

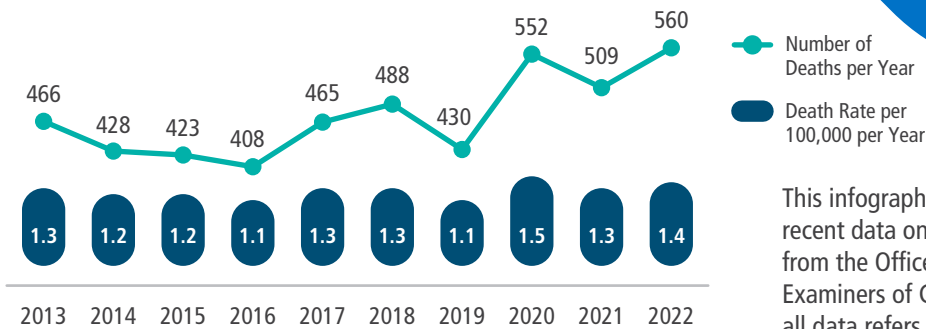


LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
The Lifeguarding Experts

Drowning Data Snapshot

Prepared for the Lifesaving Society Canada by the Drowning Prevention Research Centre Canada

NATIONAL WATER-RELATED FATALITIES AND DEATH RATES, 2013–2022



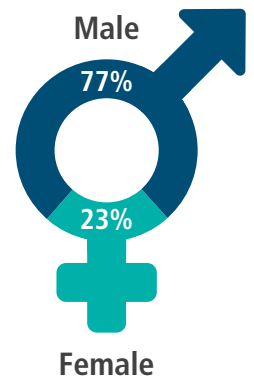
Death rate and number of deaths per year for 2016–2021 are based on partial data. Following further data analysis by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Alberta, additional drowning cases from 2018 to 2021 were identified in 2026. As a result, this graph reflects updated totals that differ from those reported in previous editions.

This infographic summarizes the most recent data on water-related fatalities available from the Offices of the Chief Coroners and Medical Examiners of Canada. With the exception of the first chart, all data refers to the most current five-year period, 2018–2022. The 2016–2021 totals are based on partial data. Complete information for British Columbia was not available at the time of data collection.

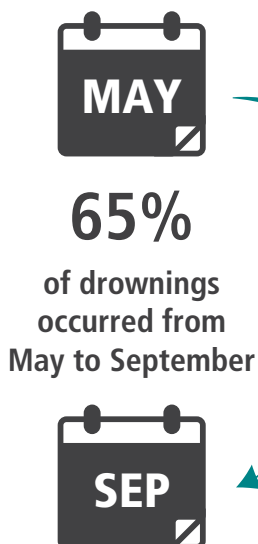
WHO IS DROWNING?



