Nationwide Incident Data</b>
Beach Attendance	311,186,726
Rescues	85,258
Preventive Actions	22,847,774
Medical Aids	444,357
Boat - Rescues	2,441
Boat - Passengers	1,526
Boat - Vessel Value	\$63,280,351
Drowning - Unguarded	118
Drowning - Guarded	32
Lost and Found Persons	9,708
Public Safety Lectures	153,900
Students Attending	405,908

### **Website Upgrades**

During this year, Watchtower and USLA have been coordinating on several changes to the system.

- The USLA Data Team and Watchtower are working to create a new data mapping tool, as part of our continuing commitment to data management infrastructure. Since every agency defines Incident Categories slightly differently, this data mapping tool will create a clear association between each agency category and the USLA reporting standard. Leveraging these new data maps will allow for faster data processing, more flexible data analysis, greater scalability in the overall pro bono data partnership between USLA and Watchtower.

- Second, consistent with the Certification Committee's most recent report, the Executive Directors' review process and the Certification Officers process are now checking to ensure any applicant for renewal of their Certification has their agency statistics current.

- Several new points have been added to the statistics website.

- A new confirmation message has been added. The new confirmation message after submitting data on the data reporting form is:

***Thank you for submitting your annual statistics data!***

***Please allow for 3 business days in order to see your data reflected on the USLA data dashboard, due to a process of data review and verification.***

***If you have any further inquiries, please email: [statistics@usla.org](mailto:statistics@usla.org)***

- A note researchers has been added:

- *A Note to Researchers, Media and other Data seekers: These statistics are limited to data contributed by USLA Certified Agencies annually and others who may choose to participate. Not all beaches in the United States contribute to the database. Users should carefully review the data for research or contact USLA with inquiries.*

- A link to other organizations who track data has also been complete on the "How to Use this Report Tool" page of the data dashboard:

- **Note: There are other sources of marine safety data available here: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/stormevents/>**