

The 2003 Western Australian Drowning Report



Of the drownings in 2003:

71% were males

24% were children aged 5 years or under

61% occurred in regional or remote areas

20% occurred in home swimming pools

28% were under the influence of alcohol.

34% had pre-existing medical conditions.

26% were fishing at the time of the incident

Produced by:



Royal Life Saving

THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

The Western Australian Drowning Report

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Between January 1st and December 31st 2003, a total of 53 people drowned in Western Australia. Forty one of these drowning deaths were unintentional, and 12 were intentional. There were 16 more unintentional deaths in 2003 than the 25 unintentional drownings recorded in 2002.

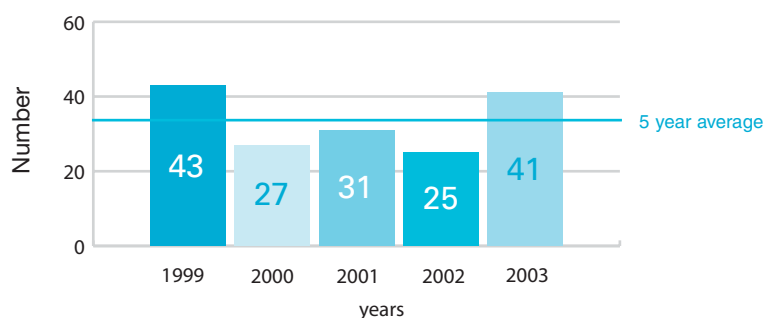
Of the 41 unintentional drowning victims:

- 71% were males
- 24% were children aged 5 years or under
- 61% occurred in regional or remote areas
- 20% occurred in home swimming pools
- 28% were under the influence of alcohol.
- 34% had pre-existing medical conditions.
- 26% were fishing at the time of the incident

Drowning over the past 5 years...

The average number of drownings per year between 1999 and 2003 is 33.4. The 2003 figure is substantially higher than previous years.

Drowning in Western Australia 1999-2003



Population

The international standard for recording drowning deaths is as a rate per 100,000 of the total population. Western Australia's population as per ABS records was 1,949,948 in December 2003 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2004). The corresponding rate of drowning for 2003 was 2.1 per 100,000. This was higher than the 5 year average rate of 1.8 per 100,000.



In Western Australia during 2003, the cost of drowning amounted to \$65.5 million.

The Cost of Drowning

A death due to drowning comes at a cost of approximately \$1.6 million to the broader community. The majority of the costs from drowning stem from the loss of productivity.

In Western Australia during 2003, the cost of drowning amounted to \$65.5 million.

Table 1: The Cost of Drowning

Year	Number	Cost (Millions)
1997	34	\$54.3
1998	27	\$43.1
1999	43	\$68.7
2000	27	\$43.1
2001	31	\$49.5
2002	25	\$39.9
2003	41	\$65.5

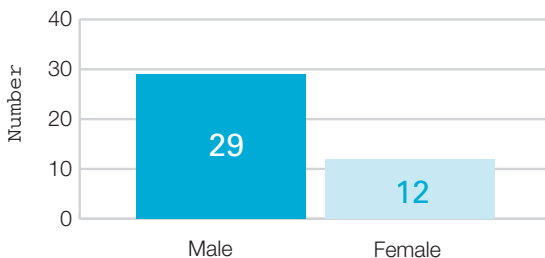
**Reference: Adapted from Hendrie (2003)*

These costs exclude those associated with non-fatal near-drownings. These additional costs add substantially to the cost of drowning in Western Australia.

Drowning by Gender

Of the 41 unintentional drowning deaths in Western Australia, 29 were male and 12 female. Males are considerably over-represented in Western Australian Drowning statistics. This is typical of national drowning statistics.

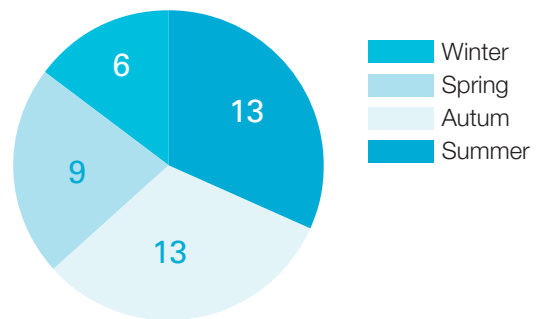
Drowning by Gender 2003



Drowning by Season

Autumn and Summer both recorded 13 drownings. These warmer months typically record a higher number of incidents. However, drownings occurred over all seasons, highlighting the need for attention and vigilance throughout the year.

