



WA DROWNING REPORT 2024

A water loving nation free from drowning



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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Acknowledgements

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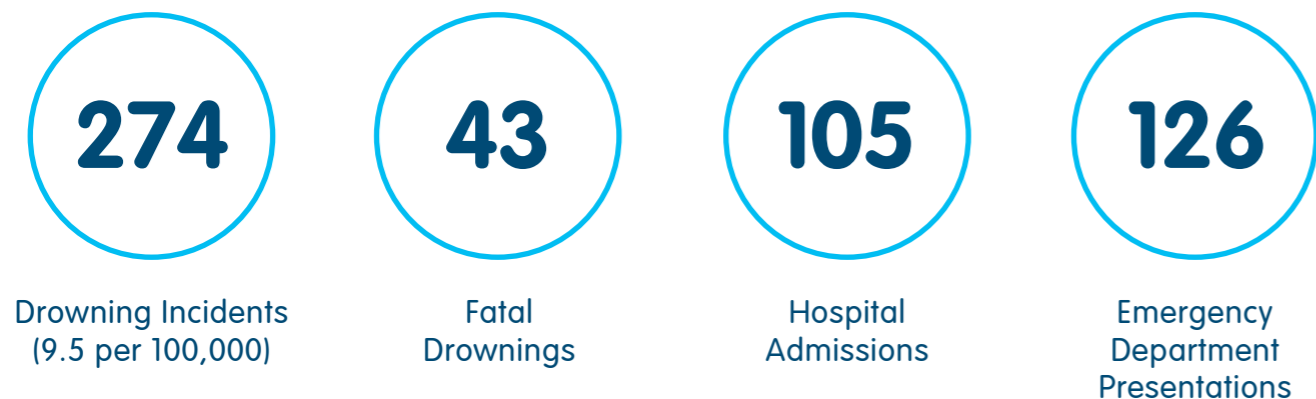
- Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
- Department of Health WA
- The National Coronial Information System



Kep Kaartdijin
Water Knowledge
Noongar

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.

Drowning incidents recorded in WA in 2023/24



Overall drowning rates increased by 15.1% from 2022/23.

Average drowning rates have remained relatively steady over the past decade.

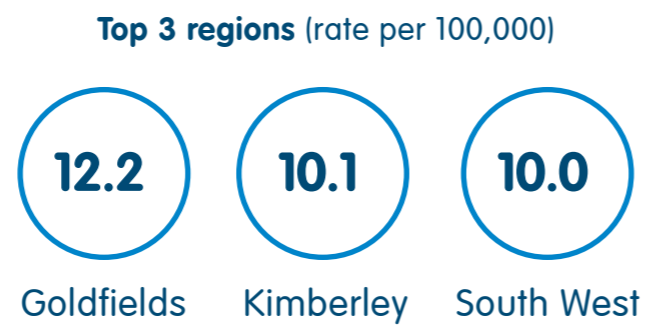
Males were 2.1 times more likely to drown than females.



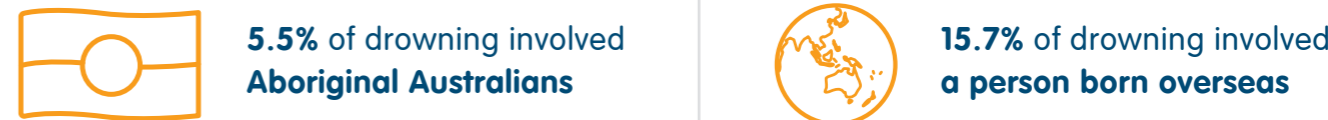
- Drowning risk was highest amongst toddlers, children and young people.
Rate per 100,000:
- 62.4** Toddlers (0-4 years)
- 13.5** Children (5-14 years)
- 6.9** Young People (15-24 years)
- 4.4** Adults (25-64 years)
- 5.7** Older Adults (65+ years)



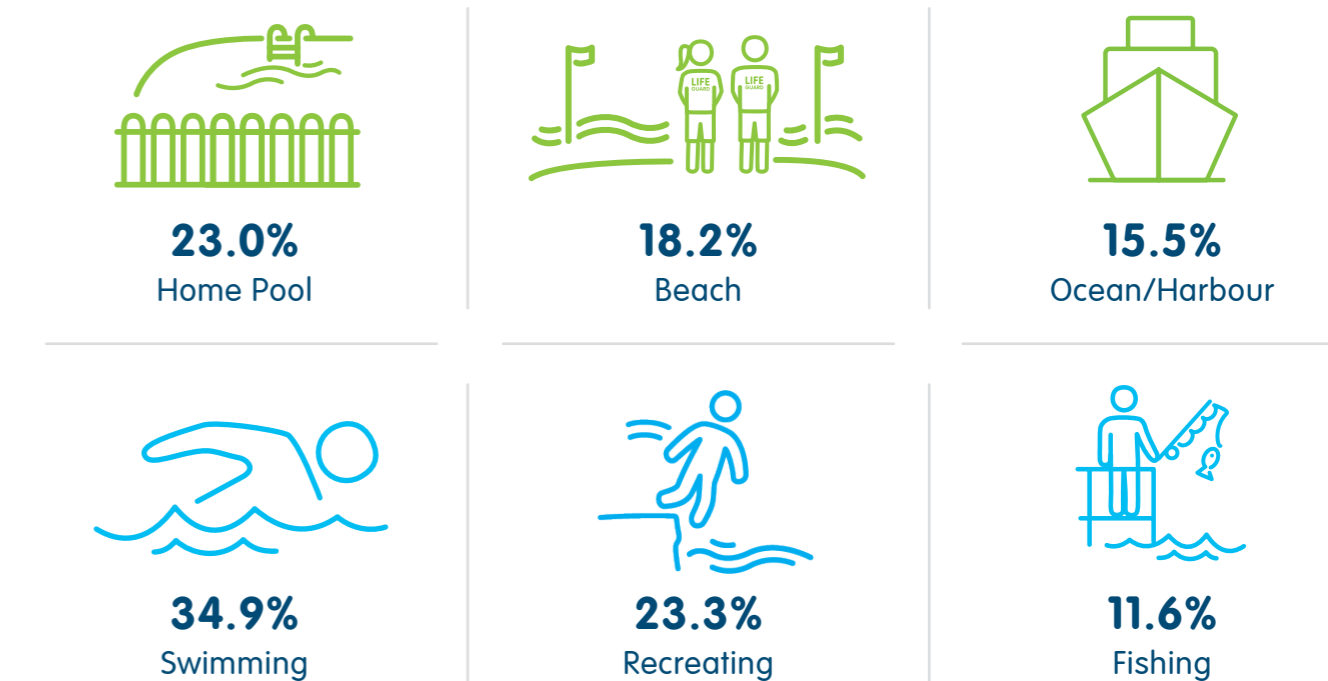
Drowning incidents were **twice as likely to occur in regional WA** than the Perth metropolitan area.



Multicultural communities were over-represented in drowning data.



Drowning incidents were most likely to occur at home swimming pool and coastal locations while swimming, recreating around water or fishing.



Key risk factors for drowning

- 46.5%** Participating alone
- 44.2%** Low socio-economic status
- 34.9%** Medical condition
- > 25.6% Poor swimming ability
- > 20.9% Environmental factors such as poor weather and/or water conditions
- > 18.6% Remoteness of location
- > 18.6% Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > 14.0% Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > 11.6% Inexperience in activity
- > 9.3% Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket wear
- > 9.3% Injury



> DROWNING AT A GLANCE

Drowning continues to have a profound and lasting impact, not only on the individuals and families directly affected, but across workplaces, schools and communities. For those who survive a non-fatal drowning incident, the consequences can be life-changing, with ongoing physical, neurological, and psychological impairments that require long-term support and care. The economic cost of drowning is also significant, placing additional pressures on health systems and families.

This report presents an overview of unintentional drowning trends in Western Australia between July 2023 and June 2024, highlighting key patterns and priority areas for action.

By translating these findings into practical strategies, Royal Life Saving WA works to deepen understanding of drowning and its impacts, drive the development of evidence-based and innovative prevention initiatives, and empower communities to adopt safer behaviours in, on, and around water.

Preventing drowning requires a shared commitment across government, industry, and the community, and this report provides the evidence base to guide collective action.

LEAD

BUILD

EMPOWER



> FATAL AND NON-FATAL DROWNING

274
drowning incidents
(fatal and non-fatal)
occured in WA
in 2023/24

This is a
15.1%
increase
from 2022/23

And less than a
1%
average increase
over the
past decade

Fatal Drowning

There were 43 fatal drowning incidents recorded in WA waterways July 2023 and June 2024, at a rate of 1.5 per 100,000 population. This was a 13.2% increase from 2022/23 with trends showing a small 1.7% decrease in fatal drowning rates over the past ten years.

At the time of reporting, 48.6% of fatal drowning cases were still open pending investigation by the coroner.

Nationally, WA accounted for 12.7% of drowning deaths in 2023/24 and recorded the fourth highest drowning rate behind Northern Territory, Tasmania and New South Wales.

Non-Fatal Drowning

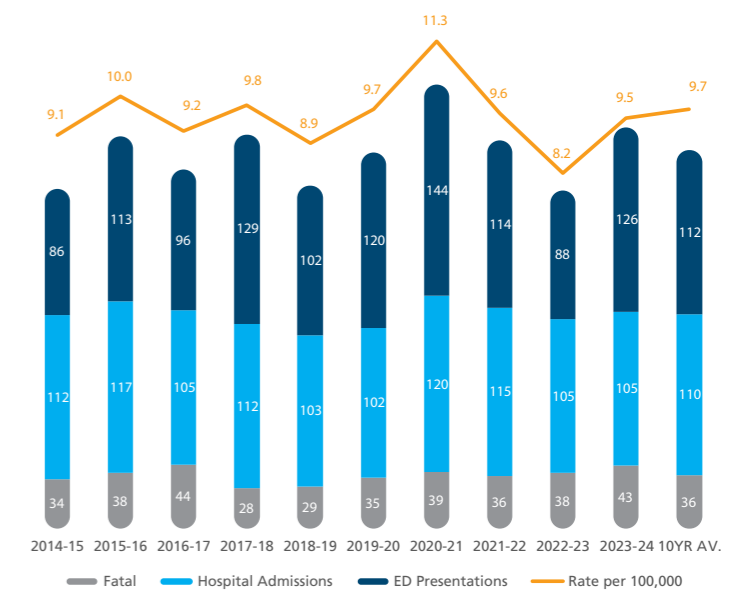
There were 231 non-fatal drowning incidents recorded in WA during 2023/24, a 19.1% increase from 2022/23.

Of these, 105 people were admitted to hospital following a non-fatal drowning incident at a rate of 3.6 per 100,000 population. This was a 3.0% decrease from 2022/23, with trends showing a 3.7% decrease in hospitalisation rates over the past decade.

In addition, 126 people presented at an emergency department following a non-fatal drowning incident at a rate of 5.4 per 100,000 population. This was a 38.5% increase from 2022/23, with trends showing a 4.9% increase in emergency department presentations over the past ten years.

For every fatal drowning death recorded in 2023/24, there were **5.4 non-fatal drowning incidents.**

Overall drowning in WA, 2014/15 to 2023/24



State and Territory breakdown, Fatal Drowning





> WHO DROWNS

Gender remains a critical factor in drowning risk, with males 2.1 times more likely to drown than females (12.7 per 100,000 compared to 6.2 per 100,000). This disparity becomes even more pronounced in fatal cases, where males were 9.7 times more likely than females to lose their lives, a pattern consistent with national and global trends.

Compared with 2022/23, drowning rates increased for both genders. Among males, rates rose by 10.4%, while among females the increase was proportionally higher at 40.9%, albeit from a much smaller base.

67.5% of those who drowned in Western Australia were male 

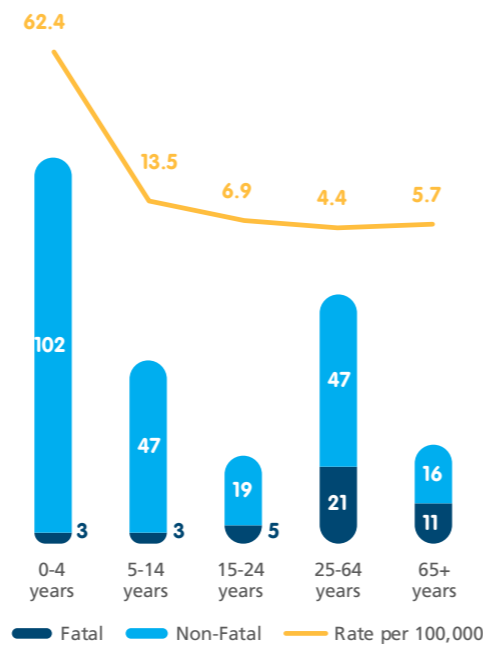
Age is also a critical factor influencing drowning risk, with certain life stages carrying heightened vulnerability. Patterns vary across the lifespan, from young children who are at risk due to dependence and inexperience, to older adults who may face increased risk linked to health conditions, reduced mobility, or greater exposure to aquatic environments.

Toddlers recorded the highest rate of drowning in 2023/24 (62.4 per 100,000) followed by older young children (13.5 per 100,000) and young people (6.9 per 100,000). Fatal drowning risk was greatest among older adults 65+ years (2.3 per 100,000), followed by toddlers aged 0-4 years (1.8 per 100,000). While last year's data showed that risk increased progressively with age, this year highlights the dual vulnerability at both ends of the lifespan.

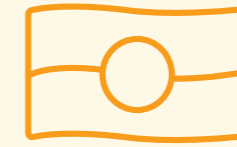
In contrast to last year, overall drowning rates for toddlers, children and young people increased from 2022/23, with the biggest increase seen amongst children and toddlers. Adults and older adults, however, experienced a decline in overall drowning rates compared with last year.

Children aged 5-14 years recorded three drowning deaths in 2023/24, compared with none in the previous year. While the numbers remain relatively low, even a small increase in fatalities at this age is concerning and reinforces the need for ongoing investment in child drowning prevention.

Drowning by Age Group, 2023/24



2.1x
MALES MORE LIKELY TO DROWN THAN FEMALES



Aboriginal Australians continue to be over-represented in drowning data with 5.5% of incidents (fatal and non-fatal) involving Aboriginal Australians, a 4.0% increase from 2022/23.

1.4 Aboriginal Australians were 1.4 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (13.7 per 100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (9.9 per 100,000).



Overall, 32.6% of drowning deaths recorded in 2023/24 **were visitors** to WA. Of these, 64.3% were travelling within WA, 14.4% were interstate visitors and 21.3% were visiting from overseas.



Of the fatal drowning deaths recorded in 2023/24, 44.2% of people involved were from **low socio-economic areas**, which was similar to last year.