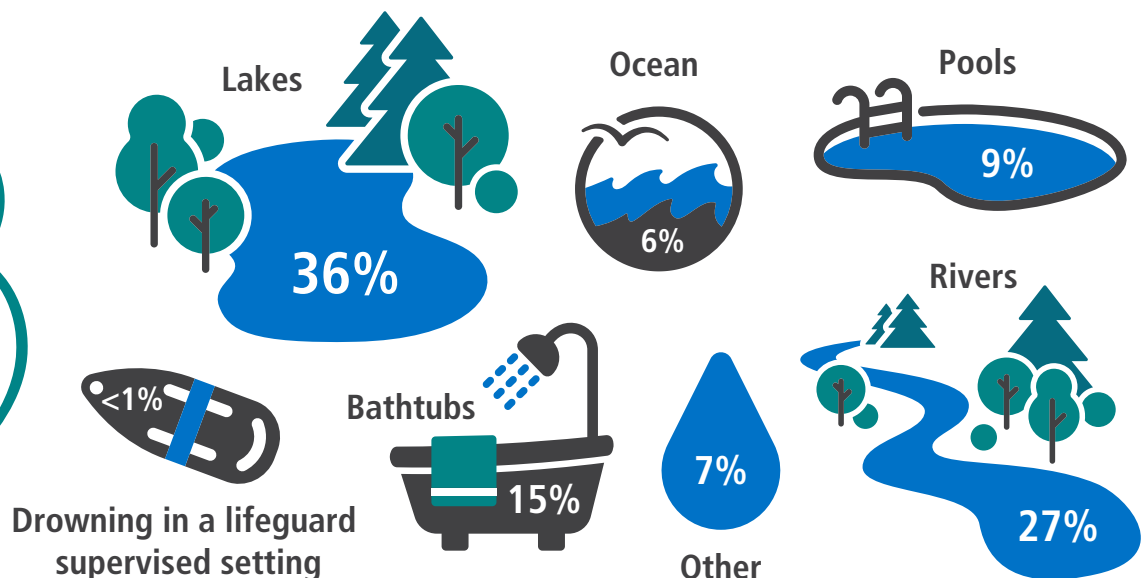
*Death Rate per 100,000 per year



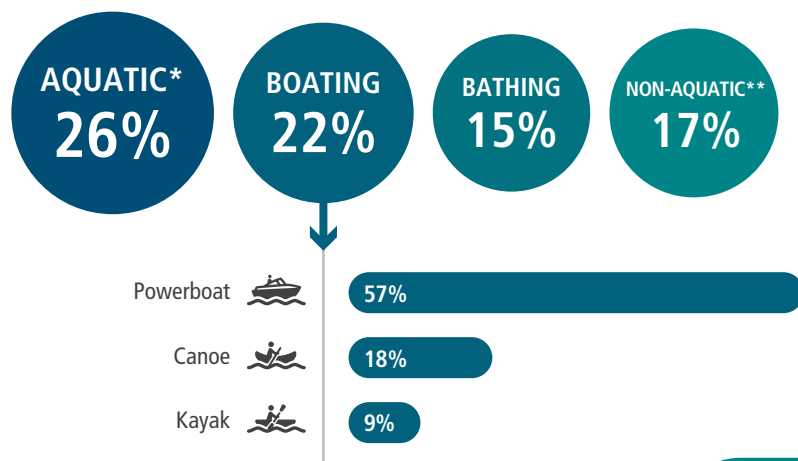
WHEN?



WHERE ARE THEY DROWNING?

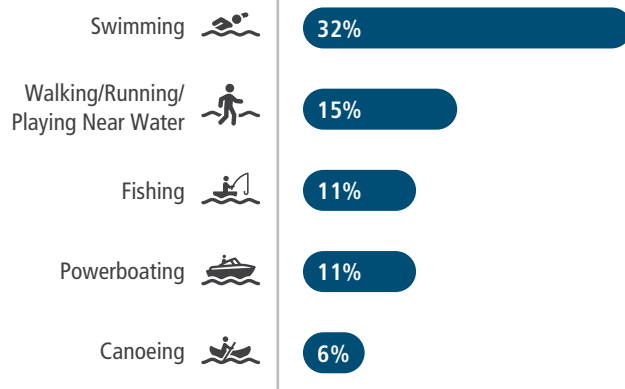


WHAT WERE THEY DOING?



* The person intended to be in the water (e.g. swimming/wading)
 ** Unintentional fall into water (e.g. walking/biking/working near water and fell in)

WATER-RELATED FATALITIES BY MOST COMMON RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY



RISK FACTORS

CHILDREN Age: <5



96%

Supervision absent or distracted

- Not wearing a PFD
- Weak or non-swimmer
- Supervision absent
- Consuming alcohol
- Alone

YOUNG ADULTS Age: 15–34



78% of cases, where known

35%

40%

MIDDLE-AGED ADULTS Age: 35–64



79% of cases, where known

37%

55%

OLDER ADULTS Age: 65+



85% of cases, where known

17%

74%

BOATING



81% of cases, where known

30%

27%

SWIMMING



37%

28%

30%

Risk factors for children aged 5–14 not reported due to small sample sizes.

CONTACT US:

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METHODS:

Water-related death data is extracted from the office of the Chief Coroner or Medical Examiner for each province and territory. Data is collected for all deaths resulting from incidents "in, on, or near" water. "Near water" incidents were included if the intent was closely related to water-based recreational, vocational or daily living activity. The data includes only unintentional deaths, not deaths due to natural causes, suicide, or homicide.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We gratefully acknowledge the support, co-operation and efforts of:

- The Chief Coroner's and Medical Examiner's Offices in each province/territory, who permitted and facilitated confidential access to coroner's reports on unintentional water-related deaths.
- The volunteers who contributed their time and energy to extract data from the files.