Drowning by Season 2003

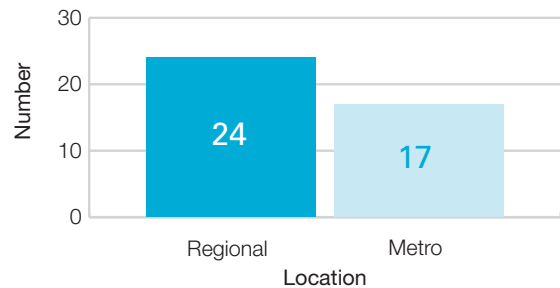


A greater number of drownings were recorded on weekends.

Metropolitan versus Regional

The majority of drownings occurred outside the metropolitan area. 59% of drownings occurred in regional or remote Western Australia during 2003.

Drowning by Regional vs Metro 2003



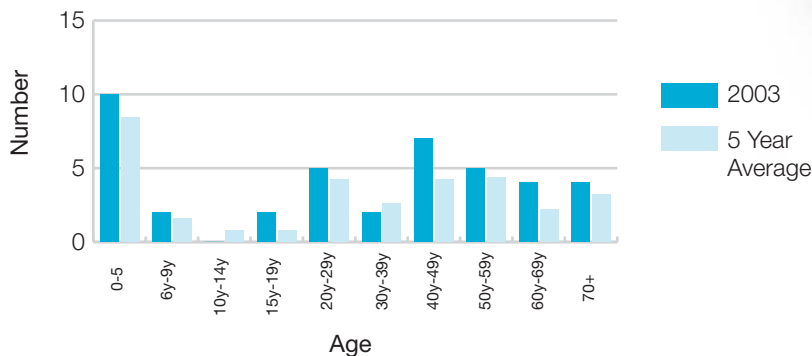
With increasing access to bodies of water in regional areas, it is important that efforts continue to be made to extend the reach of geographically and culturally appropriate programs to rural and remote areas of Western Australia.



Ten infants and toddlers drowned in Western Australia in 2003, representing 24% of all drownings in Western Australia.



Drowning by Age 2003



Drowning by age group...

Drowning remains the major cause of preventable death in children under 5 years of age. Drowning is also an increasingly significant injury issue amongst adults aged 30-59. Increases in the number of drownings per age group were also observed amongst emerging adults during 2003.

Infant and Toddlers (0-5 Age Group)

Infants and toddlers traditionally bear the highest proportion of drownings of any age group. They are identified as Key Priority Area 1 by the National Water Safety Plan (Australian Water Safety Council, 1998), and are one of the primary focus areas for the Royal Life Saving Society's drowning prevention strategies.

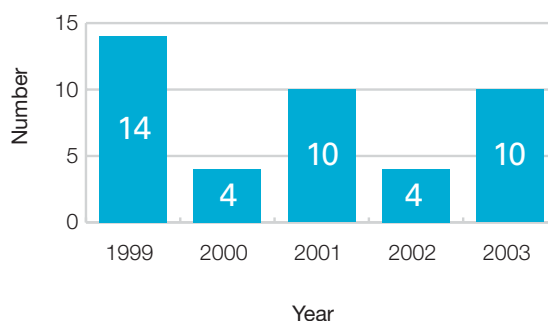
Ten infants and toddlers drowned in Western Australia in 2003, representing 24% of all drownings in Western Australia. This figure was higher than the five year average for drownings amongst this age group of 8.2.

Seven children drowned in home swimming pools, one in a bath, one in a nappy bucket and one in a river.

All but one death occurred after the child wandered into the water without the knowledge of the parent or carer. In all cases there was a lapse or absence of supervision on behalf of the parent or carer.

There were barrier deficiencies in four cases of the seven drownings in home swimming pools.

0-5 year Drowning 1999 - 2003



Alcohol and drug use contributed to 43% of all drownings of emerging adults.