Overall, 15.7% of drowning incidents (fatal and non-fatal) involved a person **born overseas**, a 9.1% decrease from 2022/23.

This was higher for fatal drowning (51.4%), where more than half of the deaths recorded in 2023/24 involved a person born overseas:

40.5% non-English speaking background

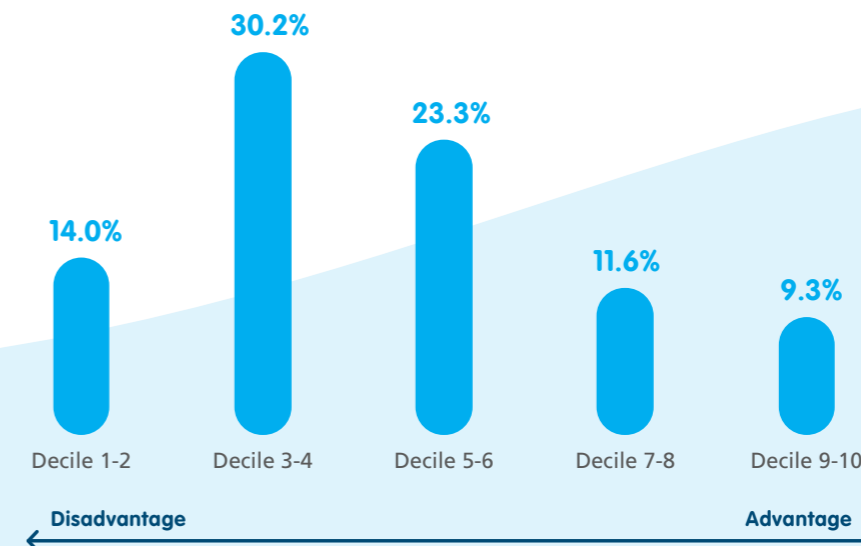


31.6% long-term resident (10+ years in Australia)



10.5% new arrival (<5 years in Australia)

Fatal Drowning by Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage decile, 2023/24



TODDLER (0-4 YEARS) DROWNING

July 2014 to June 2024



Boys were 1.3 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (27.5 per 100,000) than girls (21.9 per 100,000).

57.0% of all drowning deaths were males



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

For every toddler drowning death there were **18 toddlers** admitted to hospital following a non-fatal drowning incident.

High-risk times for drowning



50.4%
Summer months



55.9%
Weekdays



55.9%
Afternoon
12-2PM

There were **1,081 drowning incidents** recorded amongst toddlers aged 0-4 years.

There were **22** drowning deaths

and **404** hospital admissions

at a rate of **62.7** drownings per 100,000

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

Fatal Drowning

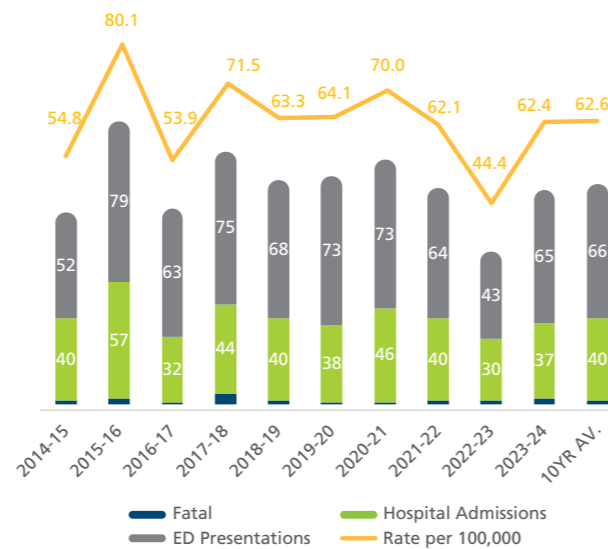
There were 22 fatal drowning incidents involving toddlers aged 0-4 years, at a rate of 1.3 per 100,000 the third highest of any age group in WA. Fatal drowning trends show that average fatal drowning rates for toddlers have reduced by 29.3% over the past ten years.

Non-Fatal Drowning

There were 1,059 non-fatal drowning incidents involving toddlers over the past ten years. Of these, 404 toddlers were admitted to hospital at a rate of 23.4 per 100,000. Both the average number and rate of toddlers being admitted to hospital following a non-fatal drowning incident have decreased by 10.3% and 8.8% respectively over the past ten years.

In addition, 655 toddlers presented at an emergency department in the Perth Metropolitan area at a rate of 47.7 per 100,000. Both the average number and rate of toddlers presenting at an emergency department following a non-fatal drowning incident have decreased by 5.6% and 5.0% respectively over the past ten years.

Toddler drowning by year, 2014/15 to 2023/24



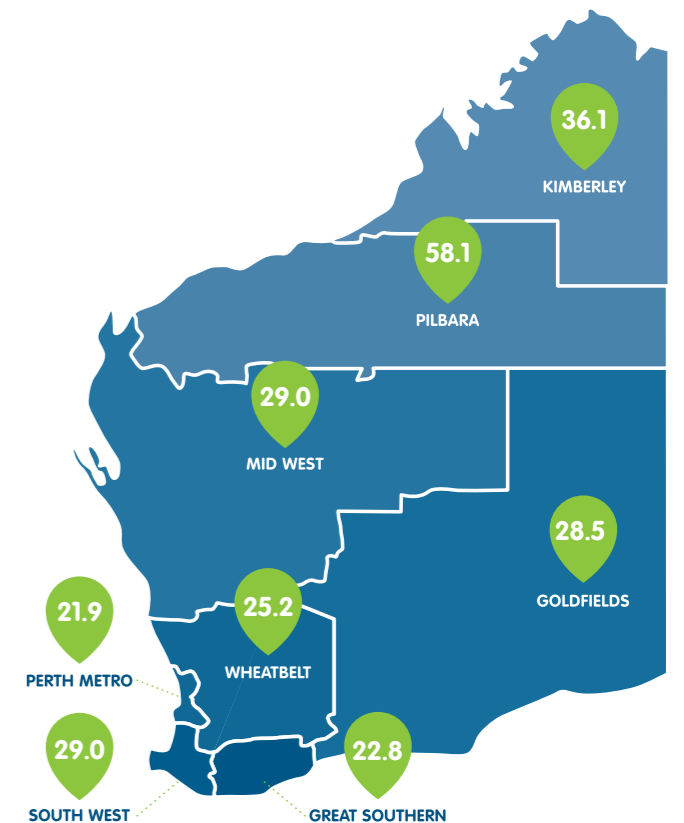
97.3% were born in Australia



2.6% were born overseas

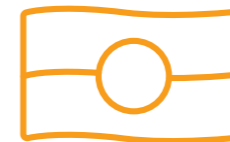
Toddler drowning was **1.5 times more likely to occur in regional WA** (32.5 per 100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (21.9 per 100,000).

Drowning by Location, 2014/15 to 2023/24 (Rate per 100,000 population)



73%

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



Overall, **7.7% of toddlers who drowned (fatal and non-fatal) were Aboriginal**, with Aboriginal toddlers 1.5 times more likely to drown (89.7 per 100,000) than non-Aboriginal toddlers (61.1 per 100,000).

Top 3 Locations



43.7% Home Swimming Pool



20.2% Bath/Shower



9.2% Inland Waterways

Fatal Drowning at Home Swimming Pools

71.4% Home

14.3% Relative's House

9.5% Neighbours Property



Aquatic rescue and **CPR was performed in 95.5%** of fatal drowning incidents involving toddlers, with family members the most common first responders, followed by neighbours.



42.1% Gate/Door propped open
10.5% Gap in fence
5.3% Gate/Door unlocked

Risk Factors for Drowning



100% Lack of supervision



27.3% Low socio-economic status



13.6% Medical conditions



4.6% Remoteness of location

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

Supervision was absent for less than five minutes in 36.4% of fatal drowning incidents, while parents were doing household chores (41.4%), caring for other children (10.3%), socialising with other adults (10.3%) or sleeping (6.9%).



CHILD (5-14 YEARS) DROWNING
July 2014 to June 2024



Boys were 2.4 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (5.7 per 100,000) than girls (2.4 per 100,000).

70.8% of all drowning deaths were males



Average length of stay in hospital was **1.4 days**.

For every child drowning death, there were **10 children admitted to hospital** following a non-fatal drowning incident.

High-risk times for drowning



48.5%
Summer months



66.7%
Weekends



66.7%
Afternoon
3-5PM

There were **332 drowning incidents** recorded amongst children aged 5-14 years.

There were **12** drowning deaths

and **125** hospital admissions

at a rate of **9.7** drownings per 100,000

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

Fatal Drowning

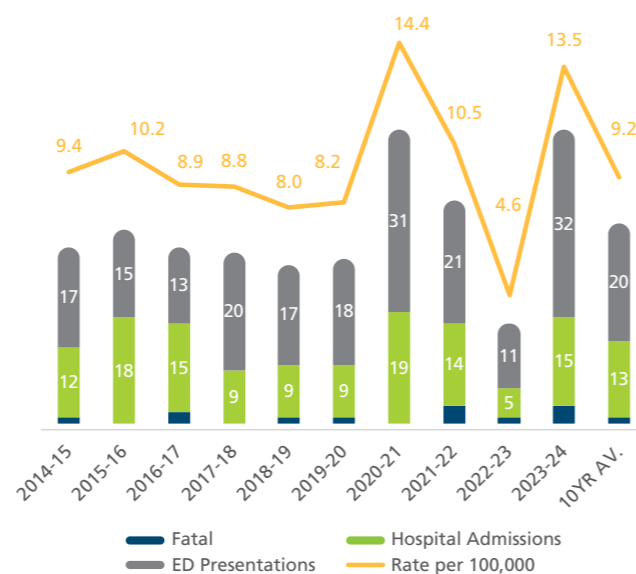
There were 12 fatal drowning incidents involving children aged 5-14 years, at a rate of 0.4 per 100,000, the lowest of any age group in WA. Fatal drowning trends show that while fatal drowning rates have remained low in WA, with an average of one death per year, there has been an 82.3% increase in the average rate of fatal drowning amongst children over the past ten years.

Non-Fatal Drowning

There were 320 non-fatal drowning incidents involving children over the past ten years. Of these, 125 children were admitted to hospital at a rate of 3.6 per 100,000. Both the average number and rate of toddlers being admitted to hospital following a non-fatal drowning incident have decreased by 1.6% and 9.5% respectively over the past ten years.

In addition, 195 children presented at an emergency department in the Perth Metropolitan area at a rate of 7.3 per 100,000. Both the average number and rate of children presenting at an emergency department following a non-fatal drowning incident have increased by 37.8% and 24.8% respectively over the past ten years.

Child drowning by year, 2014/15 to 2023/24



89.8% were born in Australia



10.2% were born overseas



25.0% were visitors traveling within WA



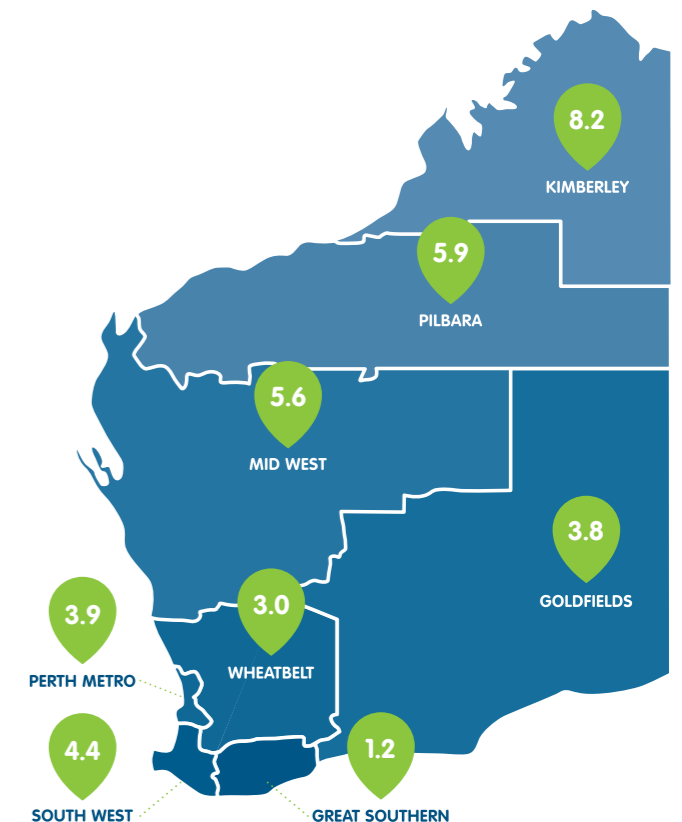
83% were aged 5-9 years




Overall, **9.6% of children who drowned (fatal and non-fatal) were Aboriginal**, however non-Aboriginal children were 1.6 times more likely to drown (10.2 per 100,000) than Aboriginal children (6.3 per 100,000).

Child drowning rates were similar in both regional WA (4.4 per 100,000) and the Perth Metropolitan area (3.9 per 100,000).

Drowning by Location, 2014/15 to 2023/24 (Rate per 100,000 population)



Top 3 Locations

 **27.7%** Home Swimming Pool

 **23.4%** Coastal

 **15.3%** Inland Waterways

Top 3 Activities

 **41.7%** Recreating

 **33.3%** Swimming

 **8.3%** Watercraft



Aquatic rescue and **CPR was attempted in almost all fatal drowning** incidents involving children (91.7%, with family members (54.6%) and members of the public (36.4%) the most common first responders.


Risk Factors for Drowning

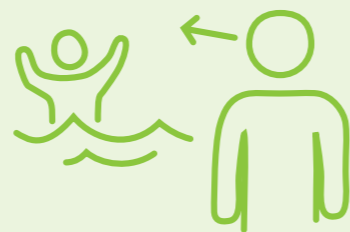
 **91.7%** Lack of supervision

 **50.0%** Poor swimming skills

 **33.3%** Participating at unfamiliar locations

 **33.3%** Medical conditions

 **33.3%** Low socio-economic status



Lack of supervision was a contributing factor in almost all (91.7%) of fatal child drowning incidents.

Supervision was absent for less than ten minutes in 36.4% of cases, while parents were socialising and/or talking on the phone (54.6%) or doing household chores (27.3%).



YOUTH DROWNING 15-24 YEARS
July 2014 to June 2024



Males were 3.4 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (6.6 per 100,000) than females (1.9 per 100,000).

78.5% of those who drowned were male



Average length of stay in hospital was **4.5 days**.

For every youth drowning death there were **3 young people admitted to hospital** following a non-fatal drowning incident.

High-risk times for drowning



42.9%
Summer months



50.0%
Weekends



60.5%
Afternoons
2-4PM

There were **228 drowning incidents** recorded amongst young people 15-24 years.

