

WA DROWNING REPORT 2022

A water loving nation
free from drowning



Partner:



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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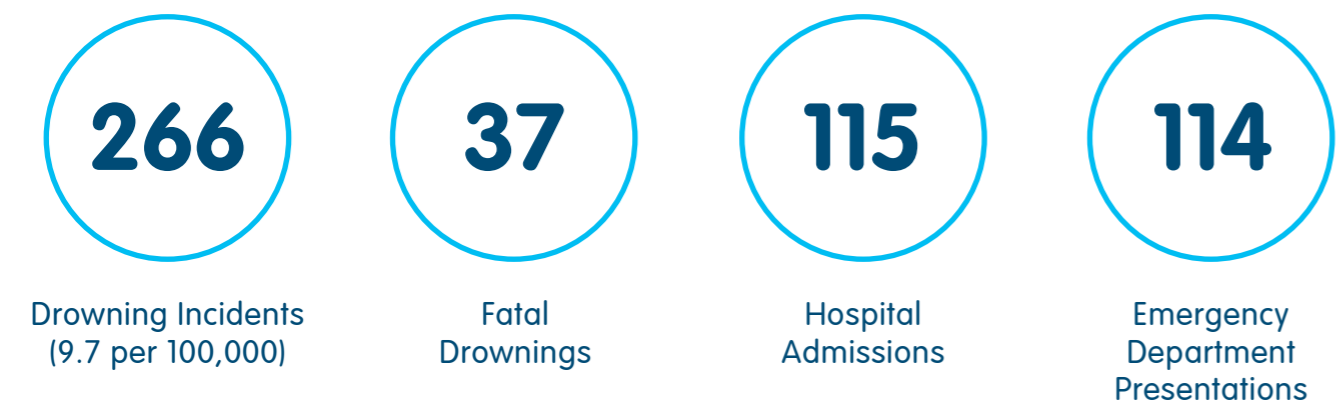
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Royal Life Saving acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands in which we live and work. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging. We extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and recognise their continuing association with the land, waters and sky of this country.

We pay respect to elders; past, present and future.

Drowning incidents recorded in WA in 2021/22



✓ Overall drowning rates decreased from 2020/21 by 14.6%.

↗ Drowning trends show an average increase of 7.2% over past decade

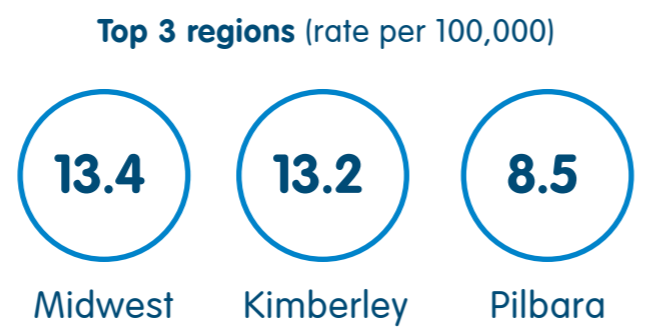
Males were 2.5 times more likely to drown than females



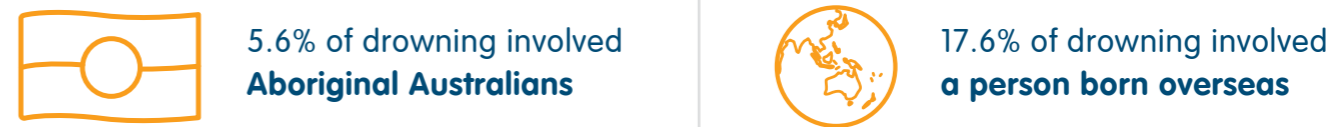
- ✓ Drowning risk was highest amongst toddlers, children and young adults..
Rate per 100,000:
- 62.1 Toddlers (0-4 years)
- 11.0 Children (5-14 years)
- 5.8 Young People (15-24 years)
- 5.2 Adults (25-64 years)
- 5.4 Older Adults (65+ years)



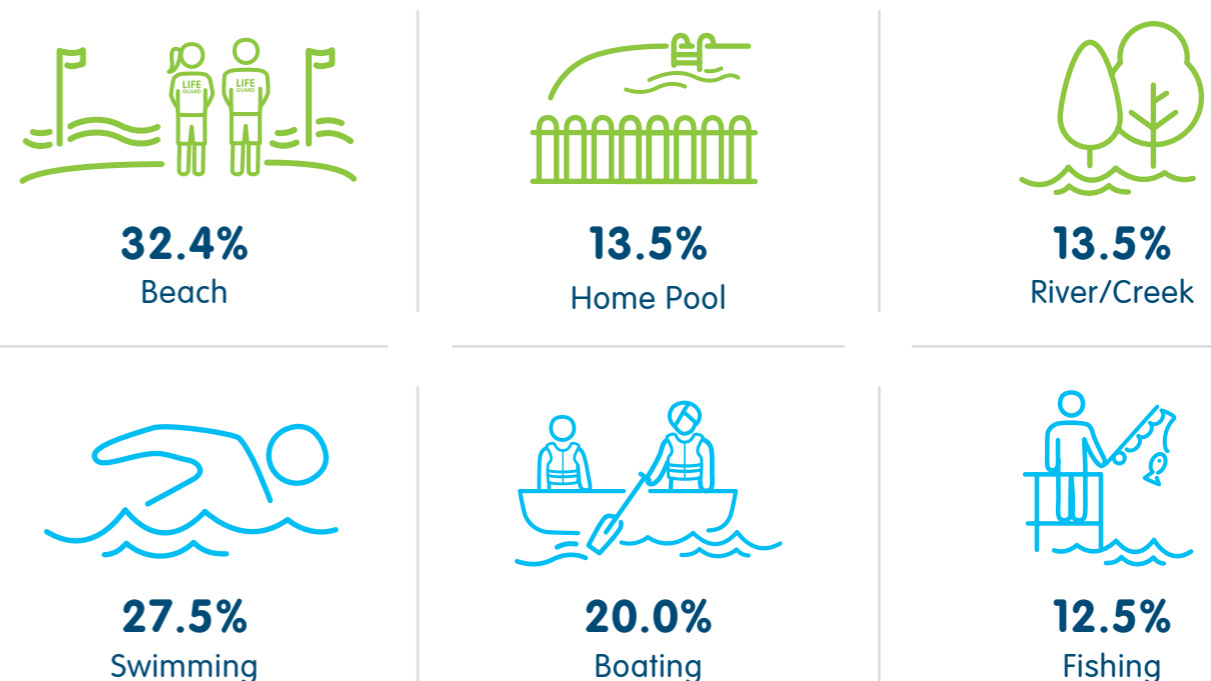
People in **regional WA** were 2.5 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident than those in the Perth metropolitan area.



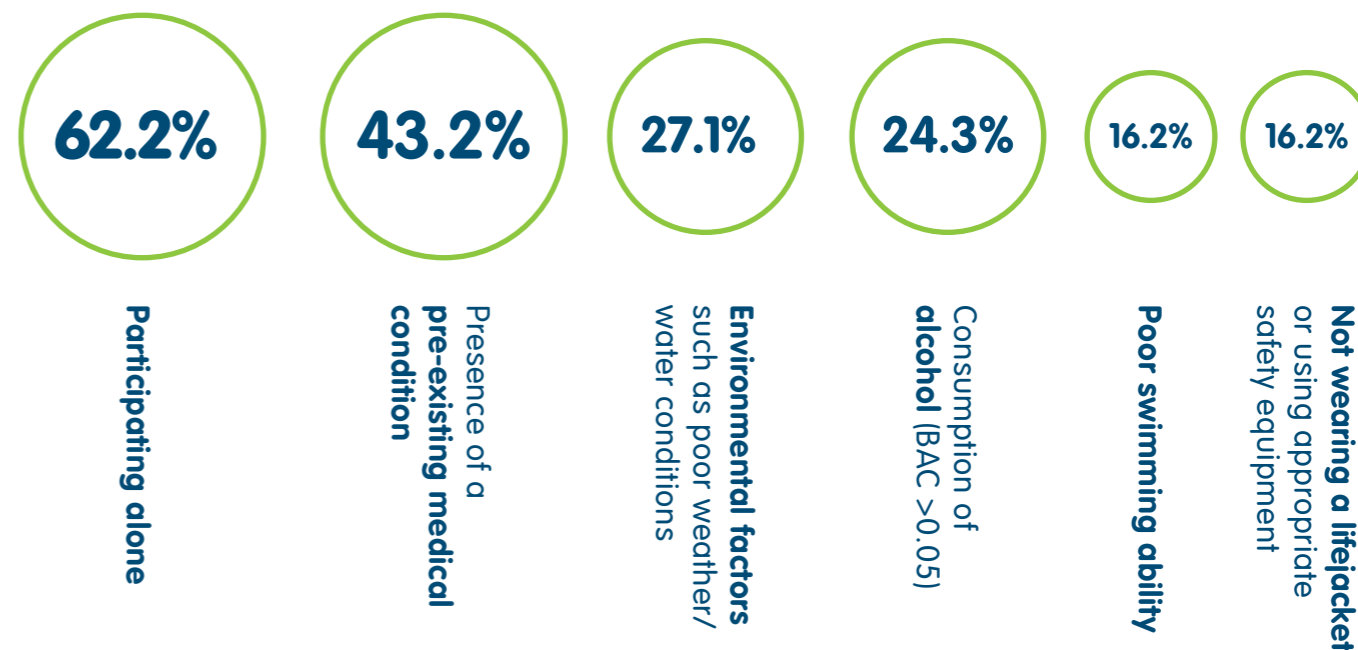
Multicultural communities were over-represented in drowning data



Drowning incidents were most likely to occur at coastal and inland waterways while swimming, boating or fishing.



Key risk factors for drowning:



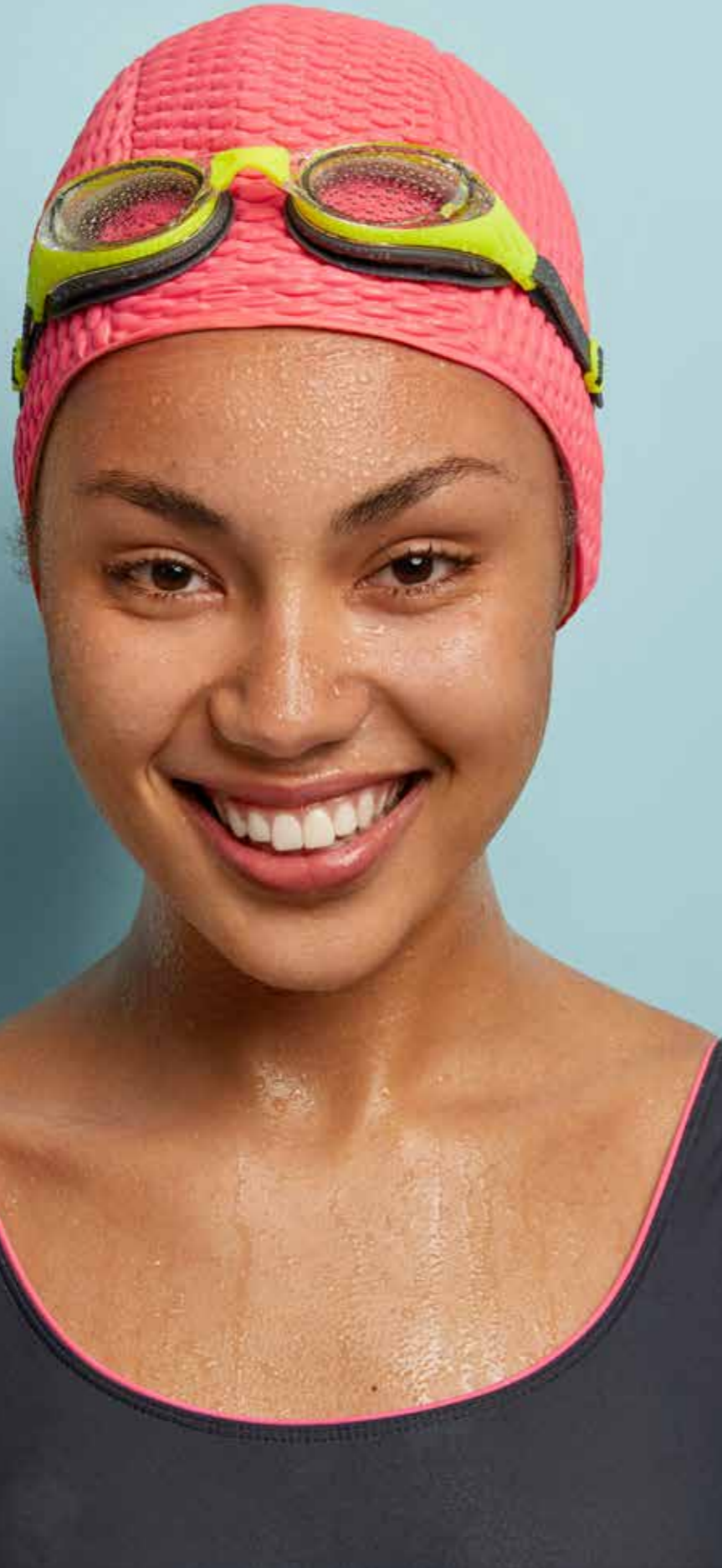
Drowning has a significant impact on the Western Australian community. In particular, the life-long consequences of non-fatal drowning have a great impact on the individual, their families and local communities.

This report highlights key drowning trends in Western Australia from July 2021 to June 2022 and identifies those at most risk. Translating this into policy and practice assists Royal Life Saving WA's efforts to better understand drowning and its impacts, build evidence-informed, innovative solutions to prevent drowning and empower the community to adopt safer aquatic behaviours.