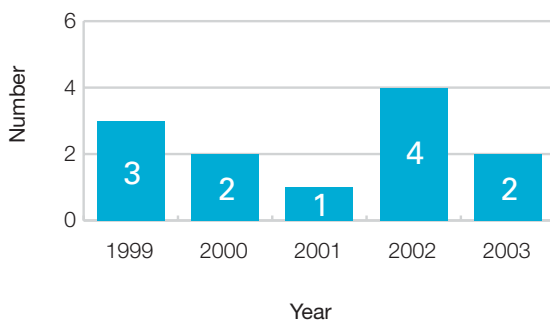


Children (6-14 Age Group)

The reduction in drownings amongst the 6-14 year old age group is one of the great success stories in drowning prevention across Australia. The education of children through swimming and lifesaving programs such as Swim and Survive have reduced the numbers of drowning to the lowest levels observed in any age group.

Two children drowned in Western Australia during 2003. Both occurred when a vehicle, with the children inside, was swept away while crossing a river.

6-14 year Drowning 1999 - 2003



Emerging Adults (15-29 Age Group)

All seven of the drownings that occurred amongst emerging adults were male, a common injury trend in this age group. Young adults accounted for 17% of the total number of drowning deaths in Western Australia this year.

Drownings occurred predominately in coastal locations. Locations included oceans, rocky outcrops, beaches and estuaries.

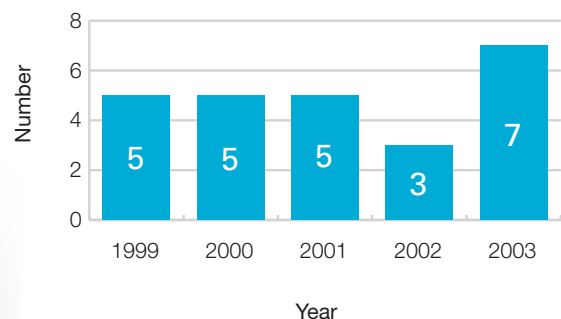
The majority (86%) of these deaths occurred during activities relating to recreational fishing. Rock fishing was the incident activity in four of the seven incidents. The remaining drownings occurred while swimming, diving and crabbing.

Alcohol and drug use was a common contributory factor in these incidents, representing 43% of all drownings in this age group.

Medical conditions played a minor contributory role in this age group. A seizure disorder contributed to a single drowning.

The patterns of drowning in this age group highlight the greater levels of risk taking exhibited by emerging adults. The drownings observed in this age group are generally a result of conscious choices made by the victim. Greater education, increased skills and a change in attitudes, particularly relating to alcohol use, is needed to reduce drowning in this age group.

15-29 year Drowning 1999 - 2003



People with medical conditions which may increase their risk of injury should be encouraged to participate in aquatic activities around the company of others.

Adults (30-59 Age Group)

There was also a significant increase in the number of adults drowning in Western Australia in 2003. In total, 14 adults drowned this year, eight more than in 2002. Nine of the 14 drowning victims were male.

Five drownings in this age group occurred in oceans, and an equal number in rivers. Two drownings transpired at the beach, two in spas, and one in the bath.

Seven drownings involved males recreating around water, three involved swimming, and two involved recreational fishing. Boating and diving-related activities were each involved in a single drowning.

Alcohol contributed to the drowning of four adults aged 39-59, representing 29% of all drownings in this age group.

Existing medical conditions were present in seven adult drowning victims, representing 50% of all drownings in this age group.

The effect of existing medical conditions becomes increasingly apparent in this age group. People with medical conditions which may increase their risk of injury should be encouraged to participate in aquatic activities around the company of others, particularly those appropriately skilled to resuscitate and deal with medical emergencies.

Older Adults (60+ Age Group)

Eight older adults drowned in 2003, a decrease from 2002.

Coastal locations accounted for the majority of drownings amongst this age group. This included oceans (3), the beach (1) and an estuary (1).

Two drownings of older adults occurred in dams, and a single incident in a home pool.

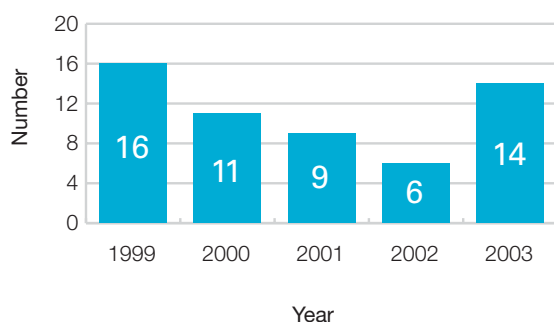
Three of these incidents occurred when the victim unintentionally entered the water. One of these incidents occurred when a vehicle entered a dam with the occupant inside. A further two drownings occurred while crayfishing, two while swimming, and the remaining drowned while boating.

