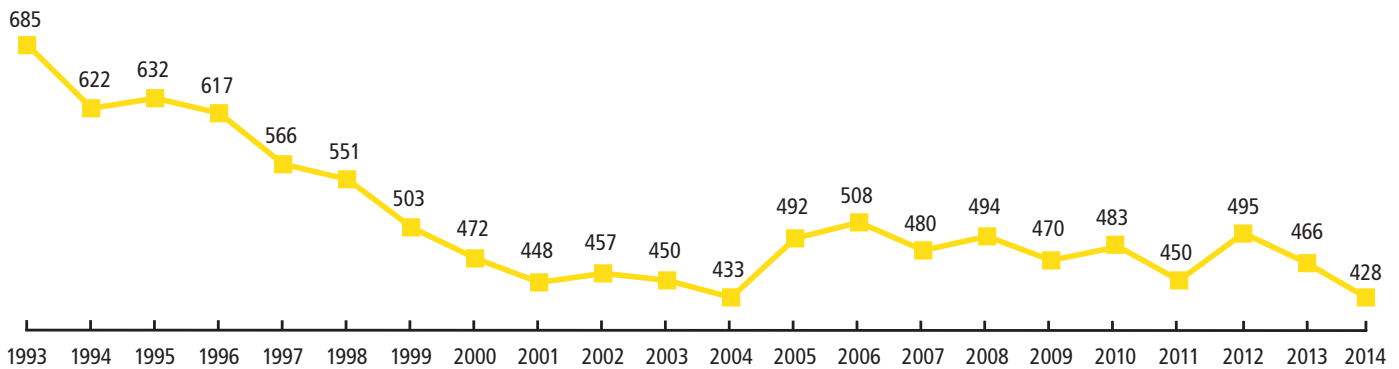


DROWNING REPORT

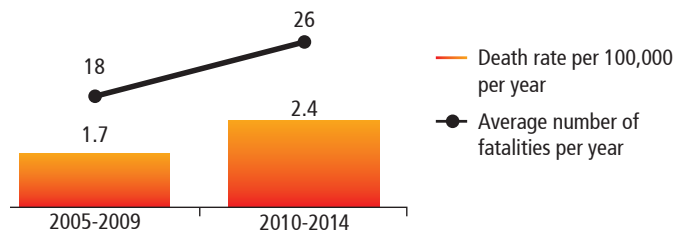
Prepared for the Lifesaving Society Canada by the Drowning Prevention Research Centre

Canadian Totals 1993 - 2014



The most recent data available from the Office of the Chief Coroner of Saskatchewan reveals that the drowning death rate has increased in recent years, culminating in a drastic spike to 34 water-related fatalities in 2014, the most recent year for which data is available.

Saskatchewan Water-Related Fatalities and Death Rates, Five-Year Averages

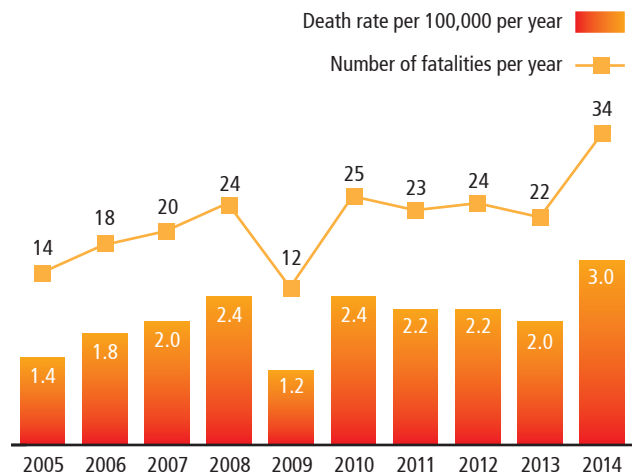


Looking at the most current five years (2010-2014) of data as a whole, the average water-related fatality rate has increased by 41% over the previous five-year period. The average drowning rate for 2010-2014 was 2.4 per 100,000 population, up from 1.7 in 2005-2009. This rate is higher than the national average of 1.4 per 100,000. A total of 128 unintentional water-related fatalities occurred in Saskatchewan waters between 2010 and 2014.

Preliminary interim data

For drowning deaths since 2014, only preliminary, interim data from media and internet reports are available. In Saskatchewan, these numbers indicate that at least 14 drowning deaths occurred in 2015 and at least 9 in 2016.