There were **38** drowning deaths

and **106** hospital admissions

at a rate of **6.9** drownings per 100,000

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

Drowning risk increased with age

10.5%

15-17 years

42.1%

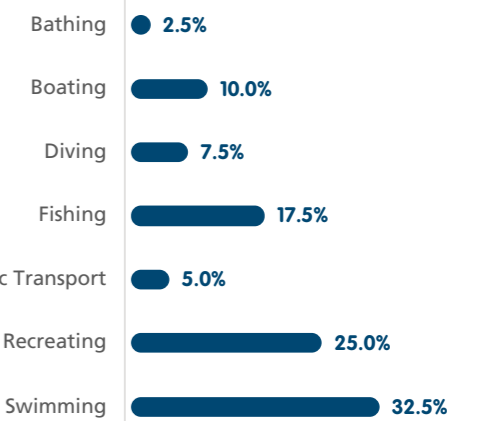
18-21 years

47.4%

22-24 years

Young people were most likely to be participating in an aquatic activity at the time of the incident, with swimming, fishing and boating the most common activities being undertaken.

Youth drowning by activity, 2014/15 to 2023/24



52.6%

employed

31.6%

students

10.5%

unemployed

Overall, **6.6% of young people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with drowning rates slightly higher for Aboriginal young people (6.9/100,000) than non-Aboriginal young people (6.8/100,000).

Multicultural communities were over-represented in youth drowning with 40.2% of young people involved in a drowning incident born overseas.



93.8% were from a non-English speaking background



Half (50.0%) were international students or on working holiday visas.



36.8% were visitors travelling within WA.

Fatal Drowning

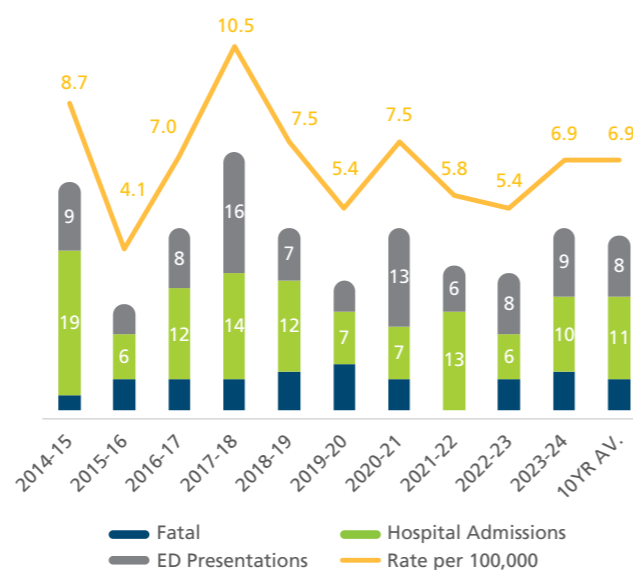
There were 38 fatal drowning incidents involving young people aged 15-24 years, at a rate of 1.2 per 100,000 the fourth highest of any age group in WA. Over the past ten years, fatal drowning rates among young people have remained relatively unchanged with a modest 1.1% increase.

Non-Fatal Drowning

There were 190 non-fatal drowning incidents involving young people over the past ten years. Of these, 106 young people were admitted to hospital at a rate of 3.2 per 100,000. Both the average number and rate of young people being admitted to hospital following a non-fatal drowning incident have decreased by 31.8% and 30.8% respectively over the past ten years.

In addition, 84 young people presented at an emergency department in the Perth Metropolitan area at a rate of 3.1 per 100,000. Both the average number and rate of young people presenting at an emergency department following a non-fatal drowning incident have decreased by 9.1% and 9.3% respectively over the past ten years.

Youth drowning by year, 2014/15 to 2023/24



Top Locations

 **30.1%** Ocean/Harbour

 **16.6%** Beach

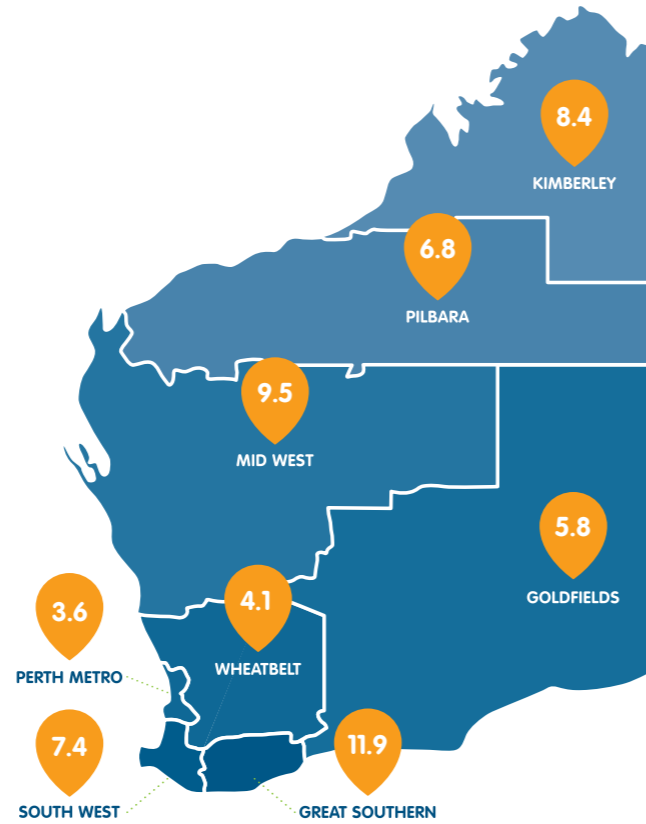
 **11.0%** River/Creek

 **9.2%** Lake/Dam



Aquatic rescue was attempted in 68.4% of fatal drowning incidents, with friends (50.0%) and bystanders/members of the public (42.3%) the most common first responders. **CPR was performed in one third of these rescues (34.2%).**

Drowning by Location, 2014/15 to 2023/24 (Rate per 100,000 population)




While a greater proportion of youth drowning incidents occurred in the Perth metropolitan area (68.5%), drowning was **2.1 times more likely to occur in regional WA** (7.6/100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (3.6/100,000).

Risk Factors for Drowning

 **55.3%** Environmental factors

 **34.2%** Participating at unfamiliar locations

 **29.0%** Low socio-economic status


- > **23.7%** Poor swimming ability
- > **23.7%** Recreational drug use
- > **18.4%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **18.4%** Participating alone
- > **15.8%** Inexperience in activity
- > **13.2%** Remoteness of location
- > **13.2%** Injury
- > **13.2%** Medical condition
- > **13.2%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)



ADULT (25-64 YEARS) DROWNING
July 2014 to June 2024



Males were 3.1 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (5.6 per 100,000) than females (1.8 per 100,000).


75.8% of those who drowned were male 

Average length of stay in hospital was **3.7 days**.

High-risk times for drowning

 **39.8%**
Summer months

 **59.7%**
Weekdays

 **40.8%**
Afternoon
2-4PM

There were **685 drowning incidents** recorded amongst adults 45-64 years.

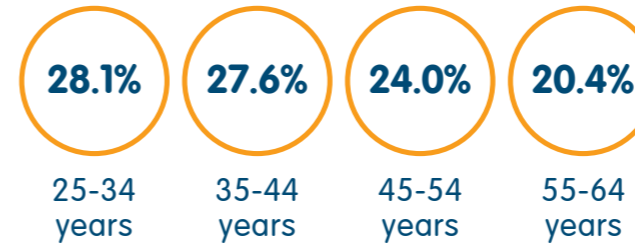
There were **196**
drowning deaths

and **340**
hospital admissions

at a rate of **4.8**
drownings per 100,000

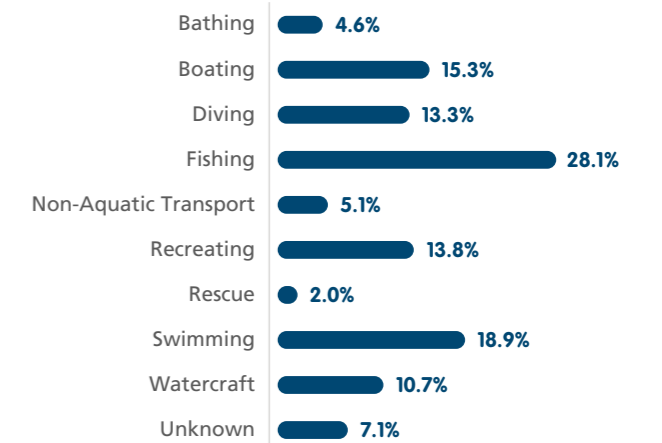
and has the **#5**
drowning rate of any age group in WA

Drowning risk increased with age



Adults were most likely to be participating in an aquatic activity at the time of the incident, with fishing, swimming, and boating the most common activities being undertaken.

Adult drowning by activity, 2014/15 to 2023/24



Overall, **4.0% of adults who drowned were Aboriginal**. Non-Aboriginal adults were four times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (5.3/100,000) than non-Aboriginal adults (1.3/100,000).

Fatal Drowning

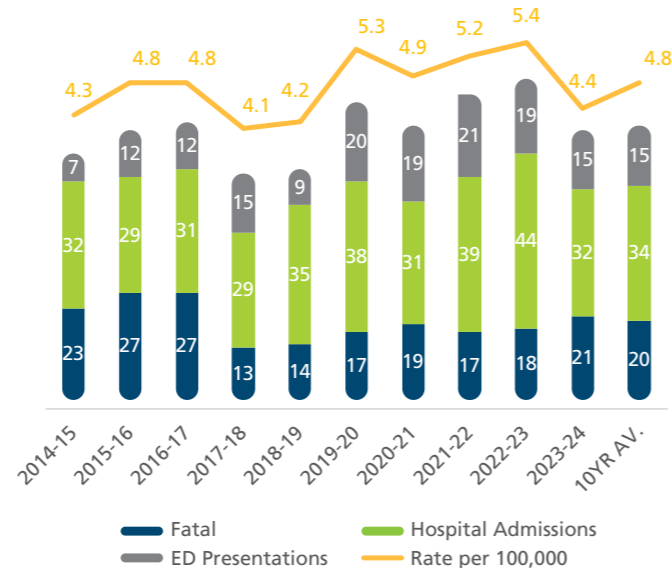
There were 196 fatal drowning incidents involving adults 25-64 years, at a rate of 1.4 per 100,000 the second highest of any age group in WA. Fatal drowning trends show that average fatal drowning rates amongst adults have decreased by 14.1% over the past ten years.

Non-Fatal Drowning


There were 489 non-fatal drowning incidents involving adults over the past ten years. Of these, 340 adults aged 25-64 years were admitted to hospital at a rate of 2.4 per 100,000. This means that on average, for every adult that died from drowning over the past ten years, there were two admitted to hospital following a non-fatal drowning incident.

In addition, 149 adults aged 25-64 years presented at an emergency department in the Perth Metropolitan area at a rate of 1.3 per 100,000.


Adult drowning by year, 2014/15 to 2023/24



Multicultural communities were over-represented in adult drowning with 41.3% born overseas.

 65.9% were from a non-English speaking background

 48.2% were long term residents having lived in Australia for 10 or more years.

 32.1% of people drowned while travelling within WA

Top Locations



32.8% Ocean/Harbour



21.6% Beach



13.2% River/Creek

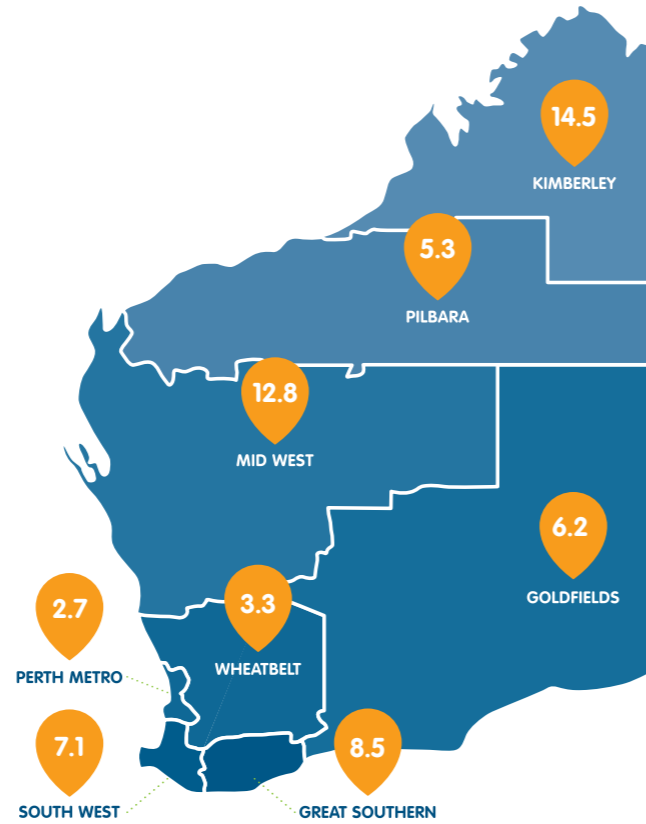


5.8% Lake/Dam



Aquatic rescue was attempted in 58.7% of fatal drowning incidents, with bystanders/members of the public (53.9%) and family members (23.5%) and friends (28.7%) the most common first responders. **CPR was performed in two thirds of these rescues (67.8%).**

Drowning by Location, 2014/15 to 2023/24 (Rate per 100,000 population)



While a greater proportion of adult drowning incidents occurred in the Perth metropolitan area (58.6%), **drowning was 2.8 as likely to occur in regional WA** (7.6/100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (2.7/100,000).

Risk Factors for Drowning



43.4% Environmental factors



40.3% Participating alone



35.2% Remote locations

- > **29.6%** Medical condition
- > **28.1%** Low socio-economic status
- > **20.9%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **20.4%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **18.4%** Recreational drug use
- > **17.4%** Poor swimming ability
- > **16.3%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **11.2%** Injury
- > **10.4%** Inexperience in activity



OLDER ADULT (65+ YEARS) DROWNING
July 2014 to June 2024



Males were four times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (8.7 per 100,000) than females (2.2 per 100,000).

79.2% of those who drowned were male



Average length of stay in hospital was **4.5 days**.

15.1% of older adults admitted to hospital **experienced brain injury** as a result of the non-fatal drowning incident.

High-risk times for drowning



38.7%
Summer months



65.3%
Weekdays



40.0%
Mornings
9-11AM

There were **253 drowning incidents** recorded amongst older adults over 65 years.