Alcohol was involved in one incident. Medical conditions contributed to 43% of drownings in this age group.

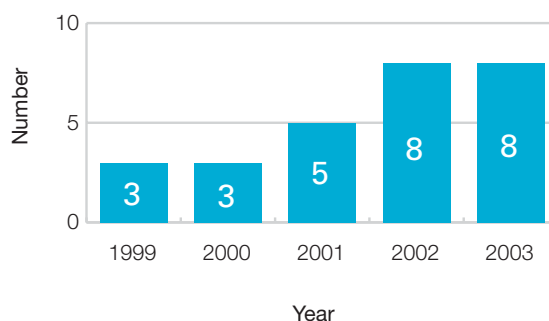
Drownings in this age group appear to fall into two categories. Firstly, diminished mental and physical capacity contributes to older adults unintentionally entering the water and subsequently drowning. Older adults with conditions that place them at an increased risk of unintentionally entering the water should be accompanied by suitable persons.

Older adults also appear to experience drowning while involved in recreational pursuits, namely crayfishing, swimming and boating. This age group, like all other age groups, needs to be aware of hazardous environmental conditions before participating in aquatic pursuits. Older adults are also encourage to participate in aquatic activities around others, and would benefit from company skilled in lifesaving.

30-59 year Drowning 1999 - 2003



60-70+ year Drowning 1999 - 2003

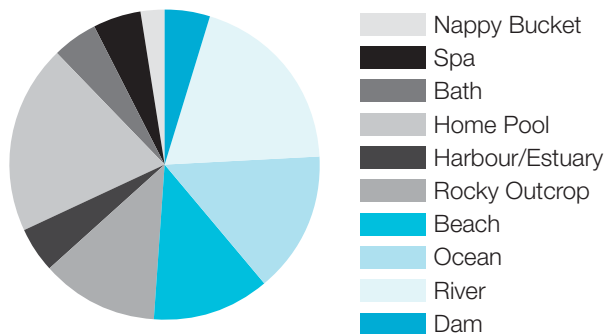


Five people drowned in rough conditions whilst fishing off rocky outcrops.

Drowning by location...

Drownings occur in three broad types of location. Coastal locations include oceans, beaches, and rock outcrops. Inland locations include dams, rivers, harbours and estuaries. Locations around the home include the home swimming pools, baths, spas and nappy buckets.

Drowning by Location 2003



Coastal Locations

Coastal locations accounted for 39% of all drownings. The majority of these drownings involved males. All incidents involved those aged 15 years and older.

Of all coastal locations, oceans were the location associated with the greatest number of drownings, followed by beaches and rocky outcrops.

Coastal Locations – Ocean

Six people drowned in the ocean in 2003, all of whom were male. All were participating in an activity based from a boat at the time of the incident.

Three of these drowning deaths occurred in two separate incidents involving older males. All three were washed from their boats while crayfishing in rough seas.

Two incidents involved diving. A free diver drowned after suffering a seizure, while inexperience contributed to a scuba diving fatality.

The remaining incident occurred as a result of excessive alcohol consumption.

Coastal Locations – Beaches

Five people drowned off beaches in 2003. No drownings occurred on patrolled beaches.

All drowning victims entered the water intentionally before experiencing difficulty. Four of the five drowning victims were male, and all but one victim was over 55.

Four of the victims had been swimming at the time of incident. Rough seas in combination with inadequate swimming ability were contributing factors in two incidents.

Pre-existing heart conditions were a factor in the other two incidents related to swimming activities. Being accompanied at the time of incident may have prevented these fatalities, particularly if those with the victim had resuscitation training.

The remaining case was an abalone fisherman. Again, a pre-existing heart condition contributed to the incident. Accompaniment by a resuscitation-trained friend or bystander may have prevented this drowning.

Coastal Locations – Rocky Outcrops

Five people drowned in rough conditions off rocky outcrops in Western Australia during 2003. Four of the five drownings involved emerging adult males.

