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, 2012-2016. The 2016 total is based on partial data. Complete information for British Columbia was not available at the time of data collection.

WHO IS DROWNING?

- 79% male
- 21% female

WHERE?

- Lake/Pond: 34%
- River: 28%
- Pool: 9%
- Bathtub: 12%
- Ocean: 7%
- Other: 10%

% of drownings occurred from May to Sep

WHEN?

- Age: 20-34: 23% (1.4*)
- Age: 50-64: 24% (1.4*)
- Age: 65+: 22% (1.8*)

* Death Rate per 100,000 / Year
WHAT WERE THEY DOING?

AQUATIC 27%

BOATING 23%

NON-AQUATIC 20%

LAND, ICE OR AIR TRANSPORTATION 14%

Powerboat 54%

Canoe 22%

Kayak 7%

WATER-RELATED FATALITIES BY MOST COMMON RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

- Swimming: 31%
- Walking/Running/Playing Near Water: 14%
- Fishing: 13%
- Power Boating: 10%
- Canoeing: 6%

WHY? RISK FACTORS

CHILDREN

- Supervision Absent or Distracted: 96%

- Not Wearing a PFD
- Alcohol Consumption
- Alone
- Weak or Non-Swimmer

YOUNG ADULTS

- Not Wearing a PFD: 88% of cases where known
- Alcohol Consumption: 47%
- Alone: 32%

OLDER ADULTS

- Not Wearing a PFD: 78% of cases where known
- Alcohol Consumption: 34%
- Alone: 60%

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.

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- The volunteers who contributed their time and energy to extract data from the files.

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