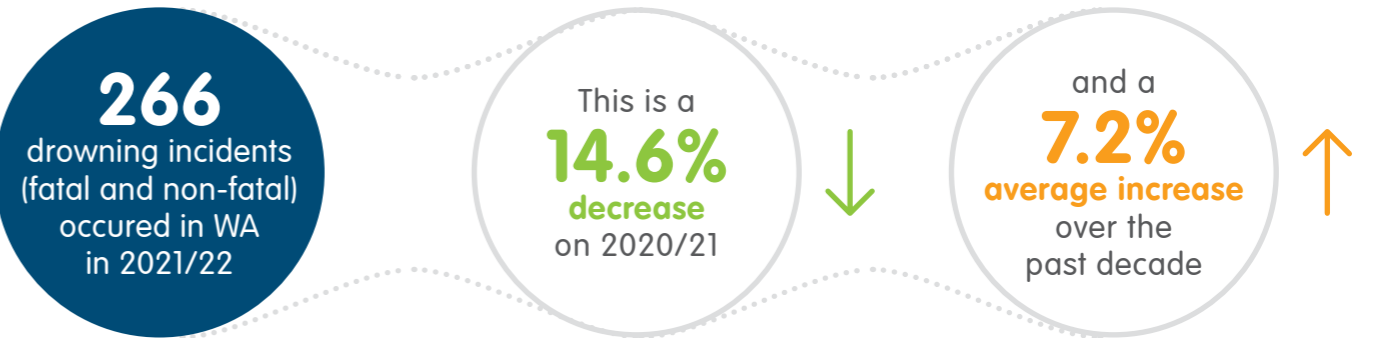
LEAD

BUILD

EMPOWER



FATAL AND NON-FATAL DROWNING



> Fatal Drowning

There were 37 fatal drowning incidents recorded in WA waterways between July 2021 and June 2022, at a rate of 1.3 per 100,000 population. This was a 6.2% decrease from 2020/21. Fatal drowning trends have shown an 18.6% decrease in the rate of drowning over the past decade.

Nationally, WA accounted for 11.5% of all fatal drowning incidents in 2021/22 and recorded the fourth highest rate of drowning behind the Northern Territory, Tasmania and Queensland.

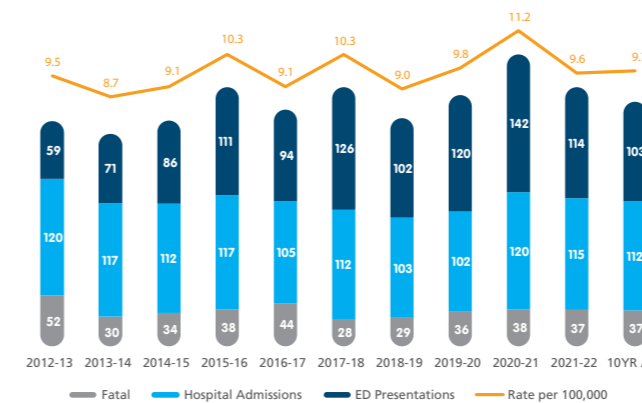
> Non-Fatal Drowning

For every fatal drowning death recorded in 2021/22, there were six non-fatal drowning incidents. Overall, 229 non-fatal drowning incidents were recorded in WA during 2021/22, a 12.3% decrease from 2020/21.

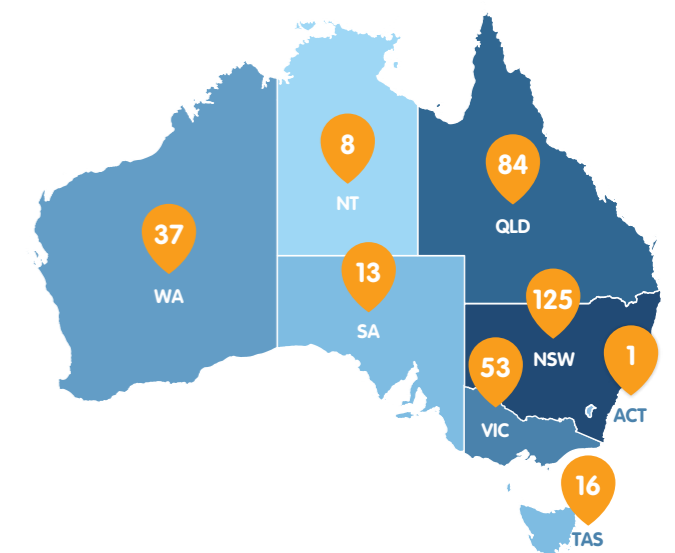
Of these, 115 people were admitted to hospital following a non-fatal drowning incident at a rate of 4.2 per 100,000 population, a 7.7% decrease from 2020/21. Over the past decade, the average number of hospital admissions decreased by 3.3% and the rate of admissions decreased by 7.1%.

In addition, 114 people presented at an emergency department in the Perth metropolitan area at a rate of 5.1 per 100,000 population, a 22.6% decrease from 2020/21. Over the past decade, the average number and rate of presentations have increased by 43.5% and 37.0% respectively.

Overall drowning in WA, 2012/13 to 2021/22



State and Territory breakdown, Fatal Drowning



Males were 2.5 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (13.6/100,000) compared to females (5.6/100,000) with 71.1% of incidents involving men. Drowning rates decreased for both males (11.1%) and females (6.7%) from 2020/21.

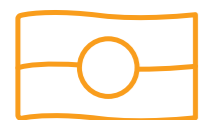
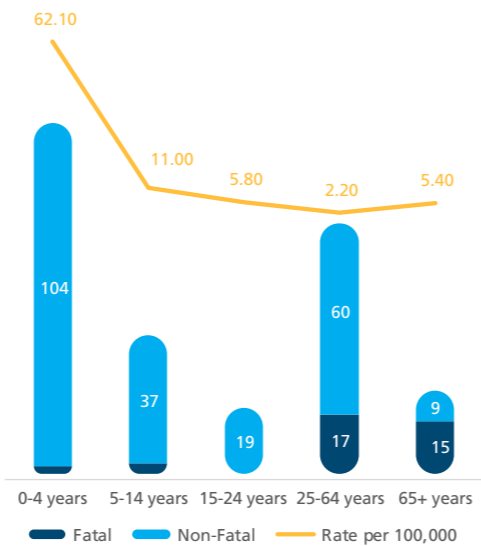
71% of those who drowned in Western Australia were male 

Overall drowning risk decreased with age. Toddlers (62.1/100,000), children (11.0/100,000) and young people aged 15-24 years (5.8/100,000) were at the greatest risk of drowning in 2021/22. Similar to previous years, drowning severity increased with age with older adults over 65 years of age recording the highest rate of fatal drowning (3.4/100,000).

Drowning rates decreased across all age groups in 2021/22, with the exception of adults aged 25-64 years which recorded a 7.3% increase from 2020/21. Older adults (43.7%) and children (23.3%) recorded the greatest decrease in overall drowning rates.

Over the past decade, rate so fatal toddler drowning have decreased by almost half (41.0%) and despite recording the highest number of drowning deaths in a decade, rates of fatal drowning amongst children aged 5-14 years has decreased by 9.5% over the past ten years.

Drowning by age group, 2021/22



Aboriginal Australians continue to be over-represented in drowning data with 5.6% of incidents involving Aboriginal Australians, despite making up only 4.0% of the WA population. Overall, Aboriginal Australians were 1.5 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (13.9/100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (9.4/100,000).

Overall, 17.6% of drowning incidents (fatal and non-fatal) involved a person **born overseas**, a 5.5% decrease from 2020/21. This was higher for fatal drowning where one third (33.3%) of incidents involved a person who was born overseas. Of these, 77.8% were from a non-English speaking background. Half had been living in Australia for 10 or more years and 11.1% were new arrivals (less than five years in Australia). The average time in Australia was 17.8 years. Country of birth information wasn't available for 27.0% of drowning incidents (n=10).



The majority of fatal drowning victims were from **high socio-economic areas**, with 21.6% in the highest quintile for economic advantage.

The proportion of drowning deaths involving people from low socio-economic areas was higher than in 2020/21, with 21.6% residing in areas within the lowest two quintiles for economic advantage.

26.3% of fatal drowning incidents involved visitors traveling within WA.

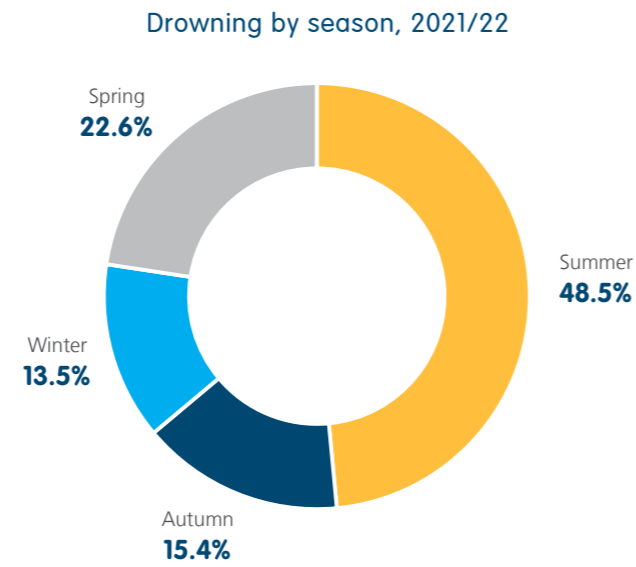


WHEN AND WHERE

Almost half of drowning incidents (fatal and non-fatal) occurred during the summer months (48.5%), likely contributed to by warmer weather, higher exposure through increased participation in aquatic activities and school holidays being during this time of year.

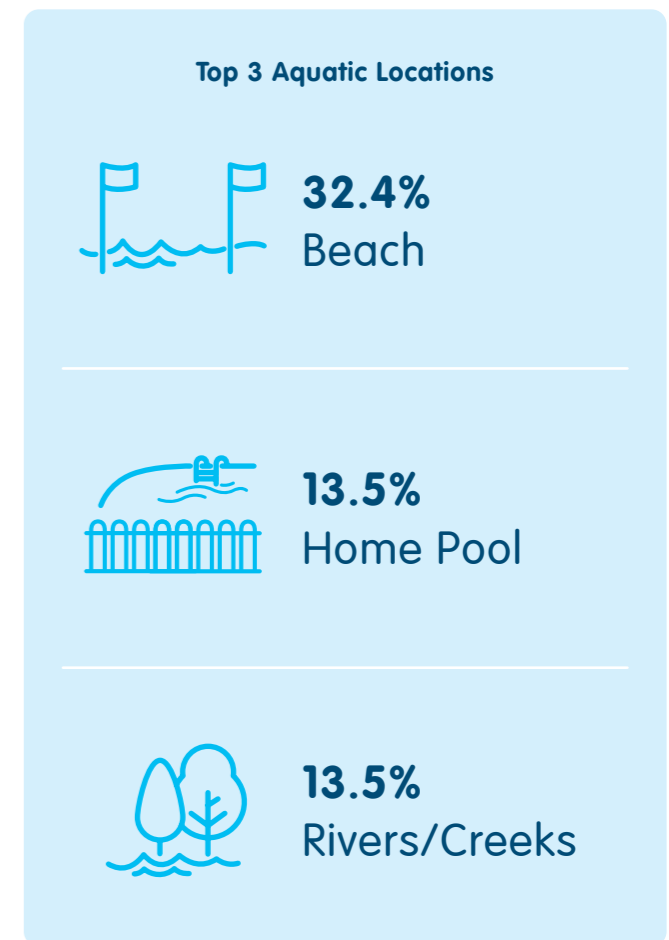
The majority of drowning deaths occurred during the week (73.0%), with Thursday (21.6%), Tuesday and Saturday (16.2%) the most common days. Only 2.7% of drowning deaths occurred on a public holiday/long weekend, a decrease from 2020/21.

Similar to previous years, the majority of drowning deaths occurred during the afternoon (40.5%) with 12.00pm - 2.00pm the highest risk time for drowning.

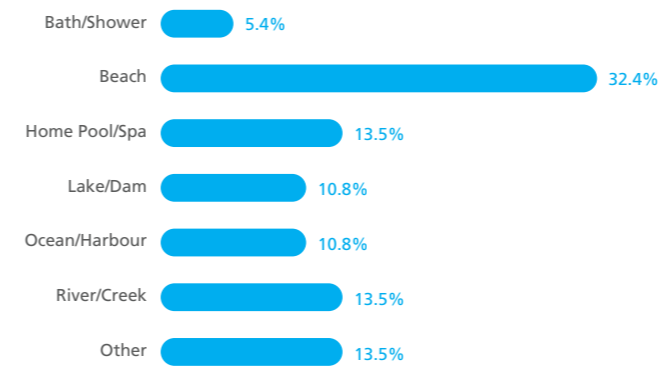


Aquatic locations where the drowning occurred varied by age and geographic location. While the majority of drowning deaths occurred in major cities and outer regional areas (24.3%), almost one third (29.7%) occurred at remote or very remote locations with limited access and mobile phone reception, affecting response times and rescue efforts.

Aquatic locations where drowning occurred also varied by age and demographic. Fatal drowning incidents were most likely to occur at beaches, home swimming pools or rivers. Overall drowning (fatal and non-fatal) was most likely to occur in open water locations (40.1%), followed by home swimming pools (17.1%) and beaches (13.8%) in 2021/22.