Two males and a female were swept in unintentionally, while two males drowned after entering the water to save someone swept in. All victims had been fishing from rocks at the time of the incident.

The combined effect of alcohol and cannabis were significant contributing factors in three of these incidents.

Coastal Locations – Recommendations

Greater education of user groups regarding the relevant coastal dangers may substantially reduce the number of drownings each year. This is most evident in the number of drownings that occurred from rocky outcrops, as a direct result of unexpected swell sweeping victims in to the ocean.

One toddler entered the water without the knowledge of parents. Adequate parental supervision could have prevented this tragedy.

Inland Waterways

Eight persons drowned in rivers in Western Australia. Five of the victims were males, and three female. This location accounted for 20% of drowning incidents.

Inland Waterways – River

Eight persons drowned in rivers in Western Australia. Five of the victims were male, and three female. This location accounted for 20% of drowning incidents.

Four of the victims entered the water unintentionally. Medical conditions contributed to two of these incidents. The other two incidents arose when a vehicle was washed away while crossing a river.

Three of the victims entered the water intentionally to swim before experiencing difficulty. A seizure disorder contributed to one incident, while alcohol was a known factor in the others.

One toddler entered the water without the knowledge of parents. Adequate parental supervision could have prevented this tragedy. The lack of parental supervision also precedes drownings in this age group in other locations, particularly around the home.

Inland Waterways – Dam

Two drownings were recorded in Western Australian dams this year. Unlike other years, where infants and toddlers have been involved, both drownings in 2003 involved elderly females.

One incident involved a vehicle rolling into a dam. In both incidents, the victim's mental condition may have contributed to the incident.

Inland Waterways – Harbour/Estuaries

Two drownings occurred in estuaries. Both involved males, one crabbing while the other swam. One of these incidents occurred as the result of a seizure.

Inland Waterways – Recommendations

Inland waterways are often perceived as less of a hazard than coastal water bodies. People participating in an inland aquatic environment should be mindful of the dangers that exist in these areas, particularly for infants and toddlers and those with medical conditions.

Public Aquatic Facilities

Drowning incidents have previously occurred in public aquatic facilities, however no drownings occurred in this location in 2003. Personal supervision and vigilance is essential in public aquatic facilities despite the presence of lifeguards.



Regardless of the adequacy of pool barriers, the appropriate supervision of infants and toddlers is essential to reduce the number of drownings in this age group.

Around the Home

Almost one in three of all drownings occur around the home, in locations including the home swimming pool, baths, spas and nappy buckets. Drowning that occur around the home generally involve the older and younger extremes of the broader population.

Around the Home – Home Swimming Pools

Home swimming pools continue to be the most dangerous hazard in the home. In 2003, eight people drowned in home swimming pools. Seven of these were toddlers and infants.

Further data was unavailable due to ongoing enquiries into two of the drowning deaths of infants and toddlers.

Of the remaining five incidents, four occurred when the child entered the pool enclosure without the knowledge of the parent. The remaining incident occurred when a child was left to swim alone.

In incidents where the child entered the pool without the knowledge of parents or carers, inadequate maintenance of the pool barrier was identified as a key contributing factor in three incidents. Design issues were also identified in three incidents.

All drownings of toddlers and infants were contributed to by lack of adequate supervision. Regardless of the adequacy of pool barriers, the appropriate supervision of infants and toddlers is essential to reduce the number of drownings experienced by this age group.

Four of the incidents involving toddlers and infants occurred in the victim's own home swimming pool. The occurrence of a drowning in another person's home highlights the need for all pools to be compliant to pool fencing legislation, irrespective of the residence of young children.

Around the Home – Bath

Two Western Australians drowned in baths in 2003. Inadequate supervision contributed to the drowning death of an infant, while pre-existing heart conditions may have contributed to the death of an older adult.

Around the Home – Spa

Two Western Australians also drowned in spas during 2003. Both were aged over 45. Heavy medication and excessive consumption of alcohol contributed to one drowning, while a seizure occurred in the other incident.

Around the Home – Nappy Bucket

One infant drowned in a nappy bucket in 2003. Similar to drownings of infants and toddlers in home swimming pools, inadequate supervision was the key factor that contributed to this incident.