There were **95** drowning deaths

and **121** hospital admissions

at a rate of **6.4** drownings per 100,000

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

Drowning risk decreased with age

56.8%

65-74 years

34.7%

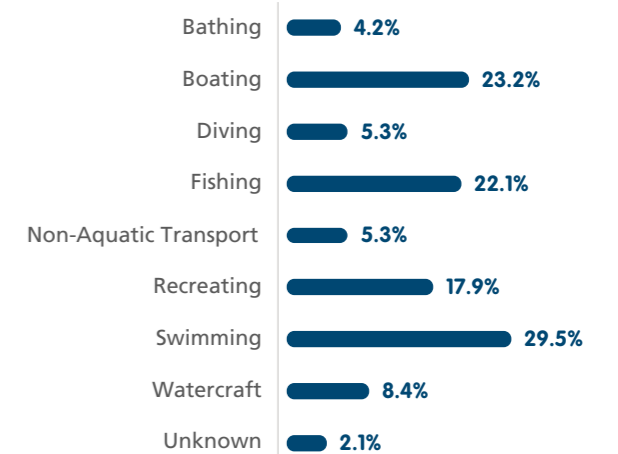
75-84 years

8.4%

85-94 years

Older adults were most likely to be participating in an aquatic activity at the time of the incident, with swimming, fishing and boating the most common activities being undertaken.

Older adult drowning by activity, 2013/14 to 2022/23



82.81%

retired

13.7%

employed

2.1%

unemployed

Overall, there were no drowning incidents amongst older adults involving Aboriginal Australians.

Fatal Drowning

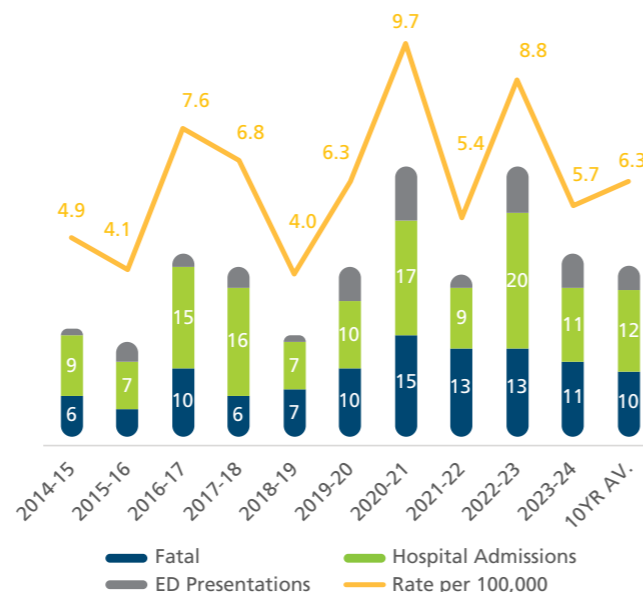
There were 95 fatal drowning incidents involving older adults 65 years and over, at a rate of 2.4 per 100,000, the highest of any age group in WA. Fatal drowning trends show that average fatal drowning rates amongst older adults have increased by 53.2% over the past ten years.

Non-Fatal Drowning

There were 158 non-fatal drowning incidents involving young people over the past ten years. Of these, 121 older adults aged 65 years and over were admitted to hospital at a rate of 3.1 per 100,000.

In addition, 37 older adults aged 65 years and over presented at an emergency department in the Perth Metropolitan area at a rate of 1.2 per 100,000.

Older adult drowning by year, 2014/15 to 2023/24



Multicultural communities were over-represented in drowning amongst older adults with almost half (47.2%) born overseas.



58.1% were from a non-English speaking background



Two thirds (67.4%) were long term residents having lived in Australia for 10 or more years



14.7% of people drowned while travelling within WA

Top Locations



38.9% Ocean/Harbour



17.6% Beach



12.0% Home Pool

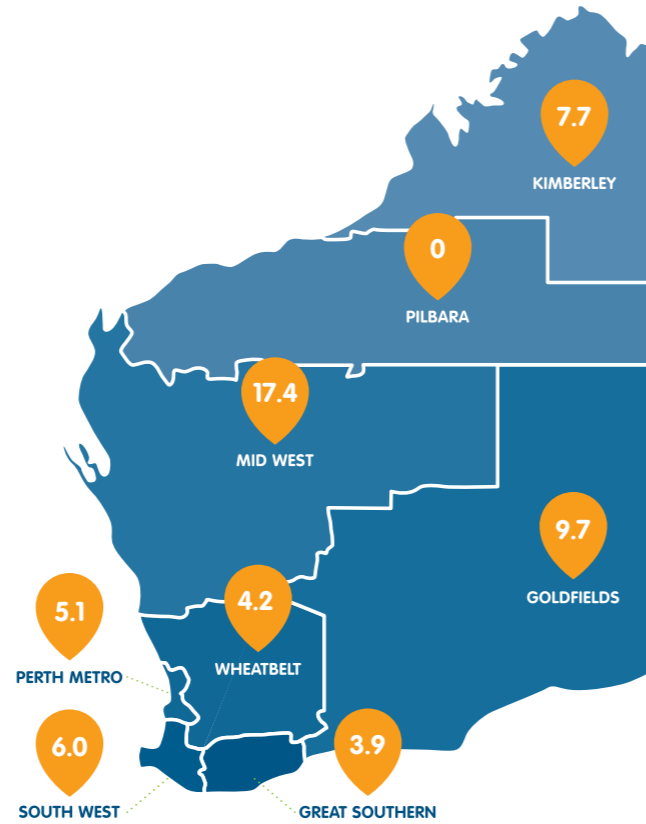


8.8% River/Creek



Aquatic rescue was attempted in 65.3% of fatal drowning incidents, with bystanders/members of the public (41.9%) and family members (25.8%) the most common first responders. **CPR was performed in almost all these rescues (90.3%).**

Drowning by Location, 2014/15 to 2023/24 (Rate per 100,000 population)



While a greater proportion of drowning incidents amongst older adults occurred in the Perth Metropolitan area (73.8%), **drowning was 1.3 times more likely to occur in regional WA** (6.6/100,000) than the Perth Metropolitan area (5.1/100,000).

Risk Factors for Drowning



81.1% Medical condition



63.2% Participating alone



25.3% Environmental factors

- > **24.2%** Low socio-economic status
- > **22.1%** Remoteness of location
- > **13.7%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **13.7%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **11.6%** Poor swimming ability
- > **8.4%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **8.4%** Injury



DROWNING IN PEOPLE BORN OVERSEAS
July 2014 to June 2024



Males were three times more likely to drown than females.

75.7% of those who drowned were male



Average length of stay in hospital was **4.0 days**.

5.4% of incidents involved a multiple fatality.

High-risk times for drowning



38.1%
Summer months



57.1%
Weekdays



40.3%
Afternoons
1-3PM

There were **362 drowning incidents** recorded involving people born overseas.

There were **149** drowning deaths

and **213** hospital admissions

at a rate of **3.9** drownings per 100,000

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

Fatal Drowning

There were 149 fatal drowning incidents involving people born overseas, at a rate of 1.6 per 100,000 and representing 42.2% of all drowning deaths recorded in WA over the past decade. Fatal drowning trends show that average fatal drowning rates amongst people born overseas have increased by 19.2% over the past ten years, while drowning rates amongst those born in Australia have decreased by 8.4%.

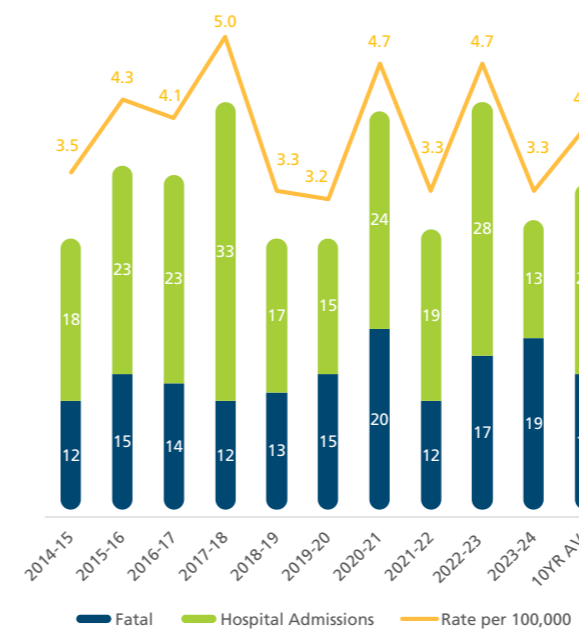
Overall, people born overseas were 1.4 times more likely to be involved in a fatal drowning incident (1.6/100,000) than those born in Australia (1.1/100,000).

Non-Fatal Drowning

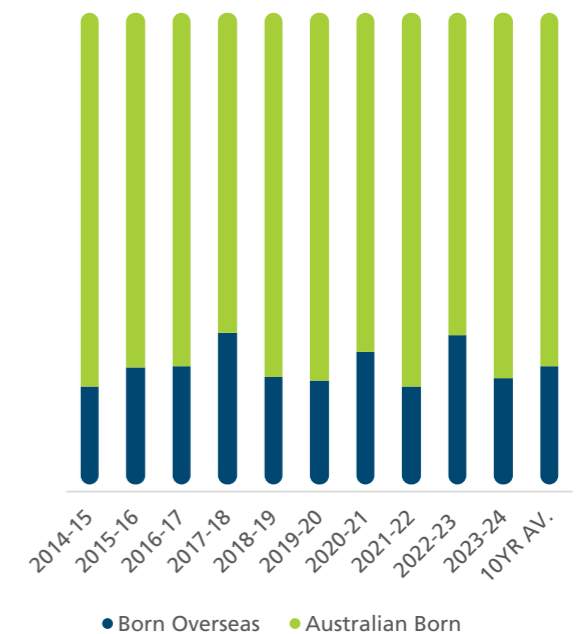
There were 213 people born overseas admitted to hospital following a non-fatal drowning incident over the past ten years, at rate of 2.3/100,000 and representing 19.4% of all non-fatal drowning related hospital admissions over the past ten years. Non-fatal drowning trends show that average rates amongst people born overseas have decreased by 17.5%, while rates amongst those born in Australia have remained stable.

Overall, people born in Australia were 2.1 times more likely to be involved in a non-fatal drowning incident (4.9/100,000) than those born overseas (2.3/100,000).

People born overseas drowning by year, 2014/15 to 2023/24



Proportion of drowning, 2014/15 to 2023/24



Half (50.7%) of drowning incidents involving people born overseas were from a non-English speaking background.

People involved in a fatal drowning incident were most likely to be long term residents having lived in Australia for more than 10 years (47.7%).

11.4% were new arrivals having lived in Australia for less than five years.

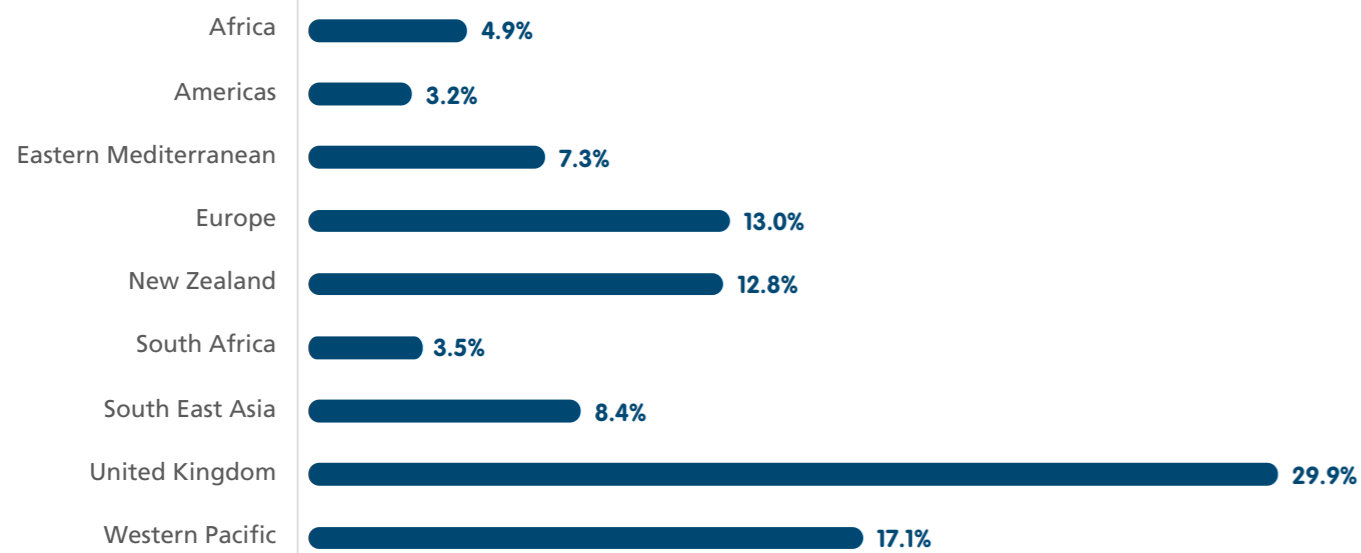


12.8% were in Australia on working or international student visas.

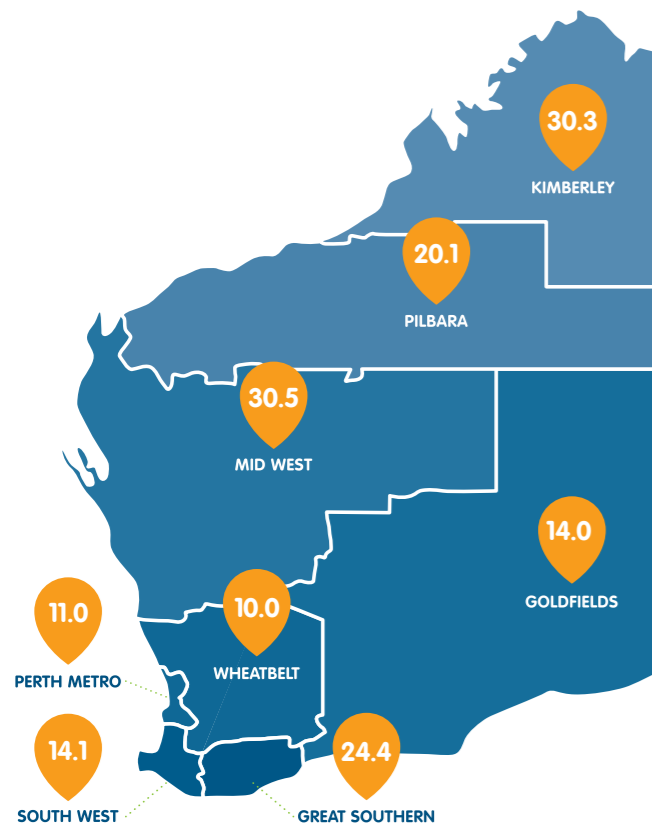


6.0% were overseas tourists holidaying in Australia.