Fatal drowning by aquatic location, 2021/22



High-risk times for drowning



Summer months



Thursday, Tuesday and Saturday



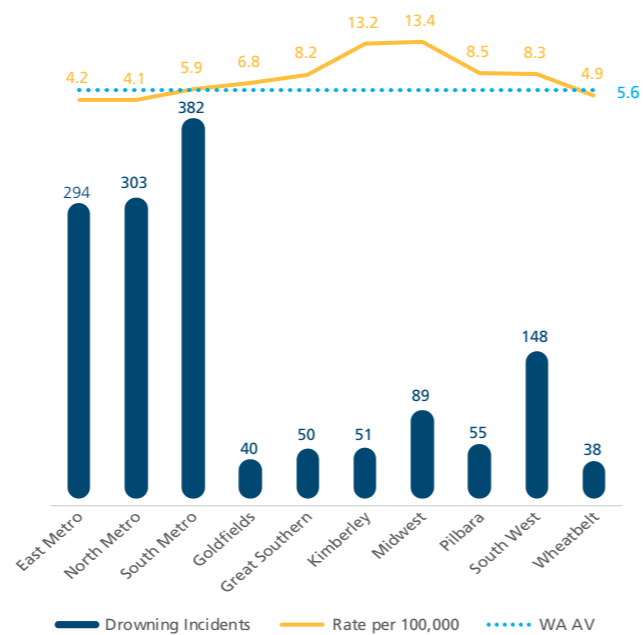
Afternoon between 12.00pm & 2.00pm

> Metro vs. regional aquatic location

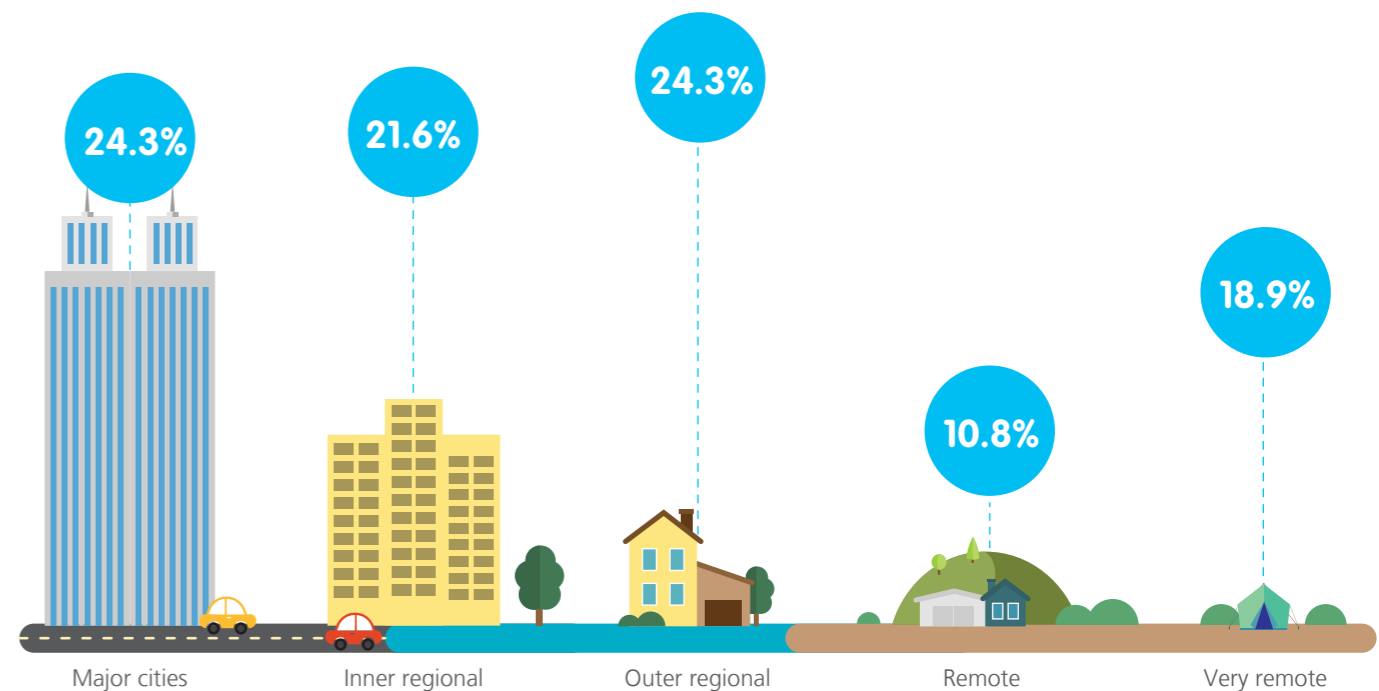
While a higher proportion of drowning occurred in the Perth metropolitan area (61.8%), rates of drowning were higher in regional WA with people 2.5 times more likely to drown in regional WA (10.4/100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (4.2/100,000). The rate of drowning in regional WA increased from 2020/21 by 13%, while the rate decreased 17.6% in the Perth metropolitan area..

Over the past decade, the Midwest, Kimberley and Pilbara regions recorded the highest drowning rates. The North Metropolitan, East Metropolitan and Wheatbelt regions recorded the lowest rates.

Drowning by health region, 2012/13 to 2021/22



Proportion of drowning deaths by remoteness

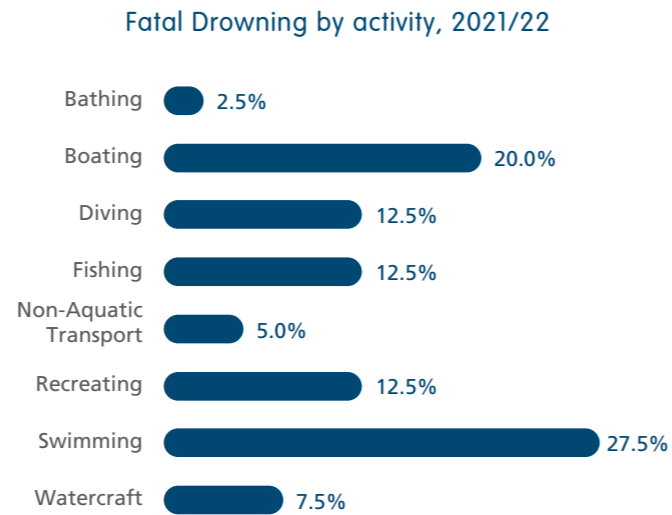


ACTIVITY

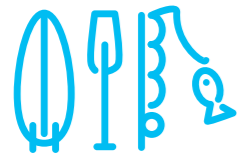
Activities being undertaken at the time of the fatal drowning incidents varied, with swimming the most common activity, following by boating and fishing.

For non-fatal drowning incidents, more than one quarter of people were participating in a water sport (28.7%) and a further 20.9% were participating in a leisure activity at the time of the incident.

Overall, 56.8% of people involved in a fatal drowning incident entered the water intentionally while participating in an aquatic activity prior to the drowning event. Of those that weren't prepared to enter the water, 78.6% slipped or fell and the remaining 21.4% entered the water after their boat capsized. Method of water entry was unknown in 5.4% of incidents.



Entry to Water – Fatal Drowning, 2021/22



56.8%

Aquatic activity participation



29.7%

Slipped/fell



21.4%

Boat Capsize

RESCUE AND RESPONSE

A rescue was attempted in 56.8% of fatal drowning incidents recorded in 2021/22. Almost half (42.9%) of the rescues were performed by people unknown to the victim including general members of the public and professional staff such as lifeguards and water police.

Common reasons for a rescue not being performed were that they were participating alone or that other persons weren't able to perform a rescue due to unsuitable weather conditions, lack of swimming skills or lack of safety equipment.



Of those incidents where an aquatic rescue was undertaken, **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was performed** in 43.2% of incidents. In instances where CPR wasn't performed, most common reasons included that the rescuer was unable to locate the victim or that the person was clearly deceased when retrieved from the water.



A rescue was attempted in **56.8%** of fatal drowning incidents



Fatal Drowning Risk Factors

- › People were participating alone in 62.2% of fatal drowning incidents.
- › Pre-existing medical conditions contributed to 43.2% of fatal drowning incidents, more than double the number reported in 2020/21. Most common medical conditions were cardiac and respiratory-related.
- › Environmental factors such as poor weather conditions, strong currents/flowing water, deep water, sudden changes in water depth and flooding were a factor in 27.0% of fatal drowning incidents.
- › One quarter of people involved in a fatal drowning incident (24.3%) had alcohol in their system, a 2.2 fold increase from 2020/21.
- › Poor swimming ability contributed to 16.2% of fatal drowning incidents, a slight increase from 2020/21.
- › Lack of safety equipment, particularly the use of lifejackets was a factor in 16.2% of fatal drowning incidents.
- › Participating at an unfamiliar location was a factor in 13.5% of fatal drowning incidents.
- › Inexperience in the activity being undertaken contributed to 8.1% of fatal drowning incidents.

TODDLER (0-4 YEARS) DROWNING

July 2012 to June 2022



Boys were 1.4 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (29.9/100,000) than girls (21.2/100,000).

59.8% of all drowning deaths were males



Average length of stay in hospital was **2.4 days**.

5.8% of toddlers hospitalised experienced **brain injury** at a rate of 1.3/100,000, the highest of any age group in WA.

High-risk times for drowning



50.6%
Summer months



82.6%
Weekdays



69.5%
Afternoon
12-2PM

There were **1,052 drowning incidents** recorded amongst toddlers aged 0-4 years

There were **29** drowning deaths

and **411** hospital admissions

at a rate of **61.1** drownings per 100,000

and has the **#1** drowning rate of any age group in WA



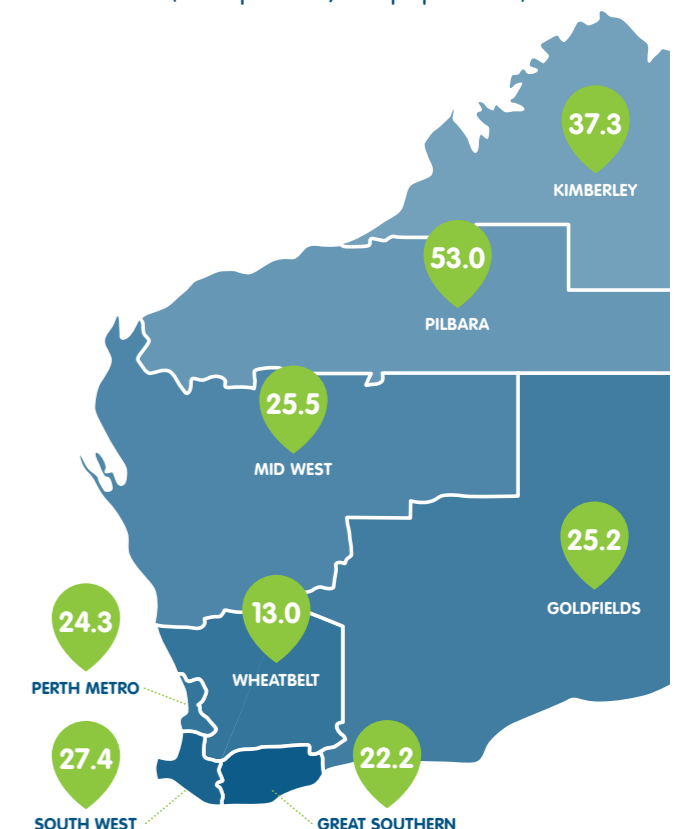
97.0% were born in Australia



3.0% were born overseas

Toddler drowning was **1.2 times more likely** to occur in regional WA (24.9%; 30.0/100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (75.1%; 24.3/100,000).

Drowning by location, 2012/13 to 2021/22 (Rate per 100,000 population)



Fatal Drowning

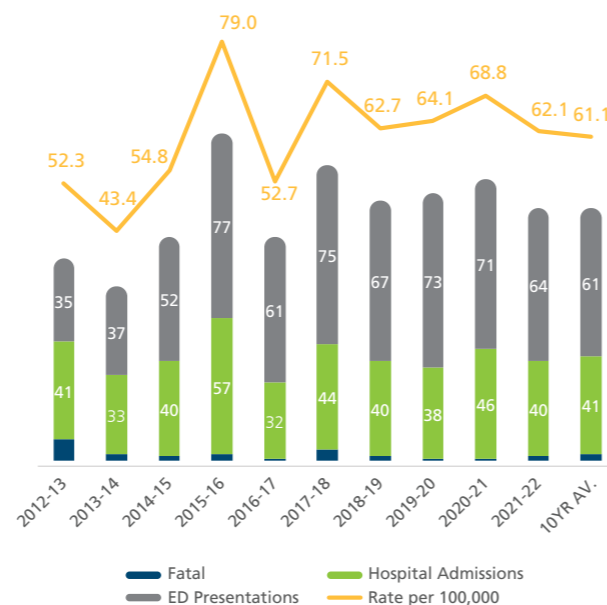
There were 29 fatal drowning incidents recorded amongst toddlers aged 0-4 years, at a rate of 1.7/100,000, the second highest of any age group in WA. Fatal drowning trends have shown that toddler drowning rates have almost halved (41.0%) over the past decade.

Non-Fatal Drowning

For every fatal drowning death recorded, there were 14 toddlers hospitalised following a non-fatal drowning incident. Overall, 1,023 non-fatal drowning incidents were recorded over the past decade. Of these, 411 toddlers were admitted to hospital at a rate of 23.9 per 100,000 population. Rates of hospitalisation have slightly increased by 1.2% over the past ten years.

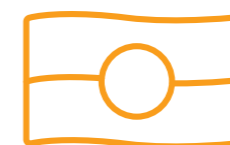
In addition, 612 people presented at an emergency department in the Perth metropolitan area at a rate of 45.1 per 100,000 population. This rate has increased by 31.3% over the past ten years.

Toddler drowning by year, 2012/13 to 2021/22



79%

Of toddlers were **aged 0-2 years**



Overall, **6.8% of toddlers who drowned were Aboriginal**, with drowning rates similar for Aboriginal (64.6/100,000) and non-Aboriginal toddlers (60.2/100,000).

Lack of supervision was a contributing factor in 100% of fatal toddler drowning incidents.

Top reasons for lapse in supervision

- 55.2% household chores
- 17.2% caring for other children
- 13.8% sleeping
- 13.8% socialising with other adults



Fatal drowning incidents were most likely to occur when supervision had been absent for **less than five minutes** (31.0%)

31.0%

<5minutes

20.7%

5-10 minutes

13.8%

10-15 minutes

13.8%

> 1 hour

The majority of toddler drowning incidents occurred at **locations within the home** (69.1%). This was greater for fatal drowning where 93.1% occurred in and around the home.

The **home swimming pool** was the most common location for both fatal (65.5%) and non-fatal drowning (42.3%) followed by bath/shower (20.7% and 19.7% respectively).

Toddlers most commonly accessed the pool through a gate or door that had been propped open (57.9%).

Toddler drowning deaths were most likely to occur at their **usual place of residence** (73.7%) with the remaining incidents occurring at either a family member's (15.8%) or neighbours (5.3%) property.



Aquatic rescue and **CPR was performed in 93.1%** of fatal toddler drowning incidents, with almost all (92.6%) performed by a family member.



CHILD (5-14 YEARS) DROWNING
July 2012 to June 2022



Boys were 2.2 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (5.7/100,000) than girls (2.6/100,000).

70% of all drowning deaths were males



Average length of stay in hospital was **2.1 days**.

8.5% of children hospitalised experienced **brain injury** at a rate of 0.3/100,000, the fourth highest of any age group in WA.