Saskatchewan Water-Related Fatalities and Death Rates 2005-2014



WHO is drowning?



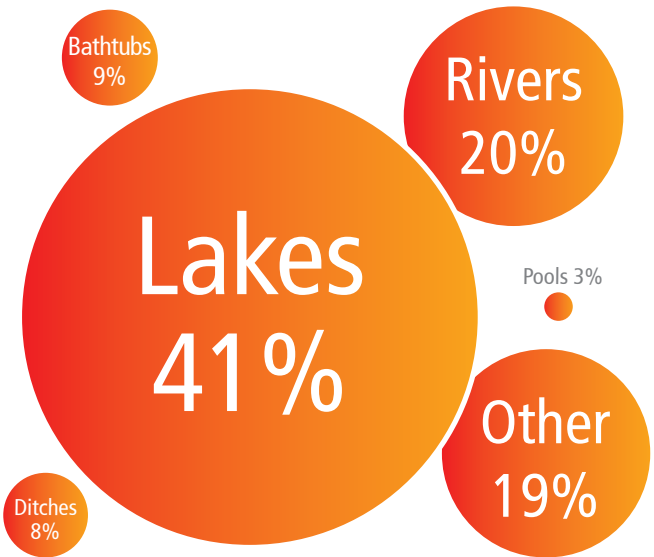
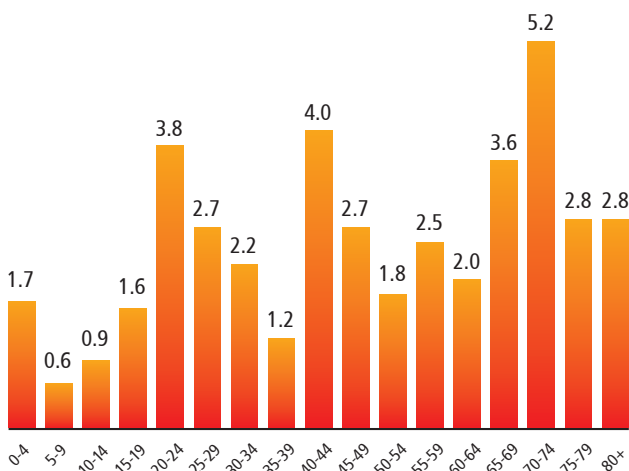
Consistent with previous years, the vast majority (83%) of Saskatchewan drowning deaths occurred among males. This is consistent with national trends; approximately 8 of 10 Canadian drowning victims were male. Between 2010 and 2014, the average water-related fatality rate for males in Saskatchewan was 3.9 per 100,000 population compared to 0.8 for females.

By age, the highest drowning rates in Saskatchewan continue to be found among young adults 20-24 years old (3.8 per 100,000) and older adults 70-74 years old (5.2 per 100,000). Young adults are a common high-risk age group for drowning in many provinces, but the water-related fatality rate for 20-24 year-olds was particularly high in Saskatchewan and double the national average for that age group (1.8 per 100,000).

The drowning rate among children under the age of 5 in Saskatchewan was also higher than that of most other provinces. In the 2010-2014 period, the average water-related fatality rate for children under 5 was 1.7 per 100,000, compared to a national drowning rate of 1.1 per 100,000 in this age group. Unlike most other provinces where the majority of child drowning fatalities occur in private backyard pools, the most common sites for drowning among young children in Saskatchewan were lakes and bathtubs.

Water-Related Death Rate By Age, 2010-2014

— Average death rate per 100,000 per year



WHERE are they drowning?

Natural bodies of water continued to account for the largest proportion of drowning deaths in Saskatchewan in 2010-2014 (61%). Lakes and ponds claimed the greatest number of lives — almost half of all water-related fatalities occurred in this setting (41%). Fewer drowning deaths occurred in rivers and streams (20%). In 2014, 10 people drowned in a lake or pond (29%) and 10 drowned in a slough (29%).