Country of birth



Drowning by Location, 2014/15 to 2023/24 (% of total drowning deaths)

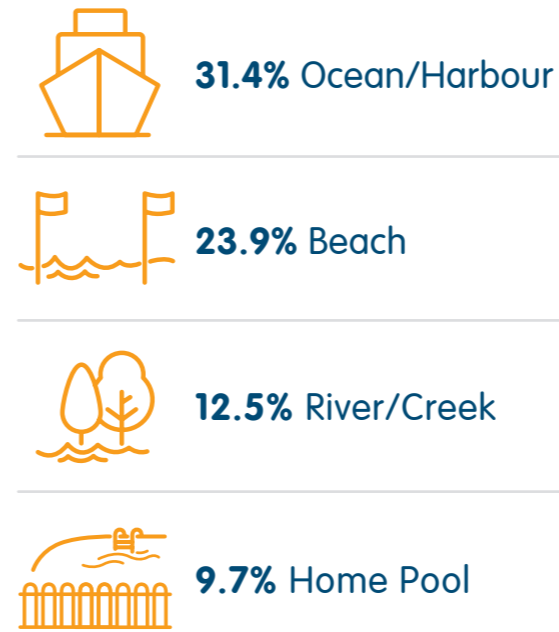


The proportion of people born overseas involved in drowning (fatal and non-fatal) increased with age (proportion of overall drowning).

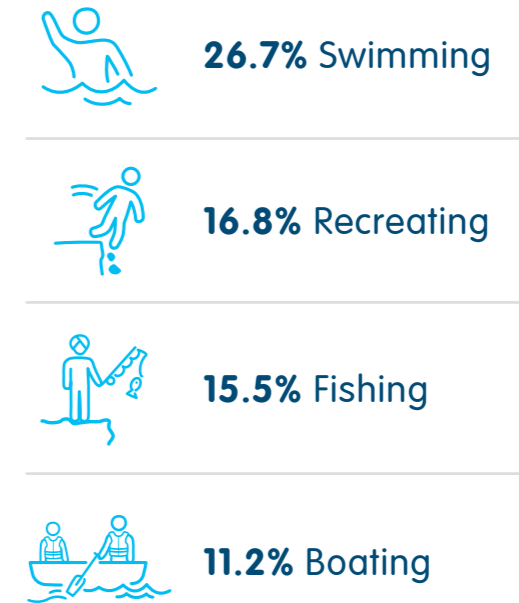
- 2.1% Toddlers (0-4 years)
- 20.4% Children (5-14 years)
- 18.8% Young People (15-24 years)
- 37.9% Adults (45-64 years)
- 46.0% Older Adults (65+ years)

Drowning incidents involving people born overseas were **1.7 times more likely to occur in regional WA** (11.0/100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (18.4/100,000). This was higher for fatal drowning where drowning rates were 3.4 times higher in regional WA (11.8/100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (3.4/100,000).

Top Locations



Top Activities



Aquatic rescue was attempted in 66.4% of fatal drowning incidents, with bystanders/members of the public (41.4%) and professional staff such as lifeguards (32.2%) the most common first responders. **CPR was performed in 72.7% of these rescues.**

Risk Factors for Drowning

- 45.1% Environmental factors
 - 48.1% Participating alone
 - 42.9% Medical condition
- > 32.3% Poor swimming ability
 - > 32.3% Participating at unfamiliar locations
 - > 22.3% Remoteness of location
 - > 22.1% Low socio-economic status
 - > 18.8% Inexperience in activity
 - > 14.3% Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
 - > 13.5% Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
 - > 6.0% Injury



> SECTION THREE: When and where does drowning occur

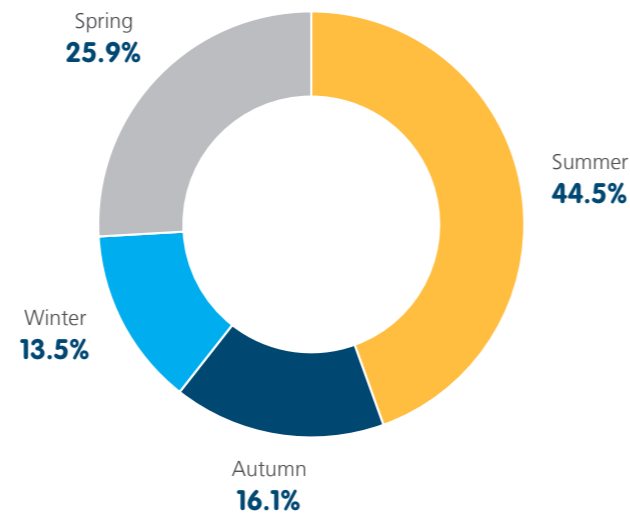
> WHEN AND WHERE DOES DROWNING OCCUR

Nearly half (44.5%) of drowning incidents occurred in summer, a period marked by hot weather, long days, and holidays that draw people to the water. With increased activity, unfamiliar environments, and alcohol use all common during this season, the risk of drowning is significantly heightened, underlining the importance of targeted prevention efforts.

Fatal drowning incidents were more likely to occur on weekdays (55.8%), however the most common days for drowning were Saturday (23.3%), Sunday (20.9%), and Friday (18.6%). This figure is double the proportion recorded in 2022/23. In addition, 14.0% of fatal drownings occurred on a public holiday or long weekend, the majority of which took place during the Christmas and New Year period (83.3%).

Fatal drowning was most likely to occur in the afternoon (39.5%) or morning (25.6%) with 1-2pm and 10-11am the highest risk times for drowning.

Drowning by season, 2023/24



High-risk times for drowning



Summer months



Saturday and Sunday



Morning 10-11am
Afternoon 1-2pm

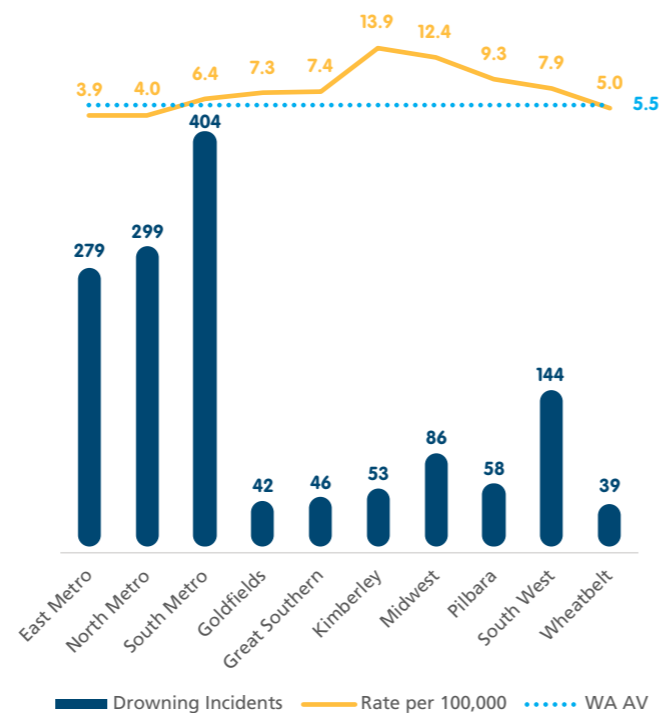
Metro vs. regional aquatic location

Drowning risk is disproportionately higher in regional WA compared with the Perth metropolitan area, reflecting differences in aquatic environments, access to services, and water safety resources. While a higher proportion for drowning (fatal and non-fatal) occurred in the Perth metropolitan area (67.1%), rates of drowning were higher in regional WA where people were twice as likely to drown (8.4 per 100,000) than in the Perth metropolitan area (4.2 per 100,000). Interestingly, the rate of drowning in regional areas increased by 18.3% compared to 2022/23, while metropolitan Perth rate remained steady.

This disparity becomes even more pronounced in fatal cases where people were 4.1 times more likely to die from drowning in regional WA (3.7 per 100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (0.9 per 100,000).

In 2023/24, the Goldfields region recorded the highest drowning rate (12.2 per 100,000), followed by the Kimberley (10.1 per 100,000) and South West (10.0 per 100,000). However, when looking at long-term trends over the past decade, the Kimberley, Midwest, and Pilbara consistently reported the highest overall drowning rates (fatal and non-fatal), while the Wheatbelt, East Metropolitan, and North Metropolitan regions recorded the lowest.

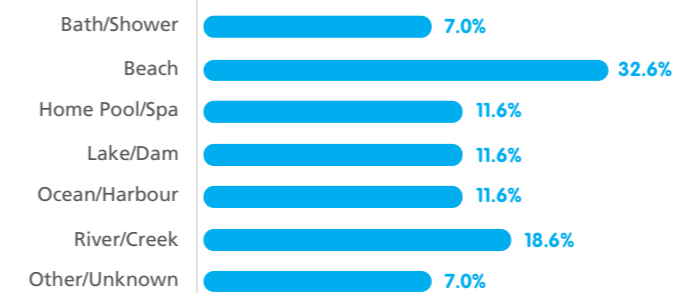
Drowning by health region, 2014/15 to 2023/24



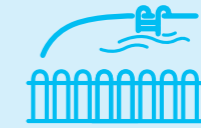
The proportion of drowning incidents occurring in remote or very remote locations almost halved in 2023/24, with 18.6% recorded in these areas (down from 34.5% in 2022/23). While this represents a positive reduction, people living in or travelling to remote areas continue to face heightened risk due to increased exposure to natural waterways, limited access to swimming and water safety programs, and longer emergency response times. Ongoing investment in regional and remote prevention strategies, including education and community engagement, remains critical to sustaining this downward trend.

Fatal drowning incidents were most likely to occur at coastal (44.2%) and inland (30.3%) waterways with beaches (32.6%), river/creek (18.6%) and home pools (11.6%) the most common locations for drowning. For non-fatal drowning, home pools (27.6%), bath/shower (20.0%) and large areas of water (17.1%) were the most common locations for drowning.

Fatal drowning by aquatic location, 2022/23



Top 3 Aquatic Locations (Fatal and Non-Fatal)



23.0%
Home Pool

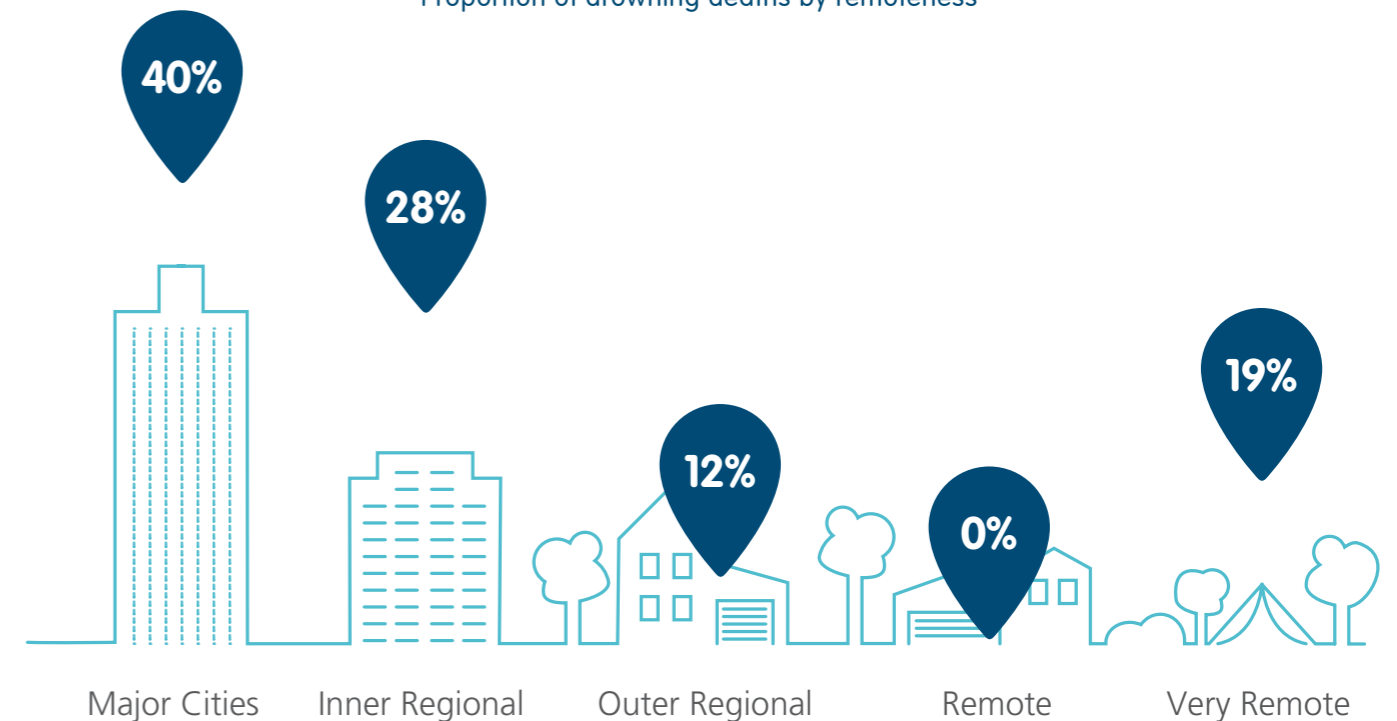


18.2%
Beach



15.5%
Ocean/Harbour

Proportion of drowning deaths by remoteness





Males were 3.5 times more likely to drown than females.

76.9% of all drowning deaths were males



High-risk times for drowning



49.5%
Summer months



59.3%
Weekdays



44.0%
Afternoon
1-3PM

There were 235 **drowning incidents** recorded at inland waterway locations.

There were
91
drowning
deaths

and
144
hospital
admissions

at a rate of
0.97
drownings per
100,000

representing
16%
of total drownings
recorded in WA

Fatal Drowning

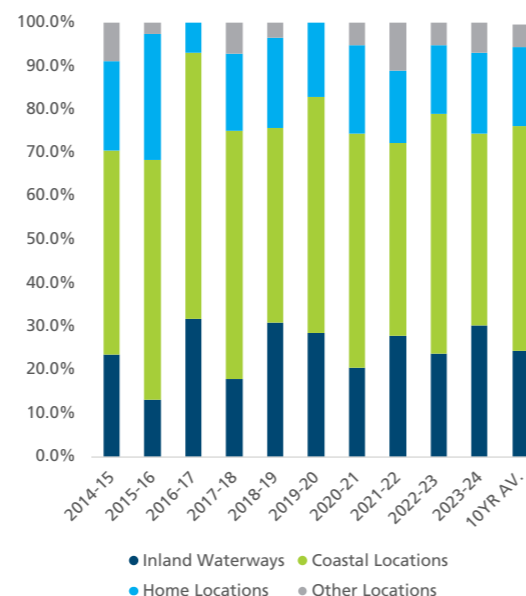
There were 91 fatal drowning incidents occurring at inland waterways at a rate of 0.4 per 100,000 and representing 25.0% of all drowning deaths recorded in WA over the past decade.