High-risk times for drowning



52.7%
Summer months



60.0%
Weekends



80.0%
Afternoon
12-2PM

There were **313 drowning incidents** recorded amongst children aged 5-14 years

There were **10** drowning deaths

and **131** hospital admissions

at a rate of **9.4** drownings per 100,000

and has the **#2** drowning rate of any age group in WA

Fatal Drowning

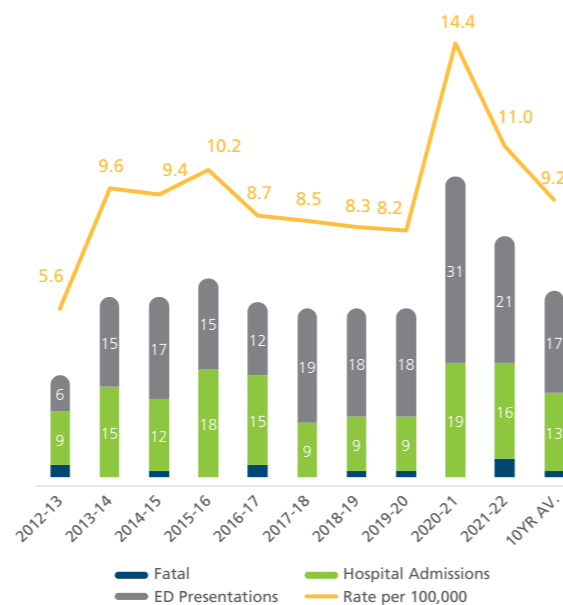
There were 10 fatal drowning incidents recorded amongst children aged 5-14 years, at a rate of 0.3/100,000, the lowest of any age group in WA. Fatal drowning trends amongst children aged 5-14 years have decreased by 9.5% over the past decade.

Non-Fatal Drowning

For every fatal drowning death recorded, there were 13 children hospitalised following a non-fatal drowning incident. Overall, 303 non-fatal drowning incidents were recorded over the past decade. Of these, 131 people were admitted to hospital at a rate of 4.0 per 100,000 population. Rates of hospitalisation have decreased by 16.8% over the past ten years.

In addition, 172 people presented at an emergency department in the Perth metropolitan area at a rate of 7.5 per 100,000 population. This rate has increased by 50.4% over the past ten years.

Children drowning by year, 2012/13 to 2021/22



88.4% were born in Australia



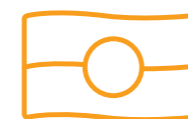
11.6% were born overseas



30.0% were visitors traveling within WA



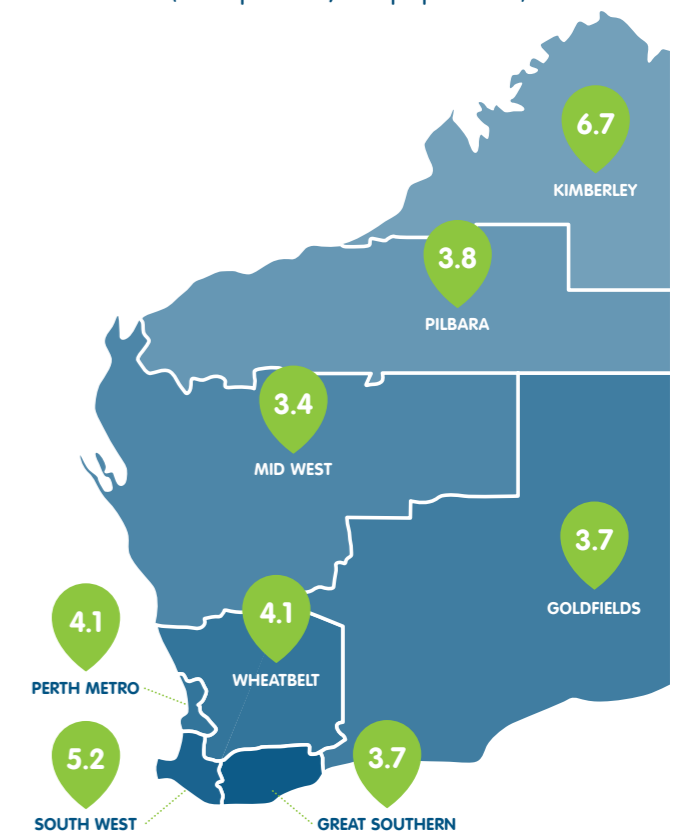
70% were aged 5-9 years



Overall, **8.4% of children who drowned were Aboriginal**, with Aboriginal children 1.3 times more likely to drown (11.5/100,000) than non-Aboriginal children (9.1/100,000).

Child drowning rates were similar for both regional WA (23.7%; 4.5/100,000) and the Perth metropolitan area (76.3%; 4.1/100,000).

Drowning by location, 2012/13 to 2021/22 (Rate per 100,000 population)






Lack of supervision was a contributing factor in 90% of child drowning incidents.

Top reasons for lapse in supervision

- 44.4%** household chores
- 33.3%** socialising with other adults
- 11.1%** caring for other children

Child drowning incidents were most likely to occur at home pools, beaches and rivers.

-  **27.3%** Home Pool
-  **27.8%** Beach
-  **15.1%** Rivers/Creeks



Fatal drowning incidents were most likely to occur when supervision had been absent for **less than ten minutes** (44.4%)

Top 3 Activities



Recreating Swimming Bathing

Key Risk Factors for Drowning

- 50%** Presence of a pre-existing medical condition
- 40%** Poor swimming ability
- 40%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
- 20%** Remoteness of location



Aquatic rescue and CPR was performed in 80.0% of fatal child drowning incidents with 75.0% performed by a family member and/or friend

YOUTH (15-24 YEARS) DROWNING
July 2012 to June 2022



Males were 3.7 times more likely to drown than females

79% of those who drowned were male



Average length of stay in hospital was **2.6 days**.

14.3% of young people hospitalised **experienced brain injury** at a rate of 0.5/100,000, the second highest rate of any age group in WA.

High-risk times for drowning



47.5%
Summer months



56.8%
Weekdays
8.1% Public Holiday



67.6%
Afternoons
12-2PM

There were **224 drowning incidents** recorded amongst young people 15-24 years

There were **37** drowning deaths

and **112** hospital admissions

at a rate of **6.8** drownings per 100,000

and has the **#3** drowning rate of any age group in WA

Drowning risk increased with age amongst young people

16.2%

15-17 years

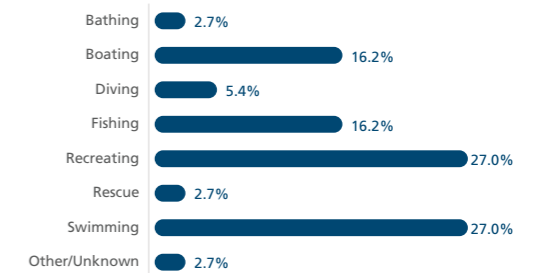
29.7%

18-21 years

54.1%

22-24 years

Youth drowning by Activity, 2012/13 to 2021/22



Young people involved in a fatal drowning incident were most likely to have entered the water intentionally.

47% participating in aquatic activity

19% swept in by wave

16% slipped or fell

11% jumped in (e.g. cliff jumping)

Fatal Drowning

There were 37 fatal drowning incidents recorded, at a rate of 1.1 per 100,000 population. Fatal drowning trends have shown that youth drowning death rates have increased by 12.9% over the past decade.

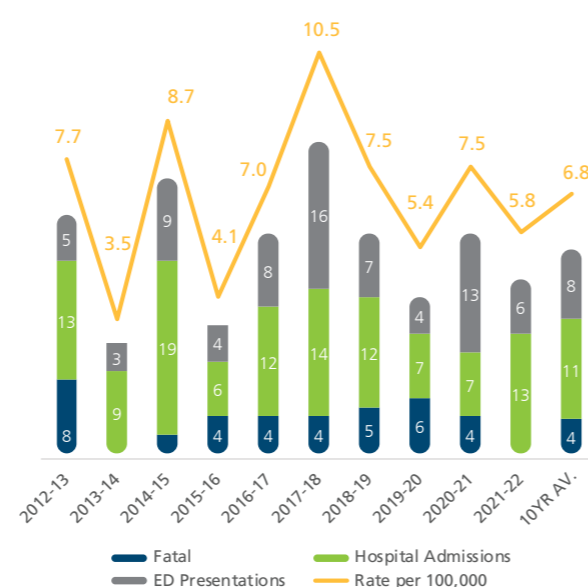
Non-Fatal Drowning

For every fatal drowning death recorded, there were three young people hospitalised following a non-fatal drowning incident.

Overall, 187 non-fatal drowning incidents were recorded over the past decade. Of these, 112 people were admitted to hospital at a rate of 3.4 per 100,000 population. Rates of hospitalisation have decreased by 4.3% over the past decade.

In addition, 75 people presented at an emergency department in the Perth metropolitan area at a rate of 2.8 per 100,000 population. This rate has increased by 66.8% over the past decade.

Youth drowning by year, 2012/13 to 2021/22



59.5%

employed

27.0%

students

5.4%

unemployed

Overall, **4.4% of young people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with drowning rates lower amongst Aboriginal Australians (5.2/100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (7.2/100,000).

Multicultural communities were over-represented in youth drowning data with 31.1% born overseas.



91.7% were from a non-English speaking background



41.7% were in Australia on working visa or as an international student.



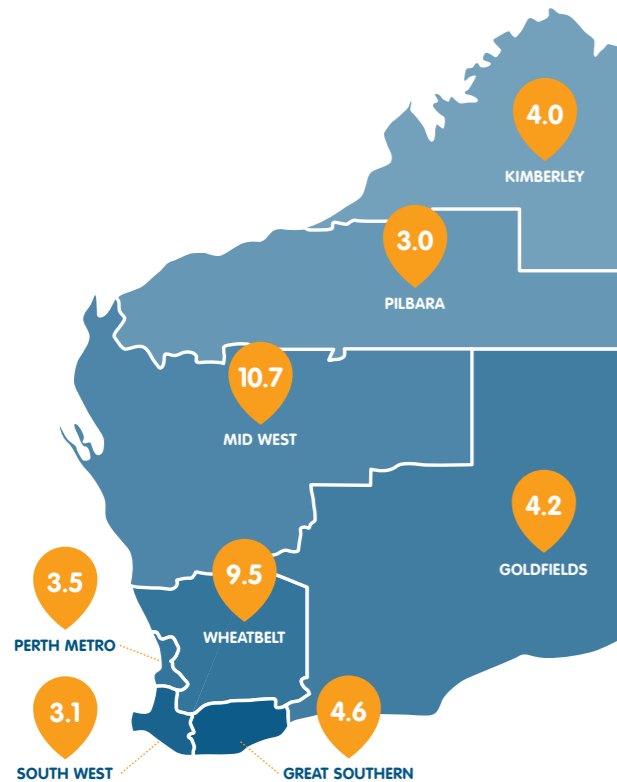
41.7% were new arrivals who had lived in Australia for five years or less.

Top Aquatic Locations, Youth-related drowning



Youth drowning was **2.5 times more likely to occur in regional WA** (35.8%; 8.9/100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (64.2%; 3.5/100,000).

Drowning by location, 2012/13 to 2021/22
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Aquatic rescue was performed in 64.9% of fatal drowning incidents.

Who performed rescue



CPR was performed in 54.2% of incidents.

Key risk factors for drowning

- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (56.8%)
- > Remoteness of location (24.3%)
- > Low socio-economic areas (21.6%)
- > Not wearing a life-jacket and/or not using appropriate safety equipment (18.9%)
- > Illicit drug use (18.9%)
- > Inexperience in chosen activity (18.9%)
- > Injury (18.9%)
- > Poor swimming ability (16.2%)
- > Presence of pre-existing medical condition (16.2%)
- > Participating at an unfamiliar location (16.2%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (10.8%)



ADULT (45-64 YEARS) DROWNING
July 2012 to June 2022



Males were 2.6 times more likely to drown than females

72% of those who drowned were male



Average length of stay in hospital was **3.4 days.**

6.5% of adults aged 45-64 years hospitalised **experienced brain injury** at a rate of 0.2/100,000, the lowest rate of any age group.

High-risk times for drowning



39.8% Summer months



52.3% Weekdays
14.0% Public Holiday



34.9% Mornings 9-11AM

There were **333 drowning incidents** recorded amongst adults 45-64 years

There were **86** drowning deaths

and **185** hospital admissions

at a rate of **5.2** drownings per 100,000

and has the **lowest** drowning rate of any age group in WA

Drowning risk increased with age amongst adults

47.7%

45-54 years

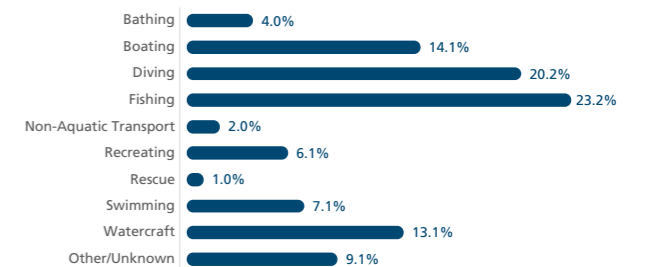
52.3%

55-64 years

45.2 years

Average Age

Adult drowning by Activity, 2012/13 to 2021/22



Adults involved in a fatal drowning incident were most likely to have entered the water intentionally.

54% participating in aquatic activity

7% swept in by wave

16% slipped or fell

9% boat capsized

Fatal Drowning

There were 86 fatal drowning incidents recorded, at a rate of 1.3 per 100,000 population. Fatal drowning trends have shown that while numbers have remained similar over the past decade, fatal drowning rates have decreased by 12.5%.

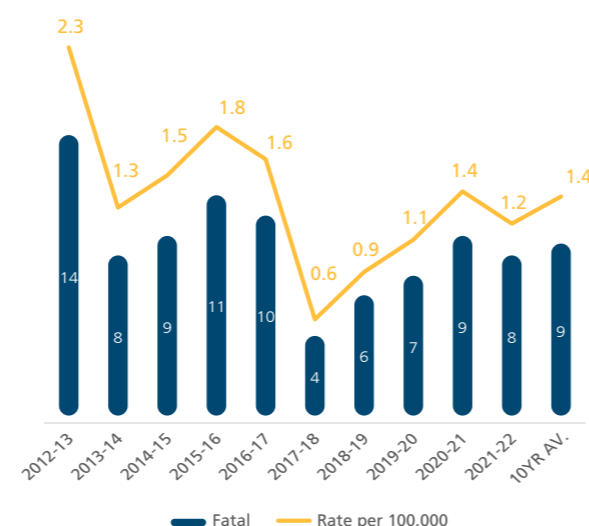
Non-Fatal Drowning

For every fatal drowning death recorded, there were two adults hospitalised following a non-fatal drowning incident.