Around the Home - Recommendations

Alarming, infants and toddlers represent 70% of all the drownings that occur around the home. The prevention of drowning around the home rests primarily on the need for adequate, direct supervision of young children, and the design, installation and maintenance of appropriate barriers to isolate potential water hazards.



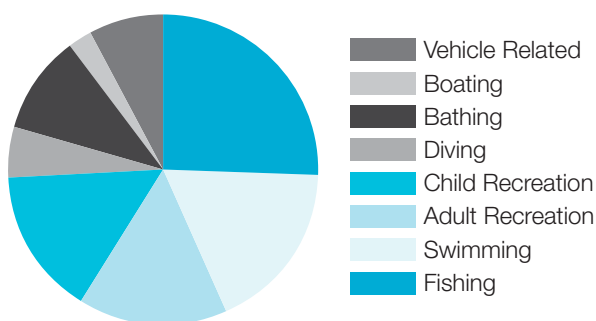
Recreational fishing, particularly rock fishing, accounted for more drownings in 2003 than any other type of activity.

Drowning by activity...

Drownings occurred while the victims were involved in a variety of activities including fishing, swimming, boating, diving and bathing.

Numerous drownings also occurred when the victim was participating in activities around the aquatic environments and unintentionally entered the water. This type of incident has been termed 'child/adult recreating around water'.

Drowning by Activity 2003



Fishing

More Western Australians drowned in 2003 while involved in some aspect of recreational fishing than any other type of activity. All of these occurred in a coastal environment.

Five drownings occurred while the victims fished from rocks. Rock fishing is a notoriously dangerous pastime, and is identified within the National Water Safety Plan as a Key Priority Area. Four of the five drownings involved males aged between 15 and 29. Rough conditions and unexpected swell were a factor in all cases, and alcohol and drug use played a contributory role in three incidents.

Three drownings were reported among crayfishermen. Each incident involved males aged older than 50, and occurred while boating in rough conditions.

One drowning involved a male abalone fisherman. This incident was contributed to by a pre-existing heart condition.

One further drowning involved a male who was crabbing at the time of the incident. A seizure disorder was a key factor in this drowning.

Fishermen may benefit from greater education of the risk factors inherent to their specific type of fishing. Information promoted to this group should include details of hazardous environmental conditions and the necessary safety precautions.

Swimming

Seven Western Australians drowned while swimming in 2003. Four incidents involving males were recorded, and three involving females.

Five drownings occurred amongst swimmers aged over 45. Swimming locations included the beach, estuary and river. Pre-existing heart conditions were a factor in two of these incidents. Insufficient swimming ability for the conditions was a factor in the remaining two.

Insufficient swimming ability and rough beach conditions were major contributing factors to the drowning of an emerging adult male. This individual was also from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

One female toddler was left alone to swim in a home swimming pool. Due to a child's cognitive and physical development, swimming does not become an automated skill until a child is approximately 5 years of age, and consequently aquatic survival skills at this age are not a learned response. Infants and toddlers must be directly supervised by an appropriate adult. Even amongst older age groups, some level of supervision is required to prevent drowning.

Pre-existing medical conditions contributed to several swimming-related drownings, particularly among adults and older adults. These groups should be encouraged to participate in aquatic activities with the accompaniment of suitably competent individuals.

Individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds should be encouraged to learn swimming and lifesaving skills. Community swimming and lifesaving programs should cater for these groups.



Seizure disorders, heart conditions, physical impairments and mental conditions contributed to all drownings involving adults recreating around water.

Adult Recreating Around Water

Six drownings occurred among adults who entered the water unintentionally while recreating around the water. These incidents were split between adults and older adults. Males were the victims in five of the six incidents.

In all cases medical conditions played some form of contributory role. Specific ailments included seizure disorders, heart conditions, physical impairments and mental conditions.

Those with medical conditions that may increase their risk of exposure to a drowning or near drowning situation, should be advised to remain with those capable of rendering assistance.

Child Recreating Around Water

Six drownings occurred amongst children who entered the water unintentionally while recreating around the water.

All incidents involved toddlers and infants, half of these incidents occurring in home swimming pools. Inadequate supervision was the major factor in these children entering the water, confounded by dysfunctional or improperly used barriers.

Greater education of parents as to the requirements for supervision, and the conditions that satisfy adequate supervision of infants and toddlers is vital.