Fatal drowning trends show that both the average number and proportion of fatal drowning incidents occurring at inland waterway locations have increased over the past ten years, by 22.0% and 11.4% respectively.

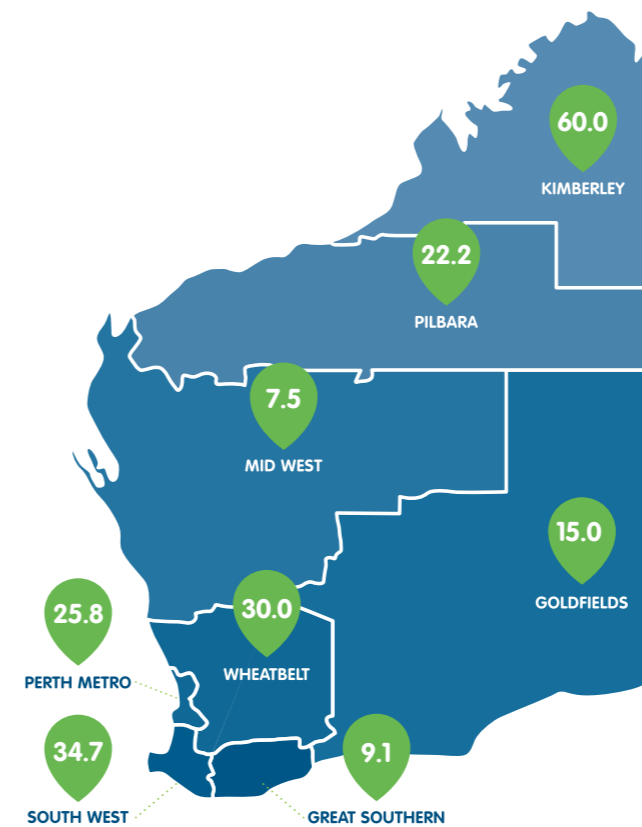
Non-Fatal Drowning

There were 144 people admitted to hospital following a non-fatal drowning incident at an inland waterway location over the past ten years, at rate of 0.6/100,000 and representing 13.1% of all non-fatal drowning related hospital admissions over the past ten years.

Proportion of fatal drowning at inland waterways, 2014/15 to 2023/24



Drowning by Location, 2014/15 to 2023/24 (% of total drowning deaths)



Top 3 Waterways

- #1 Swan River
- #2 Ord River
- #3 Karijini

Overall, 11.0% of people who drowned at inland waterways were Aboriginal, with **Aboriginal Australians 3.6 times more likely** to be involved in a drowning incident (1.2/100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (0.3/100,000).

Overall, 51.7% of drowning occurred at inland waterways in the Perth metropolitan area, however, **drowning was 3.6 times more likely to occur at an inland waterway** in regional WA (0.8/100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (0.2/100,000).

Multicultural communities were over-represented in drowning deaths at inland waterway locations with almost half (51.1%) born overseas.



71.1% were from a non-English speaking background



48.9% were long term residents having lived in Australia for 10 or more years.



27.5% of people drowned while travelling within WA


Top Locations

 **59.1%** River/Creek

 **37.9%** Lake/Dam


 **2.2%** Other

Top Activities

 **26.4%** Swimming

 **24.1%** Recreating

 **14.3%** Non-Aquatic Transport

 **Adults aged 25-44 years and children aged 5-14 years were most at risk of drowning at inland waterway locations.**
(% of total drownings)

4.6 Toddlers (0-4 years)

41.7 Children (5-14 years)

39.5 Young People (15-24 years)

48.7 Adults (25-64 years)

16.8 Older Adults (65+ years)

Overall, 51.7% of drowning occurred at inland waterways in the Perth metropolitan area, however, **drowning was 3.6 times more likely to occur at an inland waterway** in regional WA (0.8/100,000) than the Perth metropolitan area (0.2/100,000).

Risk Factors for Drowning

 **45.1%** Environmental factors

 **40.7%** Participating alone

 **37.4%** Low socio-economic status

- > **29.7%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **27.5%** Medical condition
- > **23.1%** Remoteness of location
- > **22.0%** Poor swimming ability
- > **19.8%** Recreational drug use
- > **16.5%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **14.3%** Injury
- > **12.1%** Inexperience in activity
- > **9.9%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **8.8%** Flood-related





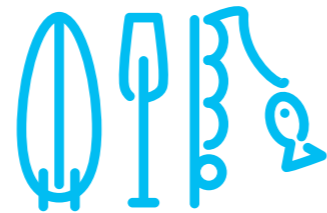
ACTIVITIES: HOW PEOPLE DROWN

Examining the activities people were engaged in when drowning occurred provides important insight into risk. Whether swimming, boating, fishing, or undertaking everyday tasks near water, each activity presents unique hazards that inform targeted prevention strategies.

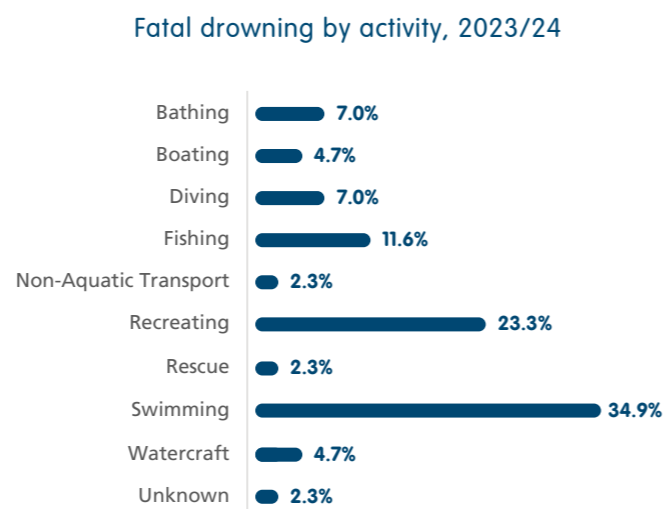
Swimming was the leading activity associated with fatal drowning incidents (34.9%), followed by recreating around water or accidental falls into water (23.3%) and fishing (11.6%). These activities reflect both their popularity in Western Australia and the risks associated with unpatrolled environments, unpredictable conditions, and limited use of safety equipment such as lifejackets.

The majority of people who drowned had intentionally entered the water to participate in an aquatic activity (67.4%). Among those who did not intend to enter the water, more than half (58.3%) slipped or fell, while 16.7% were swept in by water and another 16.7% were involved in a crash. These incidents highlight the risks of unintentional entry and the importance of safe infrastructure, hazard awareness, and improved safety behaviours around waterways.

For non-fatal drowning, 28.6% were participating in a water sport and 11.4% were participating in a leisure activity at the time of the incident.



The majority of people who drowned had intentionally entered the water to participate in an aquatic activity (67.4%)



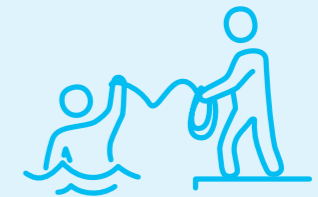
RESCUE AND RESPONSE

A rescue was attempted in just over half (55.8%) of fatal drowning incidents recorded in 2023/24, a 13.2% decrease from last year. Members of the public were most likely to attempt a rescue (45.8%) followed by friends (25.0%) and/or family members (25.0%).

In 39.5% of incidents, however, no rescue attempt was made. Contributing factors included individuals participating alone, dangerous conditions that posed risks to potential rescuers, limited swimming ability, or lack of access to rescue and safety equipment. These challenges highlight the barriers to safe and effective rescue, particularly in unpatrolled or high-risk environments.

Where a rescue was performed, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was attempted in 83.3% of cases. CPR was most often provided by emergency services personnel such as police, ambulance officers, or lifeguards (55.0%), followed by members of the public (40.0%). In cases where CPR was not performed, the most common reasons were an inability to retrieve the person from the water or the individual being clearly deceased upon recovery.

These findings highlight the vital role of community members in responding to drowning emergencies and reinforce the importance of widespread CPR training, access to rescue equipment, and public education to support safe and effective bystander intervention.



A rescue was attempted in **69.0%** of fatal drowning incidents



Where a rescue was performed, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was attempted in **83.3%** of cases

Risk Factors for Drowning

Drowning risk is shaped by a combination of personal, environmental, and behavioural factors. Examining these influences provides critical insight into who is most at risk and the circumstances that contribute to drowning incidents, helping to guide more effective prevention strategies.

The most common risk factors for drowning in 2023/24 were being alone, low socio-economic status, and the presence of medical conditions. Combined with poor swimming ability, environmental hazards, and alcohol use, these findings reinforce the need for prevention strategies that address both individual behaviours and broader social and environmental risks.



46.5%
Participating alone



44.2%
Low socio-economic status



34.9%
Medical conditions

- > **25.6%** Poor swimming ability
- > **20.9%** Environmental factors such as poor weather and/or water conditions
- > **18.6%** Remoteness of location
- > **18.6%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **14.0%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **11.6%** Inexperience in activity
- > **9.3%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket wear
- > **9.3%** Injury

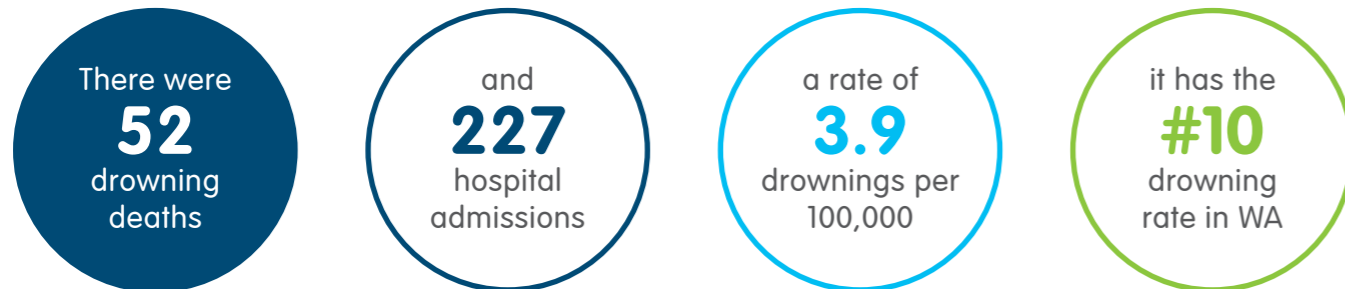






Photo: Swan River, East Perth

There were **279 drowning incidents** recorded in the Perth Metropolitan - East region.

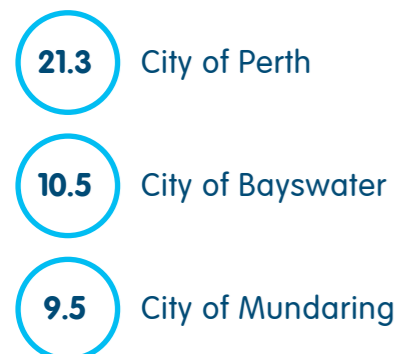


Males (5.1/100,000) were **1.9 times more likely to drown** than females (2.6/100,000)

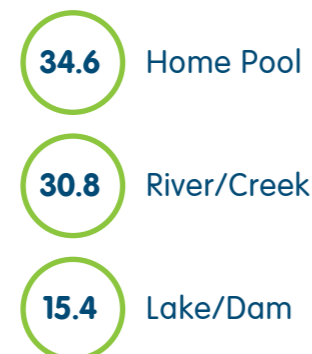
66.3% of those who drowned in Perth Metro East were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)



Top 3 locations (%)



Top 3 activities (%)



71.7% were born in Australia



27.3% were born overseas



Of these, **79.2%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **4.7% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with Aboriginal Australians (86/100,000) were 2.3 times more likely to drown than non-Aboriginal Australians (3.8/100,000).

Tourists and/or visitors to the area were involved in 11.5% of fatal drowning incidents, which is significantly lower than the state average (33.2%).

Rescue Attempted (71.2%)
CPR performed (53.9%)

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



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers, children, and older adults.
(Rate per 100,000)



20.2 Toddlers (0-4 years)



3.9 Children (5-14 years)



2.8 Young People (15-24 years)



2.3 Adults (25-64 years)



3.0 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



46.6% Summer months



65.4% Weekdays
15.4% Public Holiday



50.0% Afternoons
12PM - 6PM

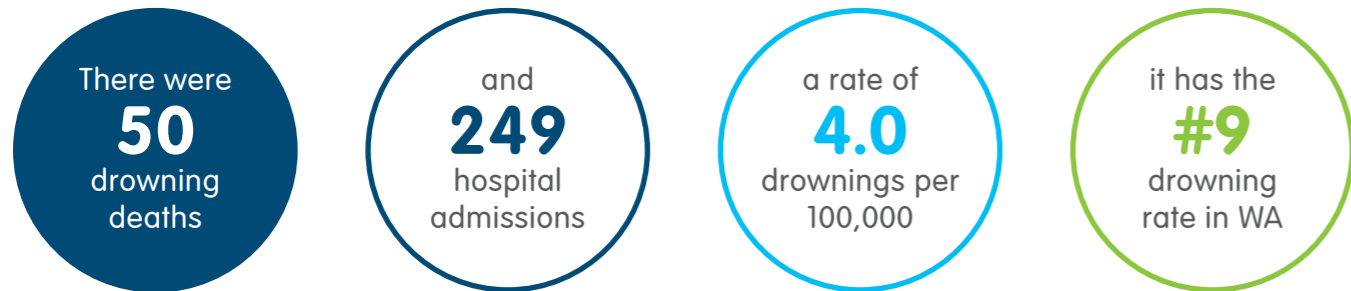
Key risk factors for drowning

- > **63.5%** Participating alone
- > **46.2%** Medical condition
- > **28.9%** Poor swimming ability
- > **23.1%** Low socio-economic status
- > **21.2%** Lack of supervision
- > **19.2%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **15.4%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
- > **9.6%** Faulty or absent barrier
- > **9.6%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **7.7%** Injury
- > **3.9%** Inexperience with activity

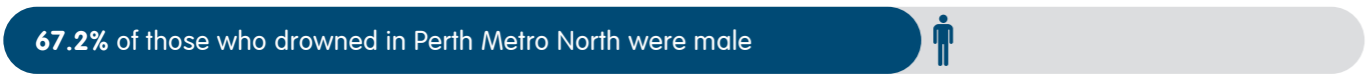


Photo: Two Rocks Marina

There were **299 drowning incidents** recorded in the Perth Metropolitan - North region.