Overall, 247 non-fatal drowning incidents were recorded over the past decade. Of these, 185 people were admitted to hospital at a rate of 2.9 per 100,000 population.

In addition, 62 people presented at an emergency department in the Perth metropolitan area at a rate of 1.3 per 100,000 population.

Adult drowning deaths 2012/13 to 2021/22



57.0%

employed

20.9%

unemployed

14.0%

retired

Overall, **2.7% of adults who drowned were Aboriginal**, with drowning rates slightly lower amongst Aboriginal Australians (5.2/100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (7.2/100,000).

Multicultural communities were over-represented in adult drowning data with 40.8% born overseas



51.5% were from a non-English speaking background



63.6% were residents having lived in Australia for 10+ years and 15.2% were international tourists.



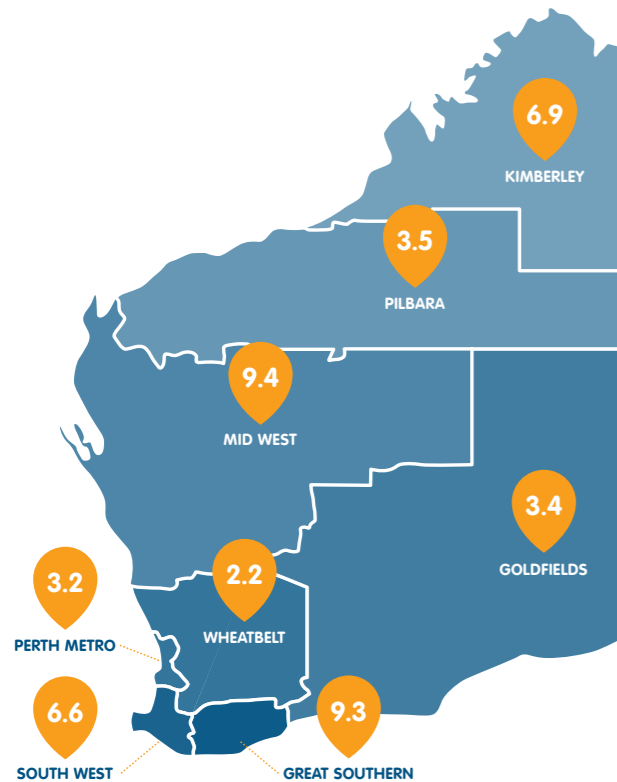
29.1% of people drowned while travelling within WA

Top Aquatic Locations, Adult-related drowning



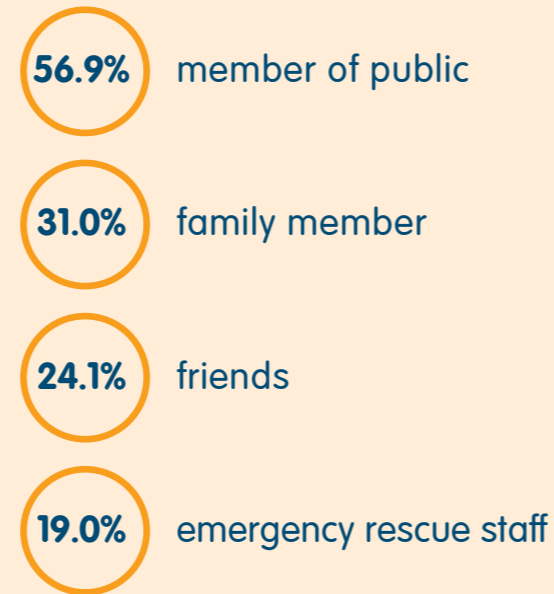
Adult drowning was **almost twice as likely to occur in regional WA** (35.4%; 6.0/100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (64.6%; 3.2/100,000).

Drowning by location, 2012/13 to 2021/22
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Aquatic rescue was performed in 67.4% of fatal drowning incidents.

Who performed rescue



CPR was performed in 74.1% of incidents.

Key risk factors for drowning

- > Presence of pre-existing medical condition (41.9%)
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (36.1%)
- > Participating alone (33.7%)
- > Remoteness of location (31.4%)
- > Not wearing a life-jacket and/or not using appropriate safety equipment (27.9%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (19.8%)
- > Low socio-economic areas (17.4%)
- > Inexperience in chosen activity (12.8%)
- > Poor swimming ability (11.6%)
- > Participating at an unfamiliar location (10.5%)



OLDER ADULT (65+ YEARS) DROWNING
July 2012 to June 2022



Males were 3.5 times more likely to drown than females

76% of those who drowned were male



Average length of stay in hospital was **4.6 days.**

13.2% of older adults aged 65+ years hospitalised **experienced brain injury** at a rate of 0.4/100,000, the third highest rate of any age group.

High-risk times for drowning



39.7%
Summer months



64.3%
Weekdays
9.5% Public Holiday



35.7%
Mornings
9-11AM

There were **224 drowning incidents** recorded amongst older adults over 65 years

There were **84** drowning deaths

and **114** hospital admissions

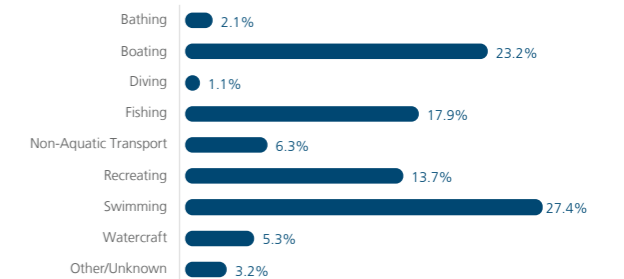
at a rate of **6.1** drownings per 100,000

and has the **#4** drowning rate of any age group in WA

Drowning risk decreased with age amongst older adults, with an average age of 74.3 years.



Older adult drowning by Activity, 2012/13 to 2021/22



Fatal Drowning

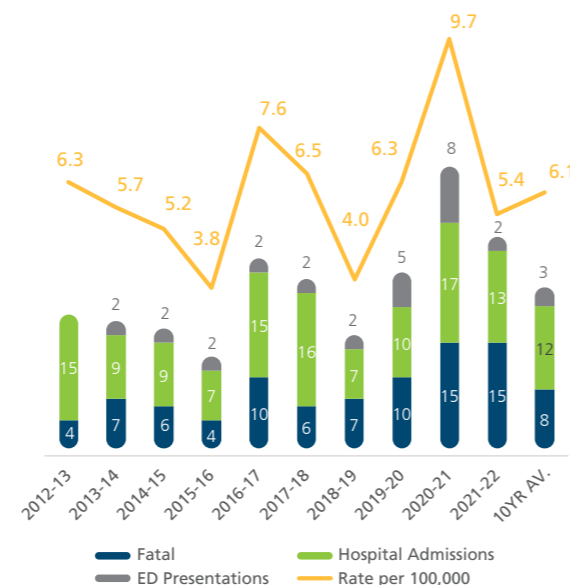
There were 84 fatal drowning incidents recorded, at a rate of 2.3 per 100,000 population. Fatal drowning trends have shown that while numbers have remained similar over the past decade, fatal drowning rates have decreased by 35.1%.

Non-Fatal Drowning

Overall, 140 non-fatal drowning incidents were recorded over the past decade. Of these, 114 people were admitted to hospital at a rate of 3.1 per 100,000 population.

In addition, 26 people presented at an emergency department in the Perth metropolitan area at a rate of 0.9 per 100,000 population.

Older adult drowning by year, 2012/13 to 2021/22



Older adults involved in a fatal drowning incident were most likely to have entered the water unintentionally.

- 40%** participating in aquatic activity
- 5%** swept in by wave
- 28%** slipped or fell
- 14%** boat capsized



Overall, none of the drowning incidents recorded amongst older adults involved Aboriginal Australians.

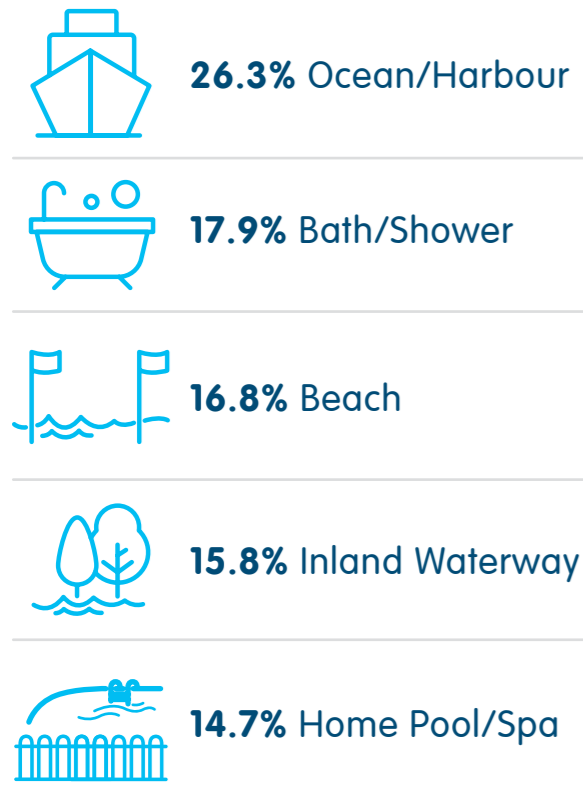
Multicultural communities were over-represented in older adult drowning data with 47.8% born overseas.

51.3% were from and English speaking background

71.8% were residents having lived in Australia for 10+ years and 2.6% were international tourists.

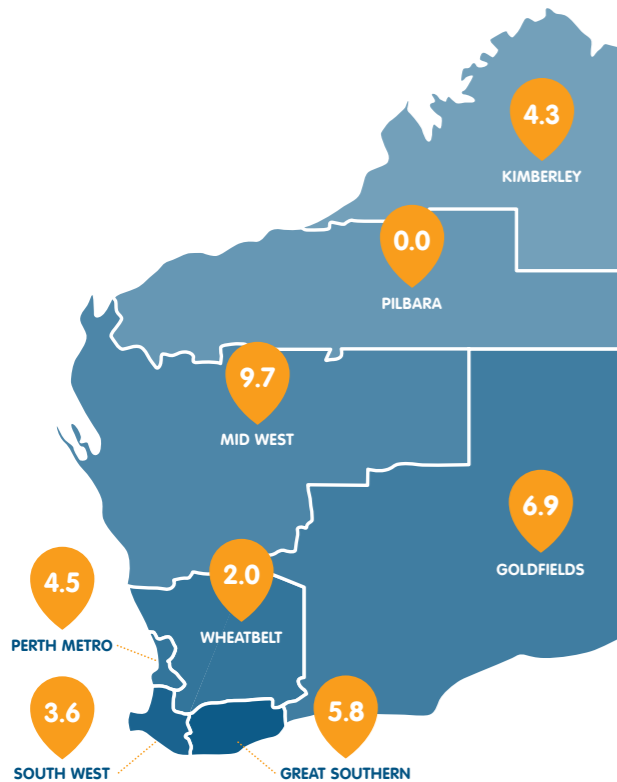
16.7% of people drowned while travelling within WA.

Top Aquatic Locations, Older Adult-related drowning



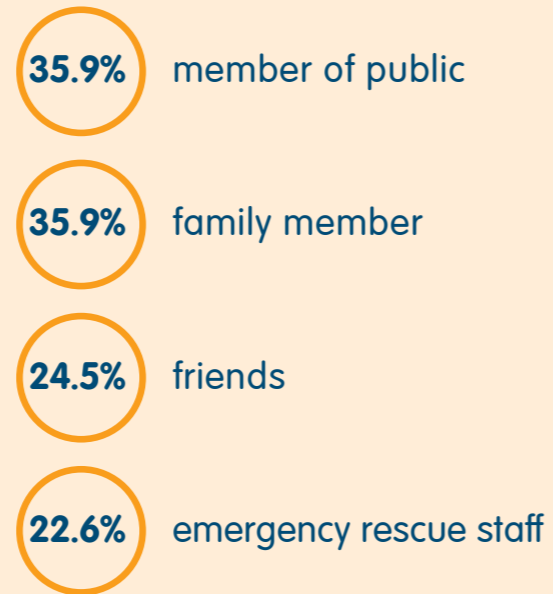
CPR was performed in 77.4% of incidents.

Drowning by location, 2012/13 to 2021/22 (Rate per 100,000 population)



Aquatic rescue was performed in 63.1% of fatal drowning incidents.

Who performed rescue



Drowning amongst older adults was **2.2 times more likely to occur in the Perth metropolitan area** (78.4%; 4.5/100,000) than in regional WA (21.6%; 2.0/100,000).

Key risk factors for drowning

- > Presence of pre-existing medical condition (75.0%)
- > Participating alone (61.9%)
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (27.4%)
- > Not wearing a life-jacket and/or not using appropriate safety equipment (21.4%)
- > Remoteness of location (20.2%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (15.5%)
- > Low socio-economic areas (14.3%)
- > Poor swimming ability (10.7%)
- > Inexperience in chosen activity (3.6%)
- > Participating at an unfamiliar location (2.4%)





Males were almost three times more likely to drown than females

74% of those who drowned were male



Average length of stay in hospital was **3.3 days.**

7.3% of people born overseas hospitalised **experienced brain injury.**

High-risk times for drowning



39.3%
Summer months



55.4%
Weekdays
10.8% Public Holiday



42.5%
Afternoons
1-3PM

There were **372 drowning incidents** recorded involving people born overseas

There were **139** drowning deaths

and **233** hospital admissions

at a rate of **4.2** drownings per 100,000

representing **25%** of total drownings recorded in WA

Fatal Drowning

There were 139 fatal drowning incidents recorded, at a rate of 1.6/100,000 population, and representing 37.9% of all drowning deaths recorded over the past decade.

Fatal drowning trends have shown a 16.5% increase in the proportion of drowning involving people born overseas over the past decade, while rates slightly decreased by 1.4%.

