

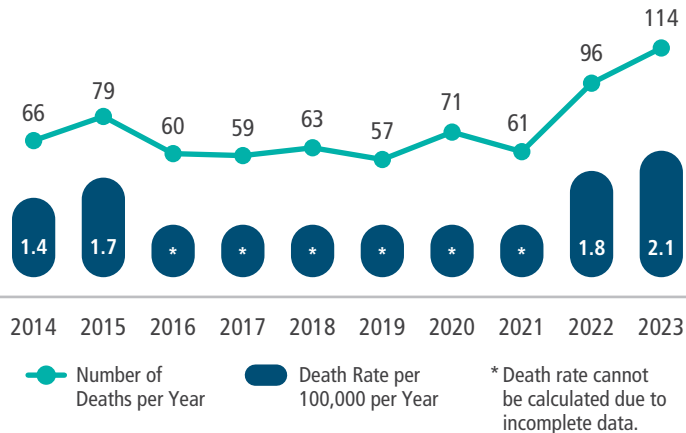


LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
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Drowning Data Snapshot

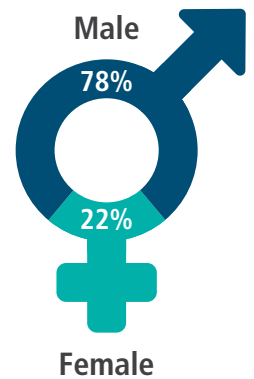
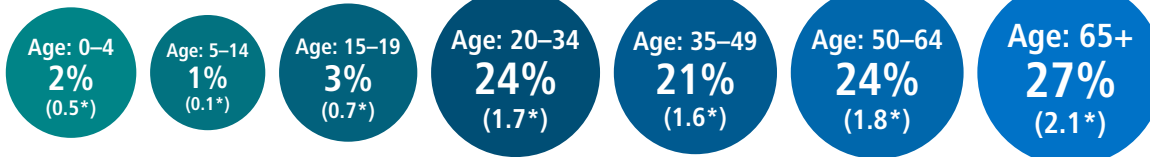
Prepared for the Lifesaving Society Canada by the Drowning Prevention Research Centre Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA WATER-RELATED FATALITIES AND DEATH RATES, 2014–2023

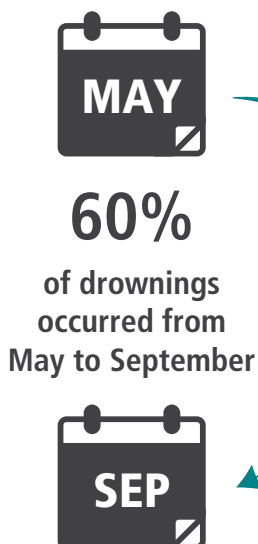


This infographic summarizes the most recent data on water-related fatalities available from the Office of the Coroner for British Columbia. With the exception of the first chart, all data refers to the most current five-year period, 2019–2023. The 2016–2019 data sets for BC are based on partial data. Not all data were available at the time of data collection.