The design and installation of home swimming pool barriers must prevent access to the home swimming pool. Barriers must be regularly maintained to ensure their effectiveness.

Bathing

Four Western Australians drowned while bathing in 2003. Two incidents occurred in the bath, and another two in spas.

Three of the four incidents involved adults, all aged over 45. Medical conditions were a contributing factor in all cases. Excessive alcohol consumption and heavy use of medication was an additional factor in one of these incidents.

One of the incidents involved an infant, left unsupervised while in the bath. As in all cases of infants and toddlers drownings, adequate supervision by parents is of paramount importance to prevent these incidents from occurring.



Two drownings arising from diving activities were reported in Western Australia in 2003. Inexperience in the use of scuba equipment was a major contributing factor.

Diving

Two drownings arising from diving activities were reported in Western Australia in 2003. Both incidents involved males. One incident occurred while the victim was scuba diving. Inexperience in the use of scuba equipment was the major contributing factor.

The other incident involved a free diver. A seizure disorder was a known factor in this incident.

Boating

Six drownings arose from activities involving the use of a boat. Three were fishing-related, and two were diving-related. Rough conditions, age, medical conditions and inexperience were all contributing factors.

Only one death arose from the recreational operation of a boat. This incident occurred in the ocean.

The victim was an adult, and was heavily intoxicated by alcohol at the time.

Vehicle Operation

Three drownings occurred when the occupants of two separate vehicles were trapped in the vehicle as it entered the water. These events occurred in a river and a dam.



28% of drownings among those aged 15 and older occurred while the victim was under the influence of alcohol.

Drowning by contributing factors...

A range of factors contribute to the occurrence of drowning, beyond age, activity and location elements. These factors include the excessive consumption of alcohol, medical conditions, local/non-local status, and cultural background.

Alcohol and Drugs

Eight drownings occurred in 2003 where the victim was under the influence of alcohol. This represents 20% of all drownings, or 28% of drownings among those aged 15 and older.

The contributory role of alcohol was most prevalent among rock-fishing related drownings. 50% of these incidents involved alcohol. Each of the victims were emerging adults.

Cannabis use was detected in three drowning victims in 2003, representing 7% of all drownings.

Individuals must be aware of the effect that alcohol and drugs have on their ability to participate in aquatic activities. This message is particularly relevant for the emerging adult age group.

Medical Conditions

A wide range of medical conditions were observed in drowning incidents in 2003. Medical conditions included heart conditions, mental conditions, physical impairments, and seizure disorders.

Medical conditions played a contributory role in 14 drowning incidents, representing 34% of all incidents. Heart conditions were the most prevalent medical condition, involved in 15% of all drownings. Mental impairment due to medical conditions may have precipitated 12% of all drownings. Seizure disorders were present in 10% of all drownings.

Those people effected by a medical condition should be aware of their limitations and where possible participate in and around aquatic activity with competent accompaniment.

Local/Non-local Status

Drowning victims were generally locals to the location in which they drowned. Only 10.5% of drowning victims were not a local of the area in which they drowned.

Western Australian Aboriginal People

Five Western Australian Aboriginal People drowned in 2003. This represents 12% of all drownings. These figures reflect a distinct over-representation of a group that represents approximately 3% of the Western Australian population (Gillam et al, 2003).

Swimming, lifesaving and public education program should be appropriate and accessible to all Western Australians.

CALD Groups

Three Western Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds drowned in 2003. This represents 7% of all drownings. This groups is also over-represented in drowning statistics in Western Australia.

Individuals and families from CALD backgrounds should be encouraged to participate in targeted swimming, lifesaving and public education programs.



Recommendations and References

Recommendations

- Toddler Drowning Prevention campaigns should continue to target parental supervision, with an emphasis on the requirements of effective age-appropriate supervision.
- Home Swimming Pools were identified as the most common location for the drowning of infants and toddlers. Appropriate design, instalment and regular maintenance of pool barriers must be promoted to all owners of home swimming pools.
- Targeted fishing safety messages should be reviewed and redeveloped to create awareness of drowning risks for recreational fishermen in Western Australia. Messages should be appropriate and specific for all types of recreational fishing.
- Physically or mentally impaired individuals should be aware of their limitations, and where possible participate in and around aquatic activities with competent company.
- Educational and promotional campaigns promoting responsible consumption of alcohol and drugs should continue to target young adults, with an emphasis on males.
- Swimming, lifesaving and public education programs should be appropriate and accessible to all Western Australians. Programs should encompass the needs of Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

References

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Royal Life Saving Society Drowning Prevention Initiatives...