Non-Fatal Drowning

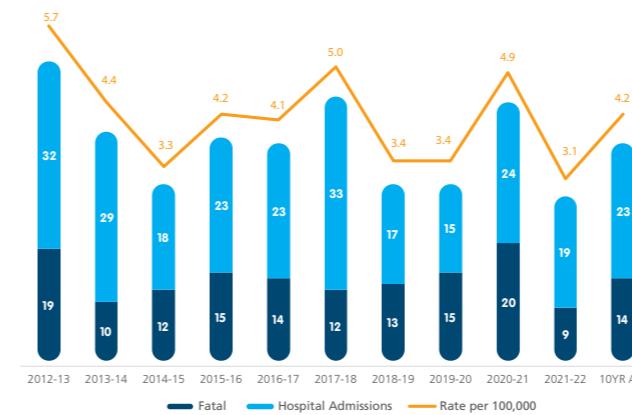
For every fatal drowning death amongst people born overseas, there were two people hospitalised following a non-fatal drowning incident.

Overall, people born in Australia (5.4/100,000) were 2.1 times more likely to be hospitalised following a non-fatal drowning incident than people born overseas (2.6/100,000).

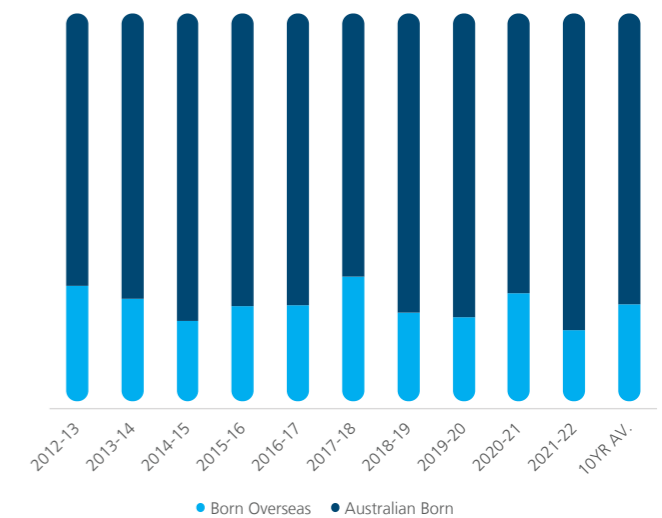
There were 233 people born overseas admitted to hospital following a non-fatal drowning incident over the past decade, at a rate of 2.6/100,000. This represented 20.8% of the total number of hospitalisations recorded during this time.

Trends have shown a 10.9% decrease in the proportion of hospitalisations involving persons born overseas and a 13.6% decrease in the hospitalisation rate over the past decade.

People born overseas drowning by year, 2012/13 to 2021/22



Proportion of drowning, 2012/13 to 2021/22



People involved in a fatal drowning incident were most likely to have been long-term residents (48.9%) having lived in Australia for 10 or more years.

15.1% were new arrivals having lived in Australia for less than five years



10.8% were in Australia on working visas or as an international student



7.9% were overseas tourists holidaying in Australia.

✓ The proportion of drowning incidents involving people born overseas increased with age (proportion of total drowning)

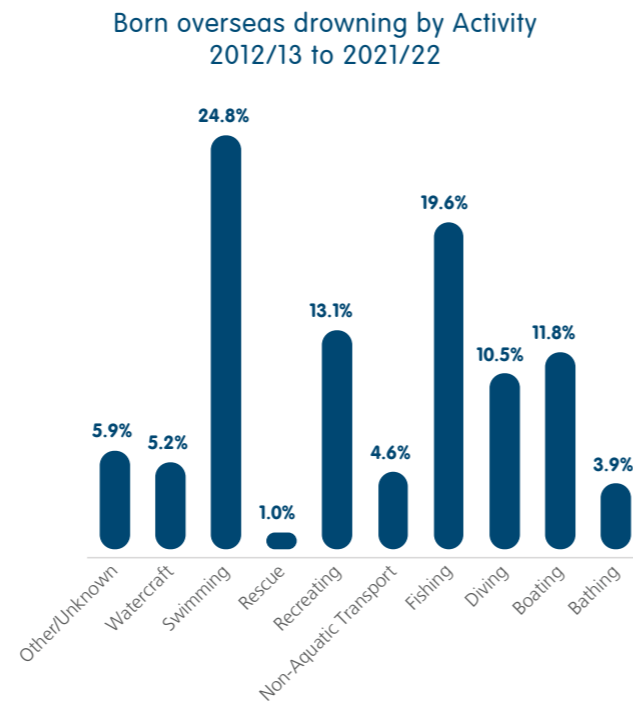
2.7% Toddlers (0-4 years)

10.9% Children (5-14 years)

23.2% Young People (15-24 years)

36.4% Adults (25-64 years)

45.6% Older Adults (65+ years)



Top Aquatic Locations, People Born Overseas

33.1% Ocean/Harbour

22.0% Beach

15.7% River/Creek

11.0% Home Pool

Aquatic rescue was performed in 63.1% of fatal drowning incidents.

Who performed rescue

46.0% member of public

28.0% friends

25.0% family member

27.3% emergency rescue staff

Drowning amongst people born overseas was 1.5 times more likely to occur in regional WA (2.0/100,000) than in the Perth metropolitan area (1.3/100,000).

Overall, 26.3% of drowning incidents recorded in the Perth metropolitan area and 22.7% in regional WA involved a person born overseas.

These proportions were higher for fatal drowning with 41.1% involving people born overseas in the Perth metropolitan area and 35.3% in regional WA.

CPR was performed in 77.4% of incidents.

People born overseas involved in a fatal drowning incident were most likely to have entered the water unintentionally.

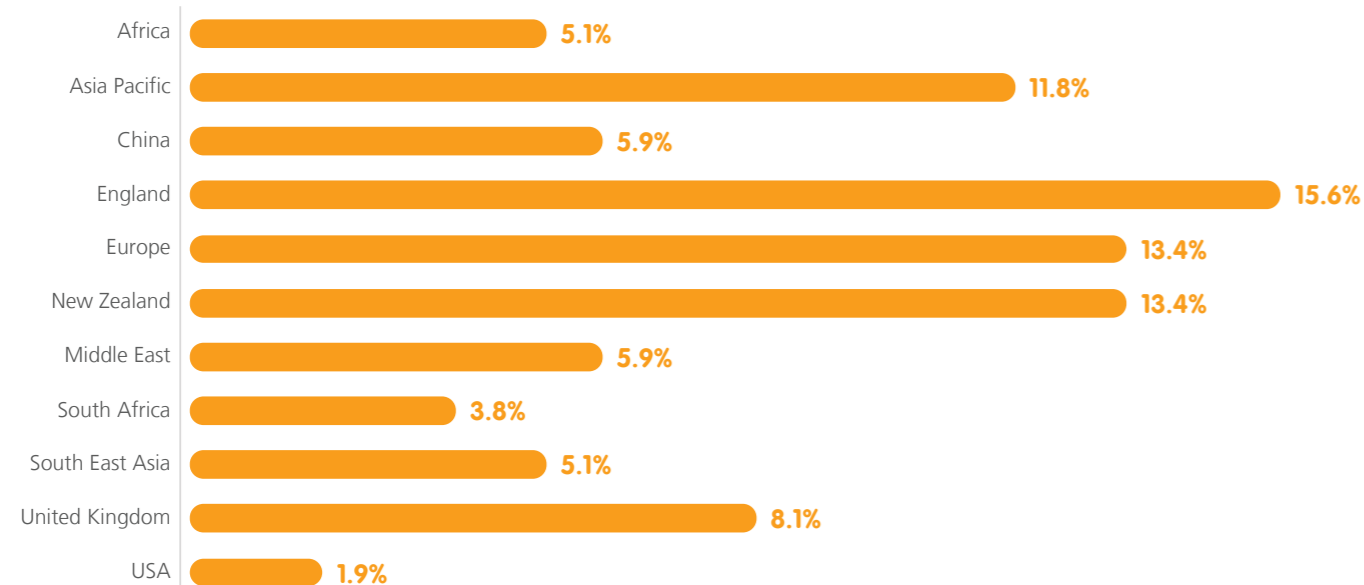
52% participating in aquatic activity

20% swept in by wave

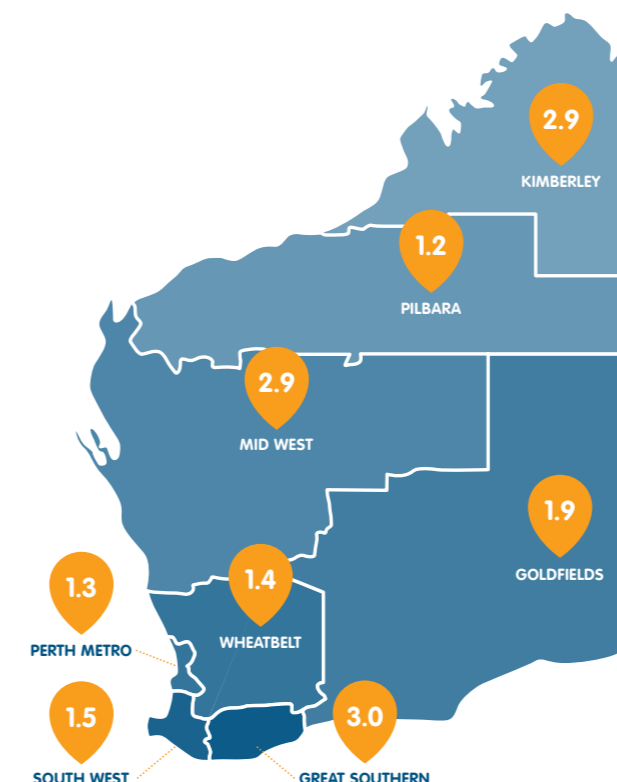
12% slipped or fell

4% boat capsized

Almost half (48.1%) of drowning incidents involving people born overseas were from a non-English speaking background.



Drowning by location, 2012/13 to 2021/22 (Rate per 100,000 population)



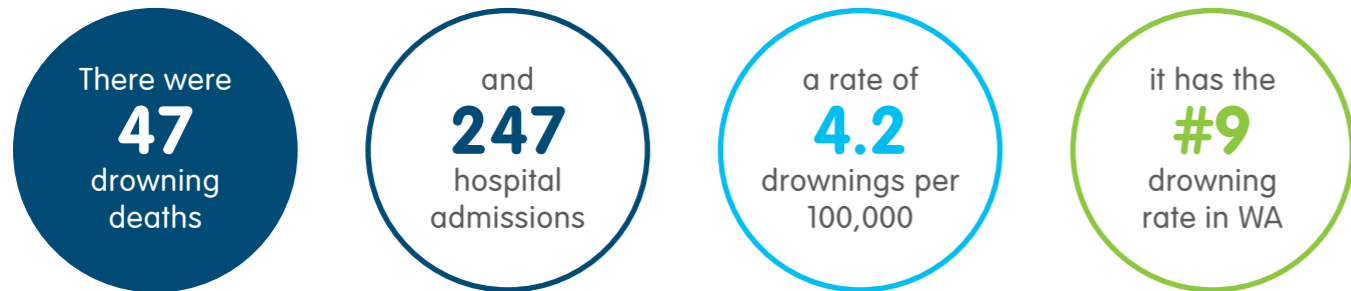
Key risk factors for drowning

- > Presence of pre-existing medical condition (39.6%)
- > Poor swimming ability (32.4%)
- > Remoteness of location (21.6%)
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (18.7%)
- > Low socio-economic areas (15.8%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (12.2%)
- > Not wearing a life-jacket and/or not using appropriate safety equipment (6.5%)



Photo: Serpentine Falls National Park

There were **294 drowning incidents** recorded in the Perth Metropolitan - East region



Males (50.4/100,000) were **1.9 times more likely to drown** than females (26.9/100,000)



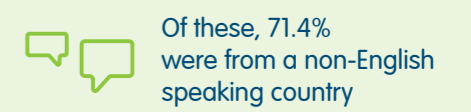
Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)



Top 3 locations (%)



Top 3 activities (%)



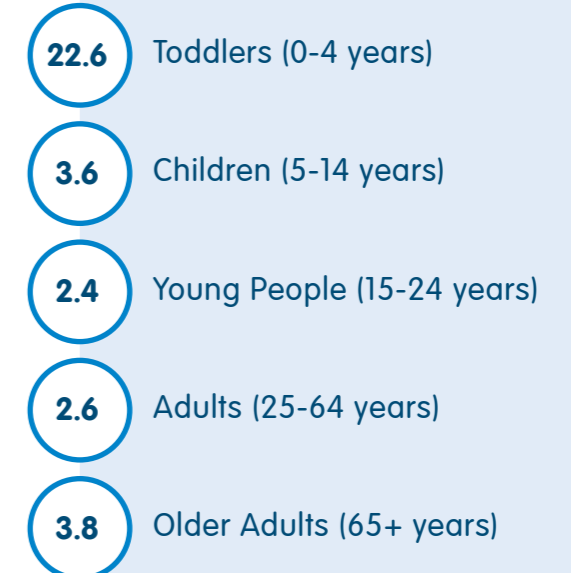
Overall, **4.8% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with Aboriginal Australians (9.6/100,000) were 2.3 times more likely to drown than non-Aboriginal Australians (4.1/100,000).

6.4% of fatal drowning involved a **tourist and/or visitor** to the area, which is significantly lower than overall state trends (26.3%).