Drowning fatalities in man-made settings such as bathtubs (9%), ditches and culverts (8%), and pools (3%) continued to be less common than drowning deaths in natural bodies of water in 2010-2014. In 2014 there were no ditch- or pool-related drowning deaths in Saskatchewan. However, looking at the 2010-2014 period as a whole, a greater proportion of ditch-related (8%) drowning deaths occurred in Saskatchewan than most other provinces. Comparatively, about 3% of all Canadian water-related fatalities occurred in a ditch or culvert. Almost two-thirds (60%) of all ditch drowning deaths in Saskatchewan occurred among young adults 20-34 years of age, and 70% occurred as the result of a motor vehicle leaving the road and entering the water.

Drowning fatalities in lifeguard-supervised settings continue to be rare: in 2010-2014 less than 2% of drowning deaths in Saskatchewan occurred under lifeguard supervision.

In the 2010-2014 period, water-related fatalities in Saskatchewan more commonly occurred in rural (80%) than urban (20%) settings, despite the fact that the majority (67%) of the population live in an urban setting. This proportion is different from many other provinces where more drowning deaths occurred in urban environments. By region, the greatest number of drowning deaths in 2014 occurred in La Ronge (21%) followed by Saskatoon (18%) and Prince Albert (18%).

WHEN are they drowning?

By time of year, the warmer months continued to account for the majority of drowning deaths in Saskatchewan. Almost three-quarters (74%) of water-related fatalities in the 2010-2014 period occurred in May through September. The highest number of drowning deaths occurred in August (19%), followed by July (18%). In 2014, far more drowning fatalities occurred in August than any other month; over one-third (35%) of drowning deaths occurred in August that year.

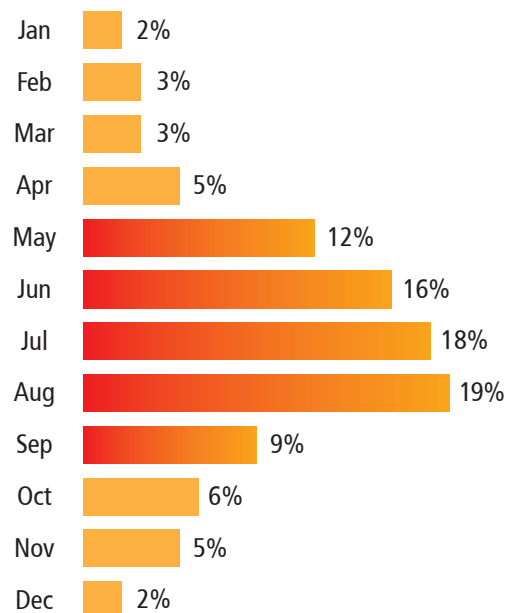
Approximately half (51%) of the 2010-2014 drowning deaths occurred on the weekend (Friday, Saturday or Sunday). Sunday was by far the most common day when drowning deaths occurred in Saskatchewan, 31 water-related fatalities (24%) occurred on a Sunday. In 2014 however, more drowning deaths occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday (both 21%) than any other day.

WHAT were they doing?

Consistent with previous years, daily living incidents (49%) accounted for a high proportion of drowning fatalities in Saskatchewan in 2010-2014, and once again over half (52%) of these deaths occurred during motor vehicle travel. The next most common daily living activity was bathing (16%). In 2014, 20 of the 34 drowning deaths occurred during a daily living activity.

The high proportion of daily living incidents in Saskatchewan differs from national trends; recreational drownings typically account for almost two-thirds of Canadian drowning deaths. In Saskatchewan, recreational activities (40%) accounted for the second greatest proportion of drowning fatalities. Among these, the most common

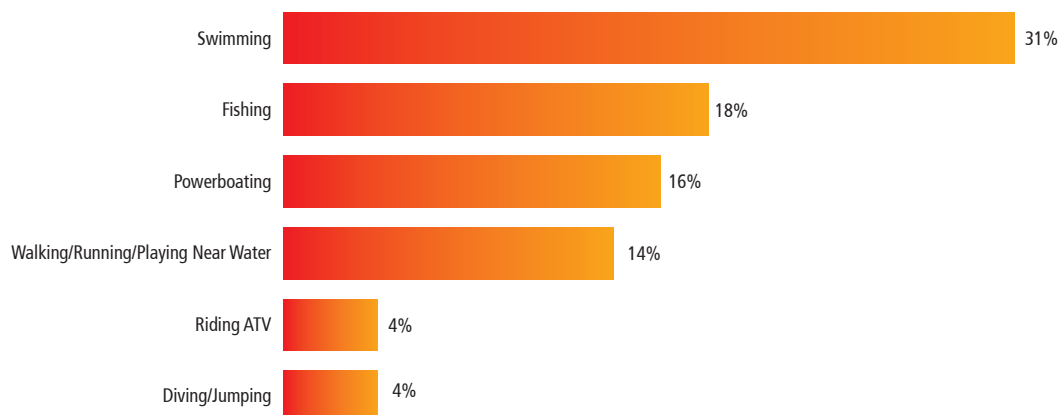
Water-Related Fatalities by Time of Year



primary activity was swimming (31%), followed by fishing (18%) and powerboating (16%).