KEEPWATCH

KEEPWATCH is a health promotion program, supported by the Department of Health that aims to prevent toddler drowning through increased knowledge and awareness of parents, pool owners, health professionals, and community and child care workers. The KEEPWATCH message promotes four key toddler drowning prevention messages:

- Supervise your child
- Fence the pool
- Familiarise your child with the water
- Learn resuscitation

Check out www.keepwatch.com.au.



Home Pool Inspection Program

The Royal Life Saving Society conducts home pool inspections on behalf of a number of local government organisations. The Home Pool Inspection program specifically works toward the second KEEPWATCH strategy – Fence your pool.

To see if your pool complies with state legislation check out www.poolsafety.com.au.



Infant Aquatics

The infant aquatics program is an education and skill development program aimed at encouraging infants and toddlers to explore and practice aquatic skills at their own pace in a safe aquatic environment. The Infant Aquatics program specifically works toward the third KEEPWATCH strategy – Familiarise your child with the water.



Heart Beat Club

The Heart Beat Club is an informal resuscitation program that aims to develop life-saving resuscitation skills in our community. The Heart Beat Club specifically works toward the fourth KEEPWATCH strategy – Learn



Swim And Survive

The Swim And Survive program facilitates the delivery of swimming and water safety education throughout Australia, through advocacy for the importance of swimming and water safety programs, the provision of assistance to swimming and water safety providers to deliver safe and well-balanced aquatic programs, and the provision of ongoing research and program development.

Check out www.swimandsurvive.com.au

Bronze Rescue

The Bronze Rescue builds on the Swim and Survive program, giving young people the right knowledge and skills to help them and those around them survive in an aquatic emergency.



Junior Lifeguard Club

The Junior Lifeguard Club enable kids to become involved in lifesaving as a sport, providing an avenue to keeping kids interested and active in aquatic sports.



RISE

The Recreation Industry Skills Education offers a range of swimming, first aid instruction and workplace training for people who want to learn new skills, gain employment, or further their career in the sport and recreation industry.

Check out www.rise.com.au



RASPP

The Remote Aboriginal Swimming Pools Project is a joint initiative of Royal Life Saving Society and the Department of Housing and Works and supported by BHP Billiton. The Project aims to provide well maintained, well supervised aquatic facilities and programs that promote regular participation in aquatic activity amongst the remote Western Australian Aboriginal communities they operate in.



Don't Drink and Drown

Don't Drink and Drown is a joint initiative of Royal Life Saving Society and Surf Life Saving, with support from the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation. The Project aims to reduce the incidence of alcohol related injury and death in aquatic environments amongst 15 to 29 year olds.



Event Safety and Management Services

Royal Life Saving Society maintain event safety and management services to ensure the Western Australian community has access to safe aquatic events and services.

Other Activities

Royal Life Saving Society also maintains an extensive network with community and industry stakeholders, providing ongoing advice and consultation to ensure the organisation meets the needs and expectations of the Western Australian community.



Western Australian Drowning Facts ...

- **Infants and Toddlers remain the number one priority.** 24% of drowning victims were children aged 5 years or under.
- **Shut the Gate Mate** – Home Swimming Pools are the most hazardous location in the home environment. 20% of drownings occurred in home swimming pools.
- **Throw me a line** - 26% of drowning victims were fishing at the time of the incident.
- **Don't Drink & Drown** - 28% of drowning victims were under the influence of alcohol.
- **Our amazing coastline** – a drowning risk - 39% of drownings occurred in coastal locations including beachers, oceans and rocky outcrops.
- **The majority of drowning victims are male.** - 71% of drowning victims were males. The gender bias was most prevalent amongst the emerging adult age group and in fishing, boating and diving related activities.
- **Regional vs Metro** - 61% of drownings occurred in regional or remote areas of the State.
- **Medical Conditions** – Heart conditions, seizure disorders, physical and mental impairments contributed to 34% of drownings.
- **EVERY DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE**



Royal Life Saving

THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

For More Information Contact.....

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