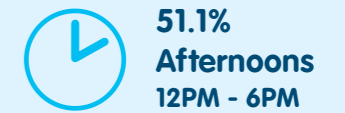
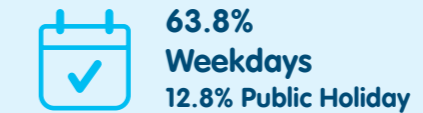
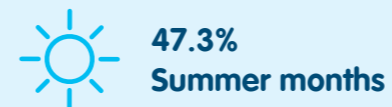
Rescue attempted (72.3%)
CPR performed (53.2%)

Av. length of hospital stay (non-fatal)
3.4 days

✓ Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers 0-4 years followed by older adults 65+ years and children 5-14 years.
(Rate per 100,000)



High-risk times for drowning



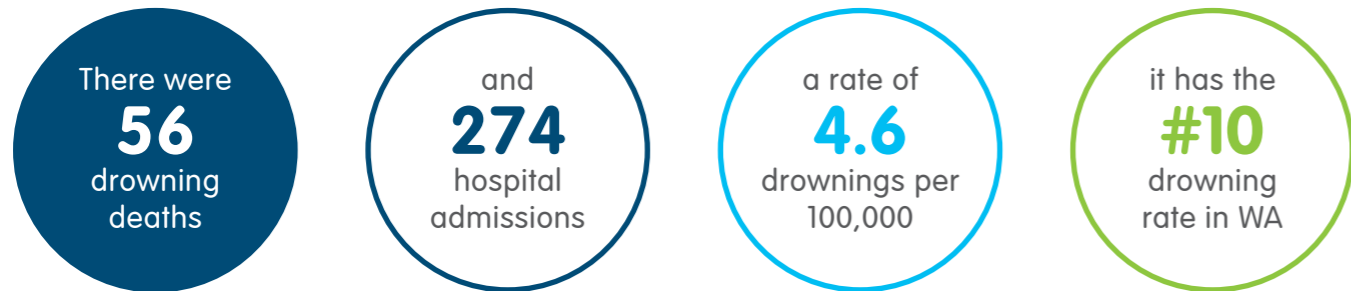
Key risk factors for drowning

- > Medical condition (55.3%)
- > Participating alone (51.1%)
- > Poor swimming ability (21.3%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (21.3%) with an average BAC of 0.168
- > Lack of adult supervision (14.9%)
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (8.5%)
- > Residing in a low socio-economic area (8.5%)
- > Injury including head injury (6.4%)
- > Absent or faulty pool barrier (6.4%)
- > Lack of safety equipment, including use of lifejackets (4.3%)



Photo: Elizabeth Quay, Swan River, Perth

There were **330 drowning incidents** recorded in the Perth Metropolitan - North region



Males (58.0/100,000) were **twice as likely to drown** than females (28.6/100,000)



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- #1** City of Joondalup
- #2** Town of Wanneroo
- #3** City of Stirling

Top 3 locations (%)

- 32.1** Beach
- 30.4** Home Pool
- 10.7** Ocean/Harbour

Top 3 activities (%)

- 33.9** Swimming
- 30.4** Recreating
- 10.7** Diving



71.2% were born in Australia



28.2% were born overseas



Of these, **51.9%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **2.1% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with Aboriginal Australians (8.8/100,000) almost twice as likely to drown than non-Aboriginal Australians (4.5/100,000).

7.1% of fatal drowning involved a **tourist and/or visitor** to the area, which is significantly lower than overall state trends (26.3%).

Rescue attempted (83.9%)
CPR performed (73.2%)

Av. length of hospital stay (non-fatal)
3.4 days



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers 0-4 years and older adults over 65 years
(Rate per 100,000)



21.1 Toddlers (0-4 years)



3.7 Children (5-14 years)



4.0 Young People (15-24 years)



2.7 Adults (25-64 years)



5.5 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



43.0% Summer months



60.7% Weekdays
5.4% Public Holiday



42.8% Mornings
6AM - 12PM

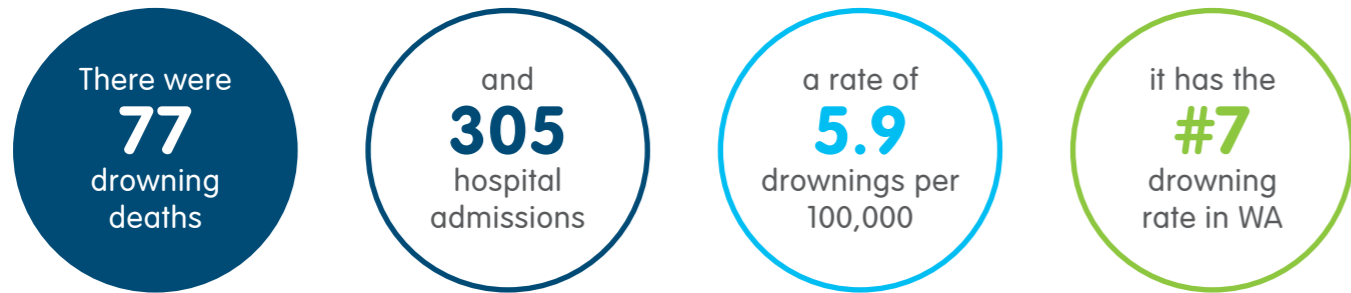
Key risk factors for drowning

- > Participating alone (57.1%)
- > Medical condition (44.6%)
- > Poor swimming ability (39.3%)
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (26.8%)
- > Lack of adult supervision (25.0%)
- > Absent or faulty pool barrier (19.6%)
- > Residing in a low socio-economic area (10.7%)
- > Lack of safety equipment, including use of lifejackets (8.9%)
- > Injury including head injury (1.8%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (1.8%)



Photo: Mandurah Estuary, Mandurah

There were **382 drowning incidents** recorded in the Perth Metropolitan - South region



Males (81.4/100,000) were **2.8 times more likely to drown** than females (29.3/100,000)

73% of those who drowned in Perth Metro South were male

Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- #1** City of Mandurah
- #2** City of Rockingham
- #3** City of Fremantle

Top 3 locations (%)

- 35.1** Ocean/harbour
- 18.2** Beach
- 16.9** River/Creek

Top 3 activities (%)

- 31.2** Boating
- 20.8** Fishing
- 19.5** Recreating



74.1% were born in Australia



24.1% were born overseas



Of these, **61.5%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **4.7% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with Aboriginal Australians (15.8/100,000) 2.7 times more likely to drown than non-Aboriginal Australians (5.8/100,000).

14.3% of fatal drowning involved a **tourist and/or visitor** to the area, which is lower than overall state trends (26.3%).

Rescue attempted (67.5%)
CPR performed (53.3%)

Av. length of hospital stay (non-fatal)
2.2 days



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers 0-4 years and older adults over 65 years
(Rate per 100,000)

30.0

Toddlers (0-4 years)

5.0

Children (5-14 years)

4.2

Young People (15-24 years)

3.7

Adults (25-64 years)

5.7

Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



42.9% Summer months



62.3% Weekdays
6.5% Public Holiday



45.5% Afternoons
12PM - 6PM

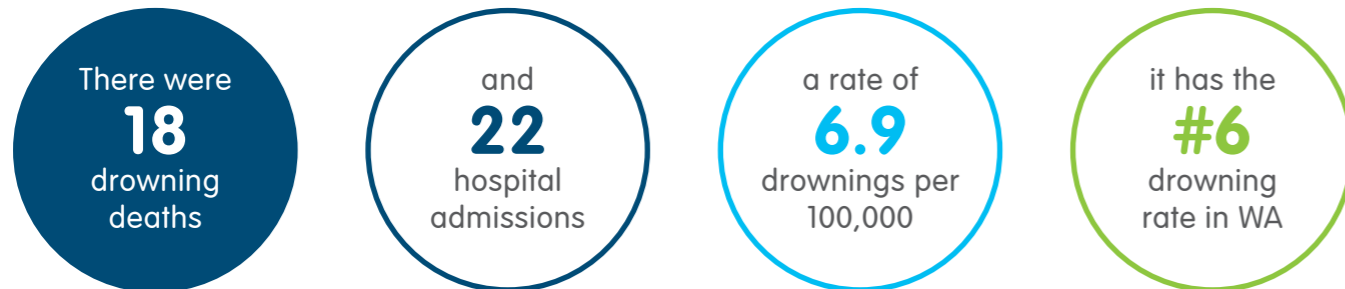
Key risk factors for drowning

- > Participating alone (49.4%)
- > Medical condition (42.9%)
- > Lack of safety equipment, including use of lifejackets (35.1%)
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (29.9%)
- > Poor swimming ability (20.8%)
- > Lack of adult supervision (13.0%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (13.0%) with an average BAC of 0.168
- > Remoteness of location (10.4%)
- > Absent or faulty pool barrier (6.5%)
- > Residing in a low socio-economic area (7.8%)
- > Injury including head injury (7.8%)



Photo: West Beach, Esperance

There were **40 drowning incidents** recorded in the Goldfields region



Males (109.0/100,000) were **4.1 times more likely to drown** than females (26.5/100,000)

83% of those who drowned in Goldfields were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- #1** Shire of Esperance
- #2** City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- #3** Shire of Ravensthorpe

Top 3 locations (%)

- 44.4** Ocean/harbour
- 27.8** Beach
- 11.1** River/Creek

Top 3 activities (%)

- 38.9** Swimming
- 22.2** Fishing
- 16.7** Recreating



82.5% were born in Australia



17.5% were born overseas



Of these, **40.0%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **5.0% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with non-Aboriginal Australians (7.1/100,000) twice as likely to drown than Aboriginal Australians (3.6/100,000).

Half (50%) of fatal drowning involved a **tourist and/or visitor** to the area, which is higher than overall state trends (26.3%).

Rescue attempted (83.3%)
CPR performed (44.4%)

Av. length of hospital stay (non-fatal)
3.0 days



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers 0-4 years and older adults over 65 years
(Rate per 100,000)



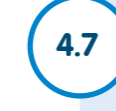
25.2 Toddlers (0-4 years)



3.7 Children (5-14 years)



8.3 Young People (15-24 years)



4.7 Adults (25-64 years)



8.6 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



47.5% Summer months



61.1% Weekdays
11.1% Public Holiday



61.1% Afternoons
12PM - 6PM

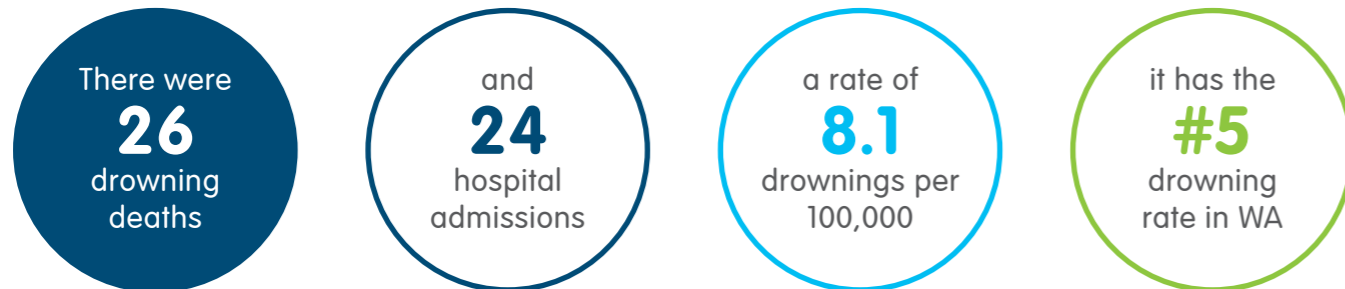
Key risk factors for drowning

- > Remoteness of location (88.9%)
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (72.2%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (38.9%) with an average BAC of 0.171
- > Participating alone (27.8%)
- > Medical condition (27.8%)
- > Lack of safety equipment, including use of lifejackets (22.2%)
- > Poor swimming ability (22.2%)
- > Residing in a low socio-economic area (11.1%)
- > Injury including head injury (5.6%)



Photo: Natural Bridge, Torndirrup National Park, Albany

There were **50 drowning incidents** recorded in the Great Southern region



Males (111.6/100,000) were **2.6 times more likely to drown** than females (43.6/100,000)

72% of those who drowned in Great Southern were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- #1** City of Albany
- #2** Shire of Denmark
- #3** Shire of Jerramungup

Top 3 locations (%)

- 57.7** Ocean/harbour
- 19.2** Beach
- 7.7** Lake/Dam

Top 3 activities (%)

- 46.2** Fishing
- 11.5** Recreating
- 7.7** Non-Aquatic Transport



62.0% were born in Australia



36.0% were born overseas



Of these, **75.0%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, 2.0% of people who **drowned were Aboriginal**, with non-Aboriginal Australians (8.4/100,000) 1.6 times as likely to drown than Aboriginal Australians (4.6/100,000).

Half (50%) of fatal drowning involved a **tourist and/or visitor** to the area, which is higher than overall state trends (26.3%).

Rescue attempted (69.2%)
CPR performed (30.8%)

Av. length of hospital stay (non-fatal)
6.0 days



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers 0-4 years and adults 25-64 years
(Rate per 100,000)



22.2 Toddlers (0-4 years)



0.0 Children (5-14 years)



9.2 Young People (15-24 years)



9.4 Adults (25-64 years)



5.8 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



42.0% Autumn months



57.7% Weekdays
11.5% Public Holiday



50.0% Afternoons
12PM - 6PM

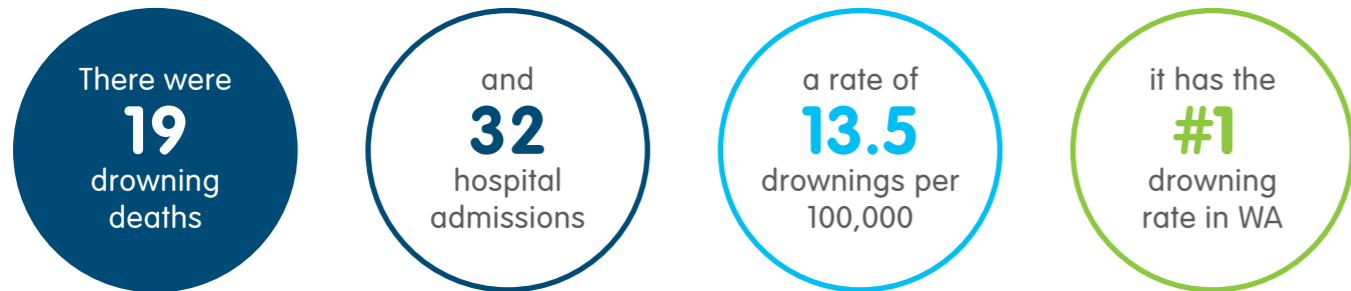
Key risk factors for drowning

- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (57.7%)
- > Lack of safety equipment, including use of lifejackets (50.0%)
- > Medical condition (34.6%)
- > Poor swimming ability (26.9%)
- > Participating alone (23.1%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (23.1%) with an average BAC of 0.154
- > Injury including head injury (11.5%)
- > Residing in a low socio-economic area (7.8%)
- > Remoteness of location (3.9%)



Photo: Ord River, Kununurra

There were **51 drowning incidents** recorded in the Kimberley region



Males (68.6/100,000) were **2.2 times more likely to drown** than females (31.4/100,000)

69% of those who drowned in Kimberley were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- #1** Shire of Broome
- #2** Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
- #3** Shire of Derby-West Kimberley

Top 3 locations (%)

- 57.9** River/Creek
- 15.8** Beach
- 10.5** Ocean/Harbour

Top 3 activities (%)

- 36.8** Recreating
- 21.1** Swimming
- 10.5** Boating



78.4% were born in Australia



21.6% were born overseas



Of these, **40.0%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **33.3% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, the largest proportion of any region. However, drowning rates slightly lower for Aboriginal Australians (11.2/100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (15.1/100,000).