Land, ice or air transportation (34%) continued to be the most common type of activity that victims were engaged in prior to drowning in 2010-2014. This was followed by non-aquatic activities, (21%), and aquatic activities where the victim intended to be in the water and something went wrong (19%). Fewer boating-related deaths (15%) occurred in Saskatchewan than in most other provinces. In 2014, 15 drowning deaths occurred as the result of land, ice or air transportation, and 8 occurred during a non-aquatic activity.

Water-Related Fatalities by Most Common Recreational Activity



Risk factors

The major risk factors contributing to drowning incidents in Saskatchewan continue to be consistent with those the Lifesaving Society has identified for the national population in the past; however alcohol consumption appears to be even more of a factor in Saskatchewan than in most other provinces.

Boating

Not wearing a PFD when relevant (88% of cases where known)

Alcohol consumption (74%)

Capsized (42%)

Fell/thrown overboard (26%)

Swimming

Alcohol consumption (50%)

Victim was a weak or non-swimmer (31%)

Alone or with minors only (31%)

Age

<5

Alone or with other minors only (67%)

Supervision present but distracted (33%)

5-14

With other minors only (60%)

15-34

Not wearing a PFD when relevant (100%)

Alcohol consumption (83%)

After dark (28%)

Alone (23%)

35-64

Not wearing a PFD when relevant (78%)

Alone (63%)

Alcohol consumption (49%)

65+

Alone (54%)

Alcohol consumption (36%)

In summary

Water-related fatality rates in Saskatchewan were highest among men, and people 20-24 and 70-74 years old.

Drowning fatalities were most likely to occur during the summer, on weekends, and in natural bodies of water such as rivers and lakes.

The highest proportion of incidents occurred during a daily living activity, most commonly motor vehicle travel.

The spike in the number of water-related fatalities in Saskatchewan in 2014 reinforces the need for continued strong drowning prevention efforts.

Research methodology

Complete data from 2005-2014

The drowning research process involves data collection; research tabulation and analysis. Water-related death data is extracted from the Office of the Chief Coroner of Saskatchewan. The scope of this research:

- collects the data needed to profile victims of aquatic incidents, including the circumstances and contributing factors under which these incidents occurred.
- includes all deaths in each provincial/territorial jurisdiction resulting from incidents in, on or near water; near-water incidents were included if the incident was closely related to water-based recreational, vocational or daily living activity, or if the presence of water appeared to be an attraction contributing to the incident.
- includes only unintentional deaths, not deaths due to natural causes, suicide, or homicide.

Interim data

Complete final data on more recent drownings and other water-related deaths are not yet available from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The interim, preliminary data are derived from media releases, media clippings, news reports and internet searches.

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the support, co-operation and efforts of:

- The Office of the Chief Coroner of Saskatchewan which permitted and facilitated confidential access to reports on preventable water-related deaths.
- The volunteers who contributed their time and energy including data extraction on preventable water-related deaths from the coroner's files.
- Tessa Clemens who was primary author and data analyst for this report and Lucie Simoes who provided data input and verification.

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Drowning Prevention Research Centre Canada

The Drowning Prevention Research Centre is the lead agency for drowning and water-incident research in Canada. The Centre conducts research into fatal and non-fatal drowning, significant aquatic injury and rescue interventions.

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The Lifesaving Society

The Lifesaving Society - Canada's lifeguarding experts works to prevent drowning and water-related injury through its training programs, Water Smart - public education, aquatic safety management, drowning research and lifesaving sport. Annually, over 1,000,000 Canadians participate in the Society's swimming, lifesaving, lifeguard and leadership training programs. The Society sets the standard for aquatic safety in Canada and certifies Canada's National Lifeguards.



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