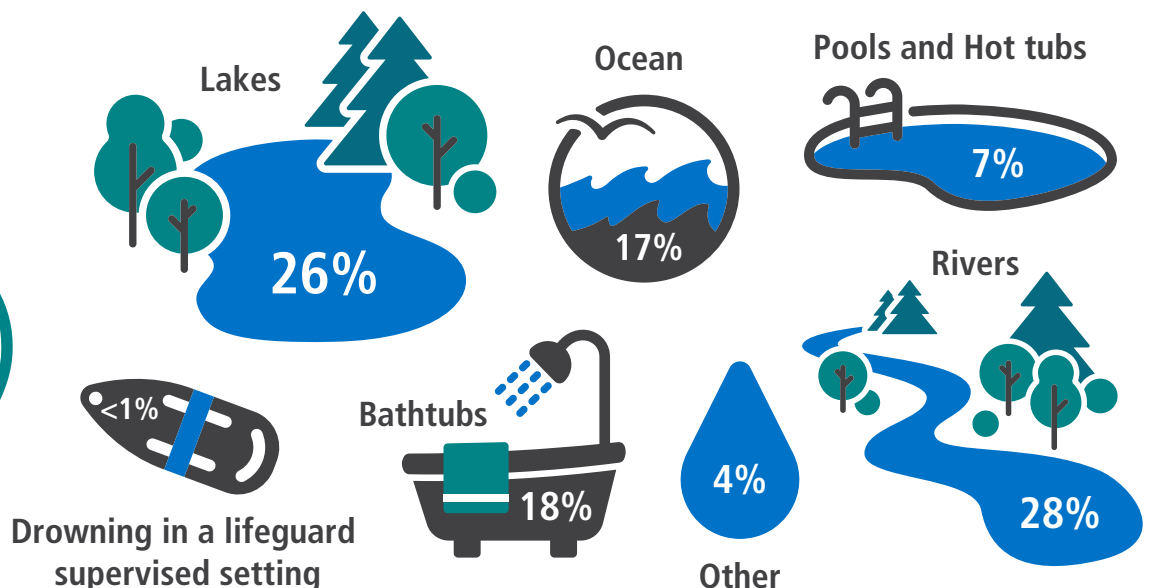
WHO IS DROWNING?



WHEN?

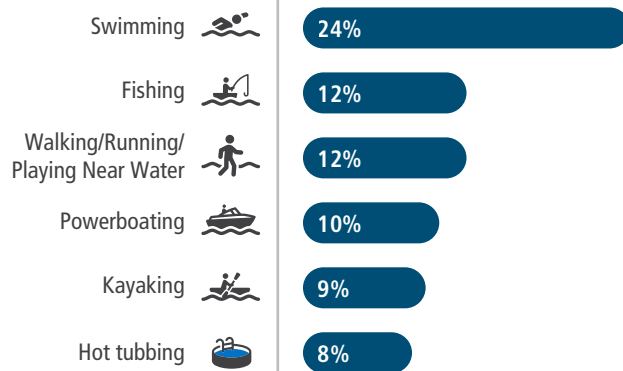
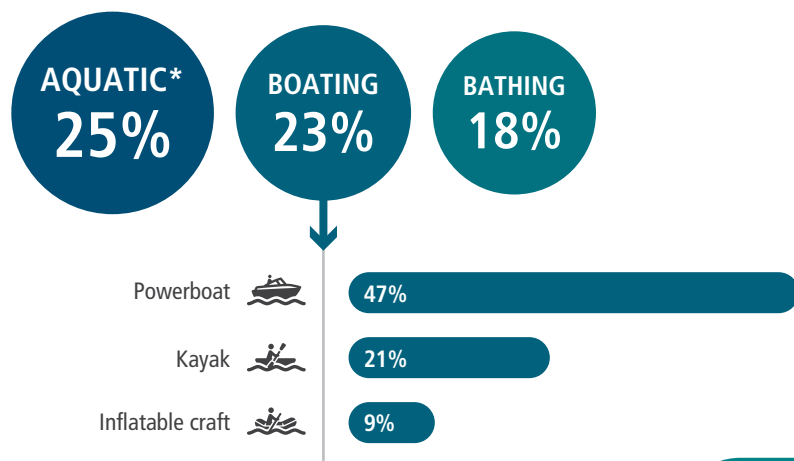


WHERE ARE THEY DROWNING?



WHAT WERE THEY DOING?

WATER-RELATED FATALITIES BY MOST COMMON RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY



* The person intended to be in the water (e.g. swimming/wading)

RISK FACTORS

CHILDREN Age: <5



100%

Supervision absent
or distracted



Not wearing
a PFD



Weak or
non-swimmer



Supervision
absent



Consuming
alcohol



Alone

YOUNG ADULTS Age: 15–34



72% of cases, where known

35%

42%

MIDDLE-AGED ADULTS Age: 35–64



65% of cases, where known

32%

57%

OLDER ADULTS Age: 65+



60% of cases, where known

18%

82%

BOATING



74% of cases, where known

22%

37%

SWIMMING



27%

24%

20%

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

CONTACT US:

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for drowning and water-related research in Canada.
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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.