42.1% of fatal drowning involved a **tourist and/or visitor** to the area, which is higher than overall state trends (26.3%).

Rescue attempted (52.6%)
CPR performed (31.6%)

Av. length of hospital stay (non-fatal)
1.1 days



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers 0-4 years and adults 25-64 years
(Rate per 100,000)



37.3 Toddlers (0-4 years)



6.7 Children (5-14 years)



6.1 Young People (15-24 years)



14.2 Adults (25-64 years)



8.6 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



37.3% Summer months



59.1% Weekends



26.3% Mornings 6AM-12PM

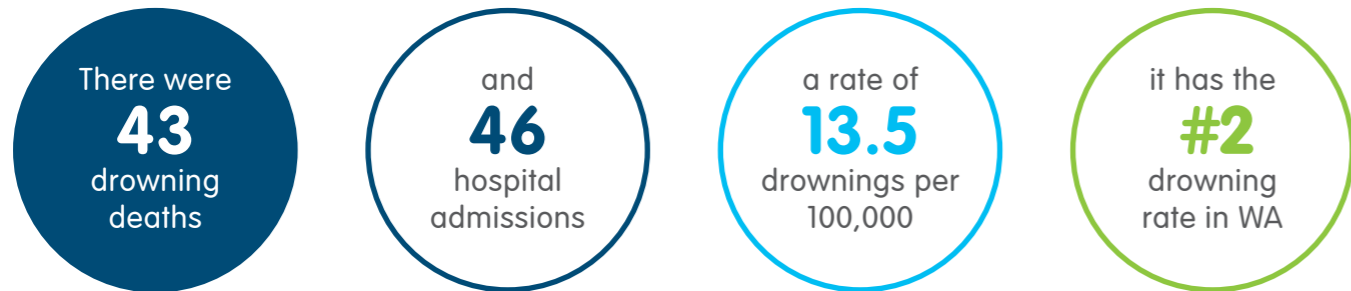
Key risk factors for drowning

- > Remoteness of location (100.0%)
- > Residing in a low socio-economic area (68.4%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (52.6%) with an average BAC of 0.194
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (47.4%)
- > Participating alone (42.1%)
- > Medical condition (31.6%)
- > Lack of safety equipment, including use of lifejackets (15.8%)
- > Poor swimming ability (10.5%)
- > Lack of adult supervision (5.3%)



Photo, Turquoise Bay, Exmouth

There were **89 drowning incidents** recorded in the Midwest region



Males (196.8/100,000) were **3.1 times more likely to drown** than females (63.7/100,000)



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- #1** Shire of Carnarvon
- #2** Shire of Greater-Geraldton
- #3** Shire of Exmouth

Top 3 locations (%)

- 51.2** Ocean/Harbour
- 34.9** Beach
- 4.7** River/Creek

Top 3 activities (%)

- 37.2** Fishing
- 32.6** Boating
- 30.2** Diving



77.5% were born in Australia



21.4% were born overseas



Of these, **75.0%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **9.0% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with non-Aboriginal Australians (14.0/100,000) 1.6 times more likely to drown than Aboriginal Australians (9.8/100,000).

60.5% of fatal drowning involved a **tourist and/or visitor** to the area, which is higher than overall state trends (26.3%).

Rescue attempted (58.1%)
CPR performed (39.5%)

Av. length of hospital stay (non-fatal)
1.6 days

^ Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers 0-4 years and young people aged 15-24 years.
(Rate per 100,000)

- 27.8** Toddlers (0-4 years)
- 4.5** Children (5-14 years)
- 16.0** Young People (15-24 years)
- 13.2** Adults (25-64 years)
- 15.6** Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



32.6% Summer months



72.5% Weekdays
10.0% Public Holiday



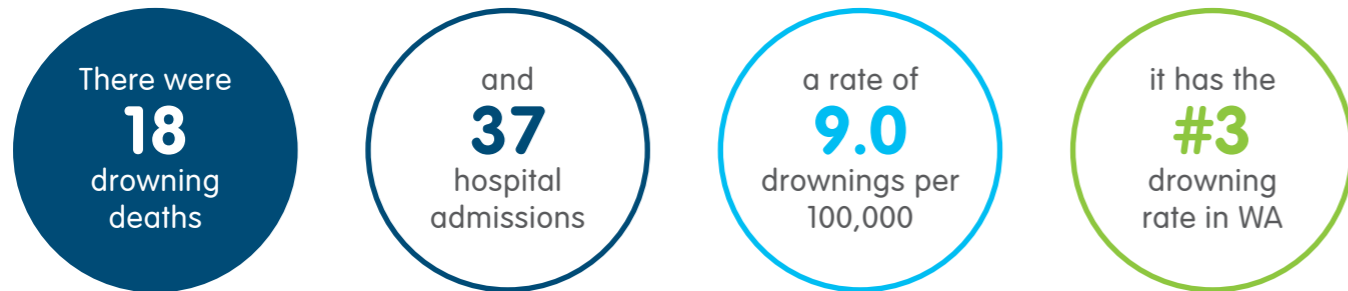
44.2% Afternoons
12PM - 6PM

Key risk factors for drowning

- > Remoteness of location (81.4%)
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (58.1%)
- > Medical condition (44.2%)
- > Lack of safety equipment, including use of lifejackets (41.9%)
- > Participating alone (32.6%)
- > Residing in a low socio-economic area (30.2%)
- > Poor swimming ability (14.0%)
- > Injury including head injury (11.6%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (7.0%) with an average BAC of 0.169
- > Lack of adult supervision (2.3%)
- > Absent or faulty pool barrier (2.3%)

Photo: Dampier Archipelago, Karratha

There were **55 drowning incidents** recorded in the Pilbara region



Males (117.2/100,000) were **1.8 times more likely to drown** than females (66.3/100,000)

69% of those who drowned in Pilbara were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- #1** City of Karratha
- #2** Shire of Ashburton
- #3** Town of Port Hedland

Top 3 locations (%)

- 66.7** Ocean/Harbour
- 16.7** Lake/Dam
- 5.6** Home Pool

Top 3 activities (%)

- 42.1** Boating
- 31.6** Fishing
- 21.1** Swimming



85.5% were born in Australia



14.5% were born overseas



Of these, **62.5%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **23.6% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with Aboriginal Australians (16.5/100,000) 2.1 times more likely to drown than non-Aboriginal Australians (7.9/100,000).

66.7% of fatal drowning involved a **tourist and/or visitor** to the area, which is significantly higher than the overall state average (26.3%).

Rescue attempted (38.9%)
CPR performed (33.3%)

Av. length of hospital stay (non-fatal)
1.0 days



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers 0-4 years and young people 15-24 years
(Rate per 100,000)



55.1 Toddlers (0-4 years)



3.8 Children (5-14 years)



7.6 Young People (15-24 years)



4.8 Adults (25-64 years)



0.0 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



43.6% Summer months



55.6% Weekdays
11.1% Public Holiday



33.3% Early Morning
12AM - 6AM

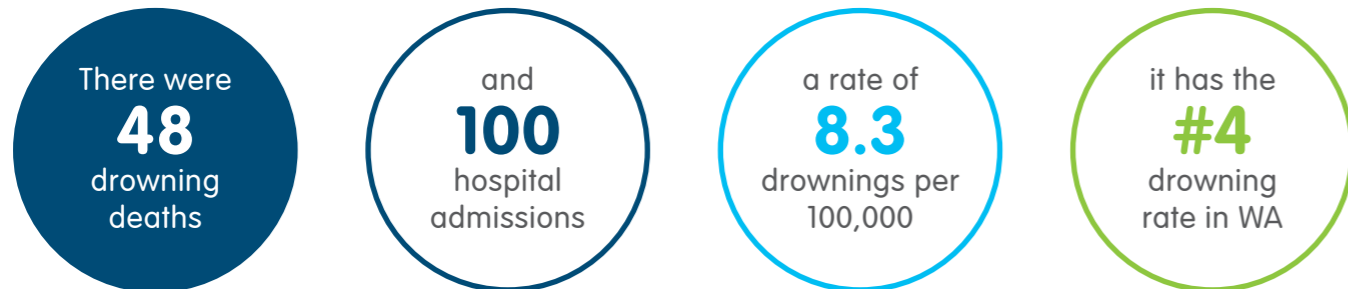
Key risk factors for drowning

- > Remoteness of location (100.0%)
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (55.6%)
- > Lack of safety equipment, including use of lifejackets (50.0%)
- > Participating alone (33.3%)
- > Residing in a low socio-economic area (33.3%)
- > Injury including head injury (22.2%)
- > Poor swimming ability (16.7%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (16.7%) with an average BAC of 0.121
- > Medical condition (11.1%)
- > Lack of adult supervision (11.1%)
- > Absent or faulty pool barrier (5.6%)



Photo: Surfers Point, Margaret River

There were **148 drowning incidents** recorded in the South West region



Males (118.1/100,000) were **3.3 times more likely to drown** than females (36.3/100,000)

76% of those who drowned in South West were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- #1** Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
- #2** City of Busselton
- #3** Shire of Manjimup

Top 3 locations (%)

- 33.3** Beach
- 29.2** Ocean/Harbour
- 16.7** Lake/Dam

Top 3 activities (%)

- 25.0** Fishing
- 20.8** Watercraft
- 16.7** Recreating



81.1% were born in Australia



18.2% were born overseas



Of these, **73.3%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **1.4% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with non-Aboriginal Australians (8.3/100,000) 1.7 times more likely to drown than Aboriginal Australians (5.0/100,000).

54.2% of fatal drowning involved a **tourist and/or visitor** to the area, which is almost twice as high as overall state trends (26.3%).

Rescue attempted (62.5%)
CPR performed (41.7%)

Av. length of hospital stay (non-fatal)
4.3 days



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers 0-4 years and adults aged 25-64 years
(Rate per 100,000)



28.3 Toddlers (0-4 years)



5.2 Children (5-14 years)



7.2 Young People (15-24 years)



7.5 Adults (25-64 years)



6.2 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



40.5% Summer months



60.4% Weekdays
6.3% Public Holiday



45.8% Afternoons
12PM - 6PM

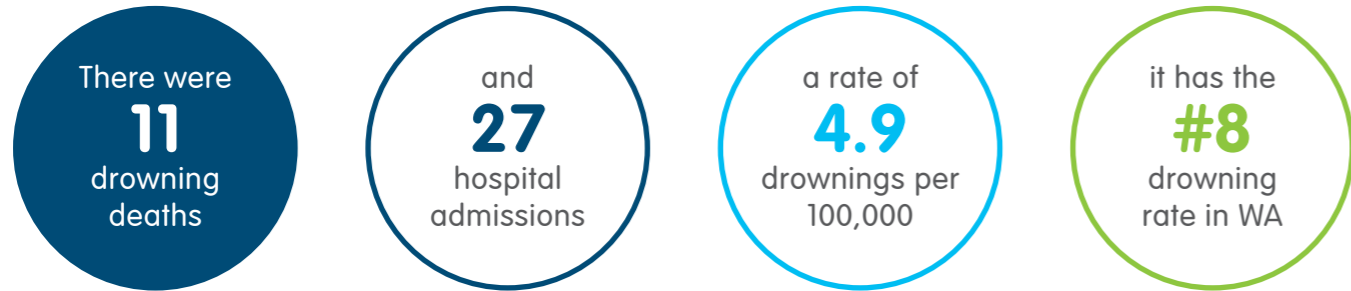
Key risk factors for drowning

- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (45.8%)
- > Participating alone (39.6%)
- > Medical condition (31.3%)
- > Lack of safety equipment, including use of lifejackets (22.9%)
- > Residing in a low socio-economic area (22.9%)
- > Injury including head injury (20.8%)
- > Poor swimming ability (14.6%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (14.6%) with an average BAC of 0.145
- > Remoteness of location (8.3%)
- > Lack of adult supervision (6.3%)
- > Absent or faulty pool barrier (4.2%)



Photo: Lancelin Beach, Lancelin

There were **38 drowning incidents** recorded in the Wheatbelt region



Males (69.7/100,000) were **2.6 times more likely to drown** than females (26.7/100,000)

74% of those who drowned in Wheatbelt were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- #1** Shire of Gingin
- #2** Shire of Dandaragan
- #3** Shire of Goomalling

Top 3 locations (%)

- 36.4** Beach
- 27.3** River/Creek
- 18.2** Ocean/Harbour

Top 3 activities (%)

- 27.3** Swimming
- 18.2** Boating
- 18.2** Diving



68.4% were born in Australia



26.3% were born overseas



Of these, **66.7%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **2.6% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with non-Aboriginal Australians (5.0/100,000) 1.7 times more likely to drown than Aboriginal Australians (2.9/100,000).

72.7% of fatal drowning involved a **tourist and/or visitor** to the area, which is significantly higher than overall state trends (26.3%).

Rescue attempted (45.5%)
CPR performed (36.4%)

Av. length of hospital stay (non-fatal) **4.4 days**



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers 0-4 years and young people 15-24 years
(Rate per 100,000)



Toddlers (0-4 years)



Children (5-14 years)



Young People (15-24 years)



Adults (25-64 years)



Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



34.2% Autumn months



55.6% Weekdays
36.4% Public Holiday



36.4% Mornings
6AM - 12PM

Key risk factors for drowning

- > Participating alone (63.6%)
- > Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions (55.6%)
- > Poor swimming ability (36.4%)
- > Medical condition (27.3%)
- > Lack of safety equipment, including use of lifejackets (27.3%)
- > Residing in a low socio-economic area (27.3%)
- > Lack of adult supervision (18.2%)
- > Remoteness of location (18.2%)
- > Consumption of alcohol (9.1%)



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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