Males (5.5/100,000) were **2.1 times likely to drown** than females (2.6/100,000)



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)	Top 3 locations (%)	Top 3 activities (%)
56.1 Peppermint Grove	36.0 Beach	35.9 Swimming
12.5 Town of Cambridge	26.0 Home Pool	30.2 Recreating
9.8 City of Joondalup	14.0 Ocean/Harbour	9.4 Fishing



Overall, **2.0% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with Aboriginal Australians (7.3/100,000) were 1.8 times more likely to drown than non-Aboriginal Australians (4.0/100,000).

Tourists and/or visitors to the area were involved in 10.0% of fatal drowning incidents, which is significantly lower than the state average (33.2%).

Rescue Attempted (78.0%)
CPR performed (74.0%)

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



High-risk times for drowning



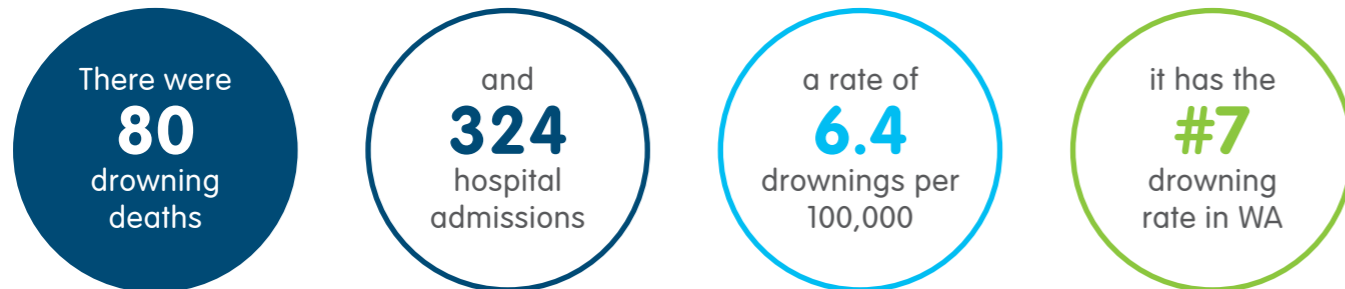
Key risk factors for drowning

- > **66.0%** Participating alone
- > **60.0%** Medical condition
- > **34.0%** Poor swimming ability
- > **30.0%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
- > **14.0%** Lack of supervision
- > **12.0%** Low socio-economic status
- > **10.0%** Faulty or absent barrier
- > **10.0%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **8.0%** Inexperience with activity
- > **6.0%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **6.0%** Injury
- > **2.0%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)



Photo: Cockburn Sound

There were **404 drowning incidents** recorded in the Perth Metropolitan - South region.



Males (8.8.0/100,000) were **2.6 times more likely to drown** than females (3.4/100,000)

71.8% of those who drowned in Perth Metro South were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- 44.1** City of Waroona
- 24.8** City of Fremantle
- 20.4** City of Mandurah

Top 3 locations (%)

- 35.0** Ocean/Harbour
- 21.3** Beach
- 16.3** River/Creek

Top 3 activities (%)

- 27.2** Boating
- 20.7** Fishing
- 17.4** Recreating



75.7% were born in Australia



23.3% were born overseas



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

Overall, **4.5% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with Aboriginal Australians (16.0/100,000) 1.8 times more likely to drown than non-Aboriginal Australians (6.2/100,000).

Tourists and/or visitors to the area were involved in 15.0% of fatal drowning incidents, which is significantly lower than the state average (33.2%).

Rescue Attempted (65.0%)
CPR performed (52.5%)

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



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers, older adults, and children.

(Rate per 100,000)



28.4 Toddlers (0-4 years)



4.4 Children (5-14 years)



4.4 Young People (15-24 years)



3.7 Adults (25-64 years)



6.5 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



41.3% Summer months



65.0% Weekdays
8.8% Public Holiday



47.5% Afternoons
12PM - 6PM

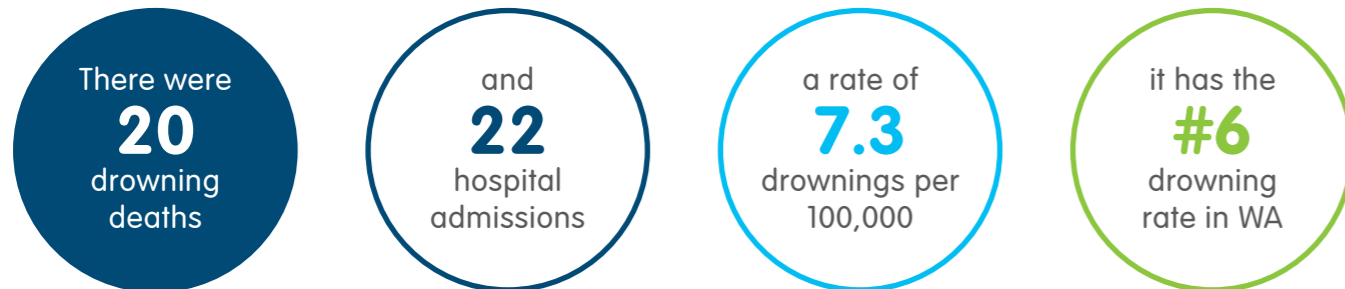
Key risk factors for drowning

- > **48.8%** Participating alone
- > **43.8%** Medical condition
- > **22.5%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
- > **20.0%** Low socio-economic status
- > **17.5%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **16.3%** Poor swimming ability
- > **16.3%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **10.0%** Injury
- > **8.8%** Inexperience with activity
- > **8.8%** Lack of supervision
- > **8.8%** Remoteness of location
- > **7.5%** Faulty or absent barrier
- > **6.3%** Participating at unfamiliar locations



Photo: Wharton Bay, Cape Le Grand

There were **42 drowning incidents** recorded in the Goldfields region.

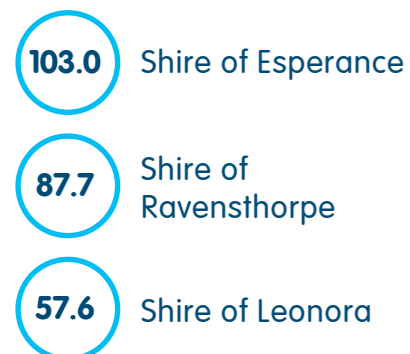


Males (11.2/100,000) were **3.5 times more likely to drown** than females (3.2/100,000)

81.0% of those who drowned in Goldfields were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)



Top 3 locations (%)



Top 3 activities (%)



78.6% were born in Australia



21.4% were born overseas



Of these, **83.3%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **9.5% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with drowning rates the same for both Aboriginal Australians (7.3/100,000) and non-Aboriginal Australians (7.3/100,000).

Tourists and/or visitors to the area were involved in 55.0% of fatal drowning incidents, which is higher than the state average (33.2%).

Rescue Attempted (80.0%)
CPR performed (30.0%)

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



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers, older adults, and young people.

(Rate per 100,000)



28.5 Toddlers (0-4 years)



3.8 Children (5-14 years)



5.8 Young People (15-24 years)



5.3 Adults (25-64 years)



9.7 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



42.9% Summer months



55.0% Weekends
15.0% Public Holiday



60.0% Afternoons
12PM - 6PM

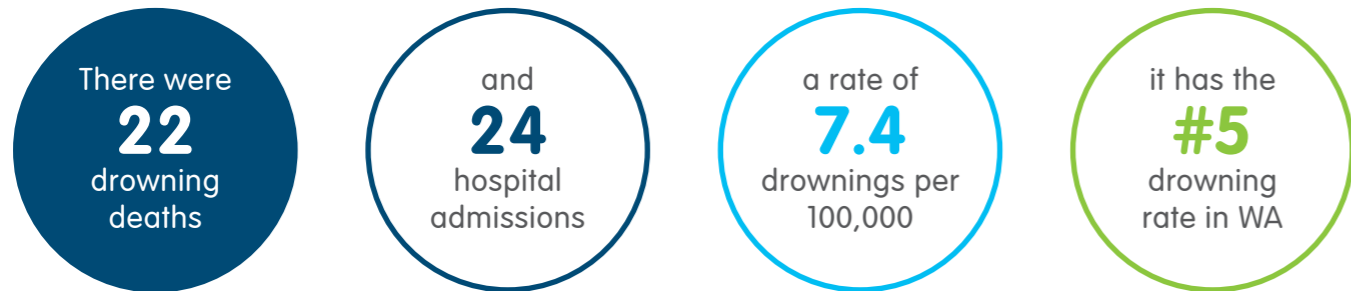
Key risk factors for drowning

- > **95.0%** Remoteness of location
- > **60.0%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
- > **40.0%** Participating alone
- > **30.0%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **30.0%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **25.0%** Medical condition
- > **20.0%** Poor swimming ability
- > **20.0%** Low socio-economic status
- > **15.0%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **10.0%** Inexperience with activity
- > **10.0%** Flood-related



Photo: Salmon Bay, Albany

There were **46 drowning incidents** recorded in the Great Southern region.



Males (11.0/100,000) were **2.9 times more likely to drown** than females (3.4/100,000)

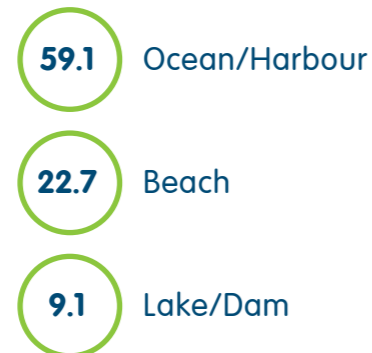
73.9% of those who drowned in Great Southern were male



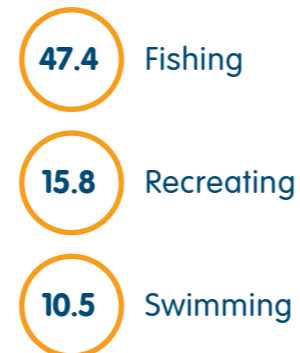
Top 2 local areas (per 100,000)



Top 3 locations (%)



Top 3 activities (%)



65.2% were born in Australia



34.8% were born overseas



Of these, **72.7%** were from a non-English speaking country

There were no drowning incidents involving Aboriginal Australians recorded in the Great Southern region.

Tourists and/or visitors to the area were involved in 54.6% of fatal drowning incidents, which is higher than the state average (33.2%).

Rescue Attempted (63.6%)
CPR performed (36.4%)

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



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers, young people and adults
(Rate per 100,000)



22.8 Toddlers (0-4 years)



1.2 Children (5-14 years)



11.9 Young People (15-24 years)



7.9 Adults (25-64 years)



3.9 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



37.0% Autumn months



59.1% Weekends
13.6% Public Holiday



50.0% Afternoons
12PM - 6PM

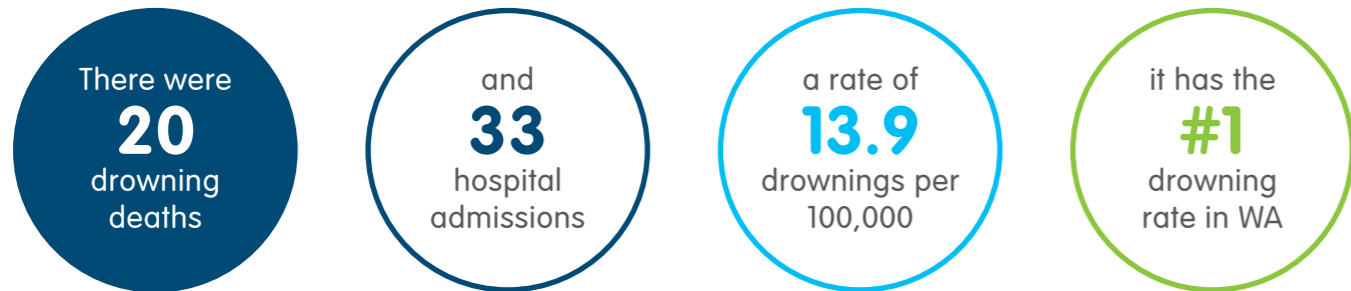
Key risk factors for drowning

- > **63.6%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
- > **45.5%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **45.5%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **27.3%** Participating alone
- > **27.3%** Medical condition
- > **18.2%** Poor swimming ability
- > **18.2%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **13.6%** Low socio-economic status
- > **9.1%** Inexperience with activity



Photo: Ivanhoe Crossing

There were **53 drowning incidents** recorded in the Kimberley region.

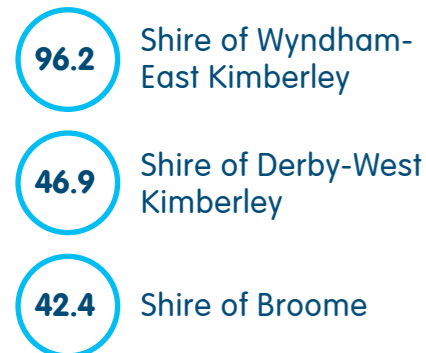


Males (18.9/100,000) were **2.4 times more likely to drown** than females (7.9/100,000)

71.7% of those who drowned in Kimberley were male



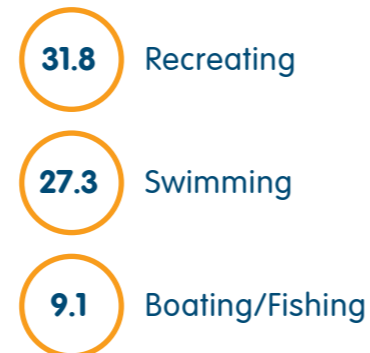
Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)



Top 3 locations (%)



Top 3 activities (%)



81.1% were born in Australia



18.9% were born overseas



Of these, **50.0%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **41.5% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with drowning rates slightly higher for Aboriginal Australians (14.3/100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (13.6/100,000).

Tourists and/or visitors to the area were involved in 45.0% of fatal drowning incidents, which is higher than the state average (33.2%).

Rescue Attempted (50.0%)
CPR performed (25.0%)

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



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers, children, young people and adults
(Rate per 100,000)



36.1 Toddlers (0-4 years)



8.2 Children (5-14 years)



8.4 Young People (15-24 years)



14.4 Adults (25-64 years)



7.7 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



41.5% Summer months



60.0% Weekends
5.0% Public Holiday



30.0% Afternoons
12PM-6PM

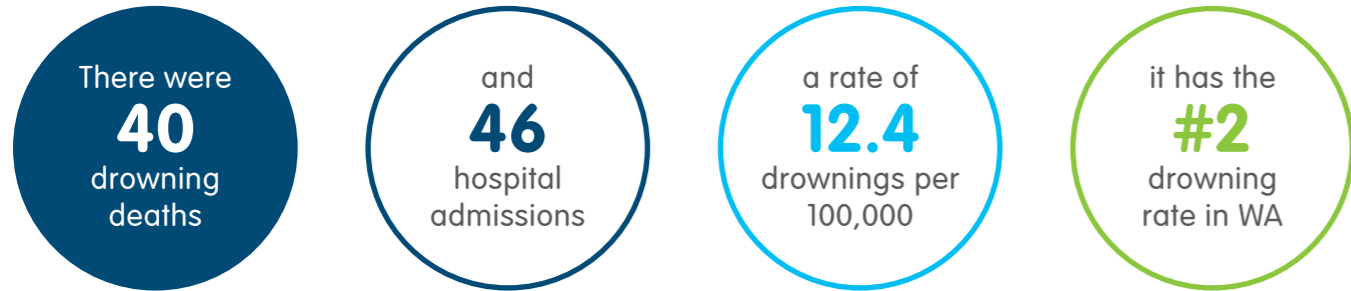
Key risk factors for drowning

- > **100.0%** Remoteness of location
- > **70.0%** Low socio-economic status
- > **70.0%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
- > **40.0%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **30.0%** Participating alone
- > **30.0%** Medical condition
- > **20.0%** Flood-related
- > **15.0%** Injury
- > **5.0%** Poor swimming ability
- > **5.0%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **5.0%** Lack of supervision
- > **5.0%** Participating at unfamiliar locations



Photo: Shark Bay

There were **86 drowning incidents** recorded in the Midwest region.



Males (19.6/100,000) were **3.2 times more likely to drown** than females (6.2/100,000)



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)	Top 3 locations (%)	Top 3 activities (%)
267.9 Shire of Carnarvon	45.0 Ocean/Harbour	25.0 Diving
266.7 Shire of Coorow	40.0 Beach	23.1 Fishing
252.4 Shire of Exmouth	5.0 Lake/Dam	23.1 Boating

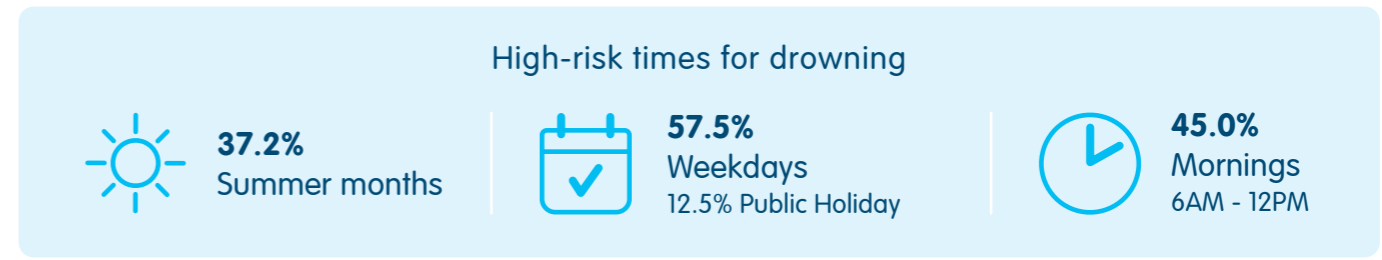


Overall, **11.6% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with drowning rates were slightly lower for Aboriginal Australians (11.7/100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (12.5/100,000).

Tourists and/or visitors to the area were involved in 55.0% of fatal drowning incidents, which is higher than the state average (33.2%).

Rescue Attempted (57.5%)
CPR performed (52.5%)

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

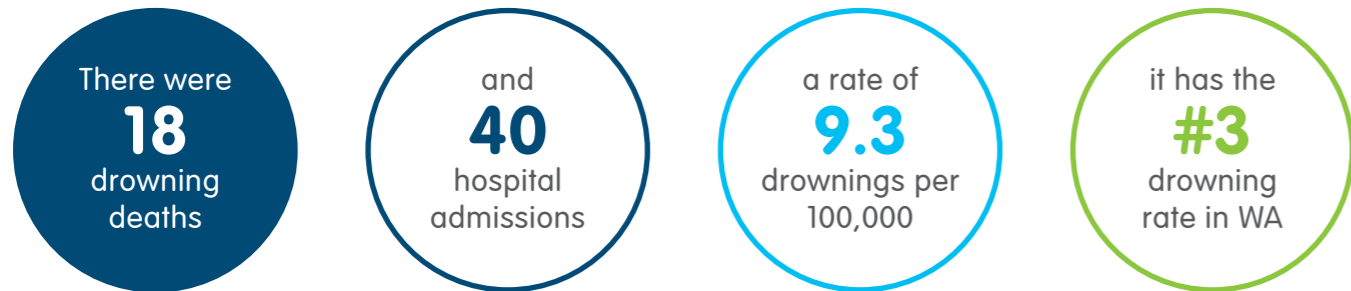


- Key risk factors for drowning**
- > **77.5%** Remoteness of location
 - > **55.0%** Medical conditions
 - > **42.5%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
 - > **42.5%** Low socio-economic status
 - > **37.5%** Participating alone
 - > **27.5%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
 - > **20.0%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
 - > **15.0%** Injury
 - > **15.0%** Inexperience with activity
 - > **10.0%** Poor swimming ability
 - > **7.5%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
 - > **2.5%** Lack of supervision
 - > **2.5%** Faulty or absent barrier



Photo: Karijini National Park

There were **58 drowning incidents** recorded in the Pilbara region.

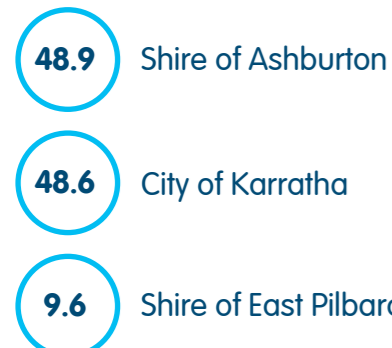


Males (10.2/100,000) were **2.5 times more likely to drown** than females (4.1/100,000)

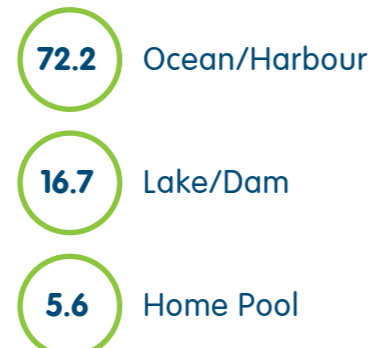
65.5% of those who drowned in Pilbara were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)



Top 3 locations (%)



Top 3 activities (%)



82.8% were born in Australia



17.2% were born overseas



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

Overall, **22.4% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with Aboriginal Australians 1.9 times more likely to be involved in a drowning incident (16.0/100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (8.2/100,000).

Tourists and/or visitors to the area were involved in 72.2% of fatal drowning incidents, which is more than double the state average (33.2%).

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

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



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers, young people, and children
(Rate per 100,000)



58.3 Toddlers (0-4 years)



5.9 Children (5-14 years)



6.8 Young People (15-24 years)



5.1 Adults (25-64 years)



0.0 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



39.7% Summer months



50.0% Weekdays
11.1% Public Holiday



33.3% Early Morning
12AM - 6AM

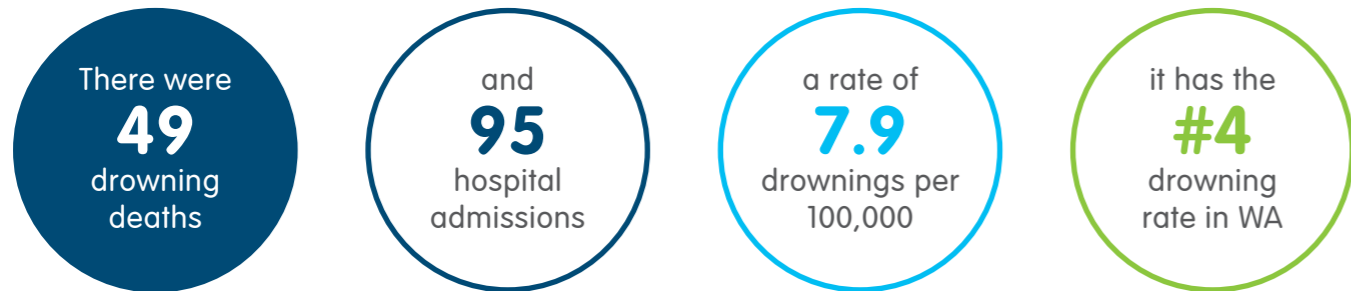
Key risk factors for drowning

- > **100.0%** Remoteness of location
- > **55.6%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
- > **44.4%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **33.3%** Low socio-economic status
- > **27.8%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **22.2%** Participating alone
- > **22.2%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **16.7%** Poor swimming ability
- > **16.7%** Inexperience with activity
- > **16.7%** Injury
- > **5.6%** Medical condition
- > **5.6%** Lack of supervision
- > **5.6%** Faulty or absent barrier



Photo: Logue Brook Dam, Dwellingup

There were **144 drowning incidents** recorded in the South West region.



Males (12.0/100,000) were **4.8 times more likely to drown** than females (2.5/100,000)



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)

- 63.0** Shire of Manjimup
- 61.8** Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
- 42.5** Shire of Collie

Top 3 locations (%)

- 38.8** Beach
- 22.5** Ocean/Harbour
- 20.4** Lake/Dam

Top 3 activities (%)

- 23.1** Watercraft
- 19.2** Swimming
- 17.3** Fishing

80.6% were born in Australia

19.4% were born overseas

Of these, **58.8%** were from a non-English speaking country

Overall, **1.4% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with drowning rates lower for Aboriginal Australians (4.9/100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (7.9/100,000).

Tourists and/or visitors to the area were involved in 49.0% of fatal drowning incidents, which is higher than the state average (33.2%).

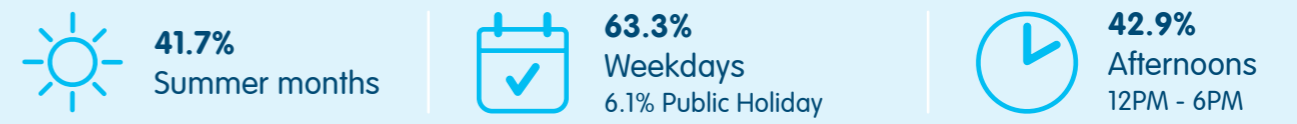
Rescue Attempted (65.3%)
CPR performed (44.9%)

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

Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers, young people and adults
(Rate per 100,000)

- 29.0** Toddlers (0-4 years)
- 4.4** Children (5-14 years)
- 7.4** Young People (15-24 years)
- 7.1** Adults (25-64 years)
- 6.0** Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



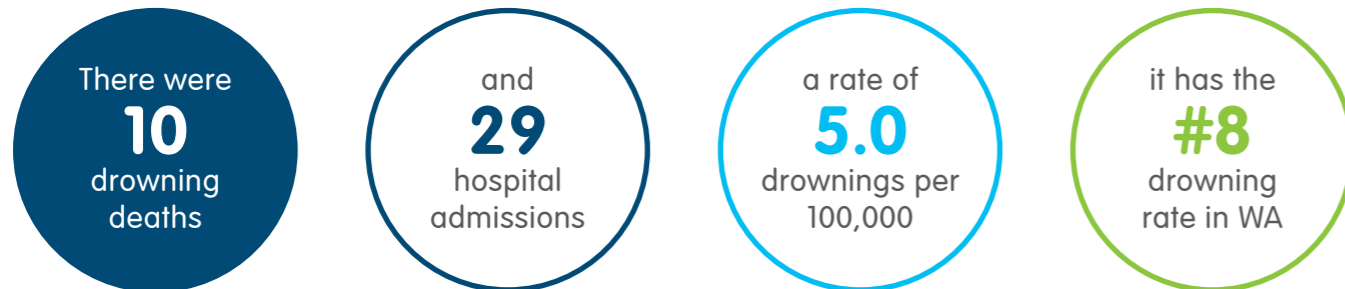
Key risk factors for drowning

- > **42.9%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
- > **38.8%** Participating alone
- > **32.7%** Low socio-economic status
- > **30.6%** Medical condition
- > **24.5%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **18.4%** Lack of safety equipment including lifejacket use
- > **18.4%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **16.3%** Poor swimming ability
- > **16.3%** Injury
- > **10.2%** Inexperience with activity
- > **6.1%** Lack of supervision
- > **4.1%** Remoteness of location
- > **2.1%** Faulty or absent barrier
- > **2.1%** Flood-related



Photo: Cervantes Beach

There were **39 drowning incidents** recorded in the Wheatbelt region.

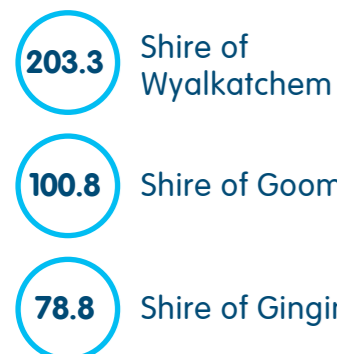


Males (6.9/100,000) were **twice as likely to drown** than females (3.5/100,000)

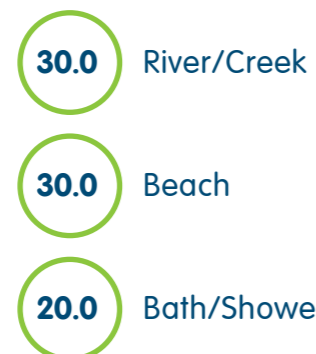
66.7% of those who drowned in Wheatbelt were male



Top 3 local areas (per 100,000)



Top 3 locations (%)



Top 3 activities (%)



71.8% were born in Australia



28.2% were born overseas



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

Overall, **2.6% of people who drowned were Aboriginal**, with drowning rates lower for Aboriginal Australians (2.9/100,000) than non-Aboriginal Australians (5.1/100,000).

Tourists and/or visitors to the area were involved in 60.0% of fatal drowning incidents, which is more than double the state average (33.2%).

Rescue Attempted (50.0%)
CPR performed (40.0%)

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



Drowning risk was greatest amongst toddlers, older adults and young people
(Rate per 100,000)



25.2 Toddlers (0-4 years)



3.0 Children (5-14 years)



4.1 Young People (15-24 years)



3.8 Adults (25-64 years)



4.2 Older Adults (65+ years)

High-risk times for drowning



43.6% Summer months



60.0% Weekdays
20.0% Public Holiday



50.0% Afternoons
12PM - 6PM

Key risk factors for drowning

- > **60.0%** Participating alone
- > **50.0%** Low socio-economic status
- > **50.0%** Poor swimming ability
- > **30.0%** Medical condition
- > **30.0%** Environmental factors such as poor weather/water conditions
- > **30.0%** Lack of supervision
- > **20.0%** Participating at unfamiliar locations
- > **20.0%** Inexperience with activity
- > **10.0%** Consumption of alcohol (BAC >0.05)
- > **10.0%** Remoteness of location
- > **10.0%** Faulty or absent barrier
- > **10.0%** Flood-related



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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