



RNLI Water Safety Team

Water Safety & Drowning Prevention

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Aim & Outcomes



To provide an overview of the World and UK Drowning data



To identify current drowning prevention interventions & water safety advice



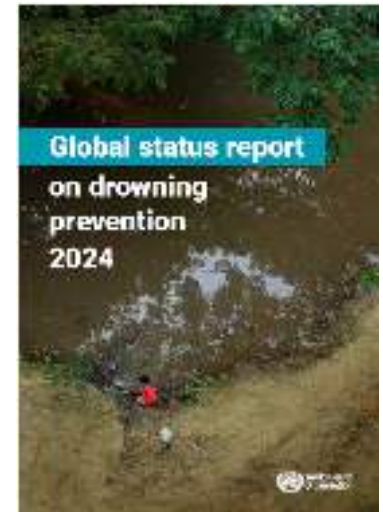
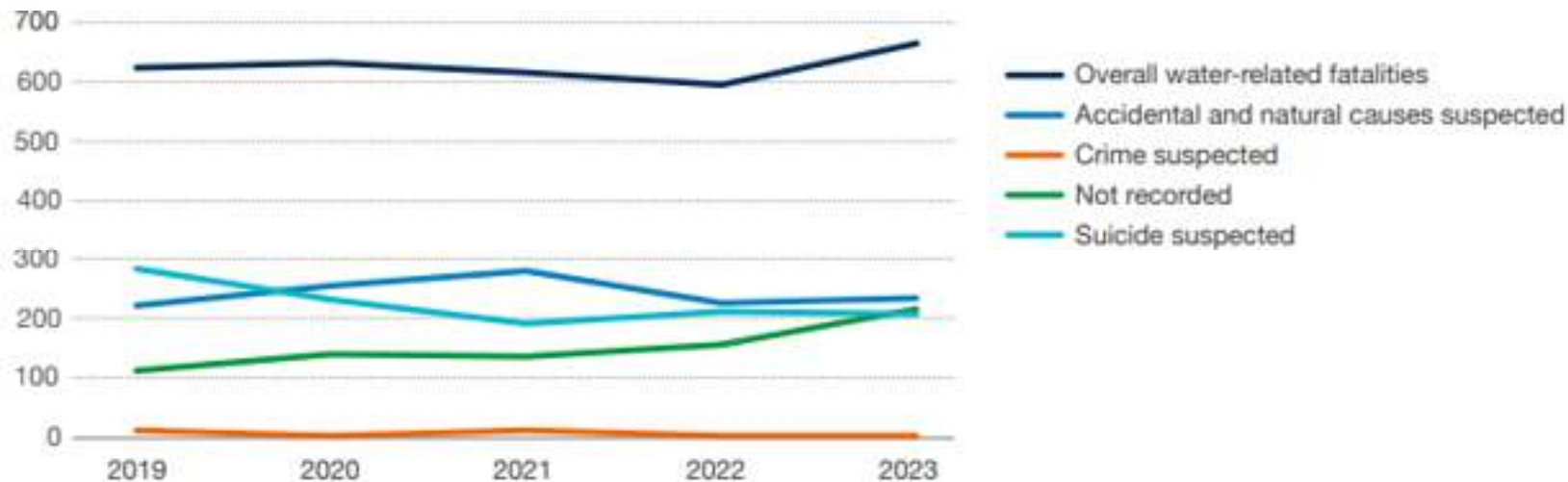
To signpost to current guidance, best practice & campaigns



Drowning data

Overall water-related fatalities

In 2023, there were 659 water-related fatalities in the United Kingdom from all recorded causes. There was a increase in fatalities compared to previous years.



Graph taken from the NWSF WAID summary report 2023

Accidental fatalities by age

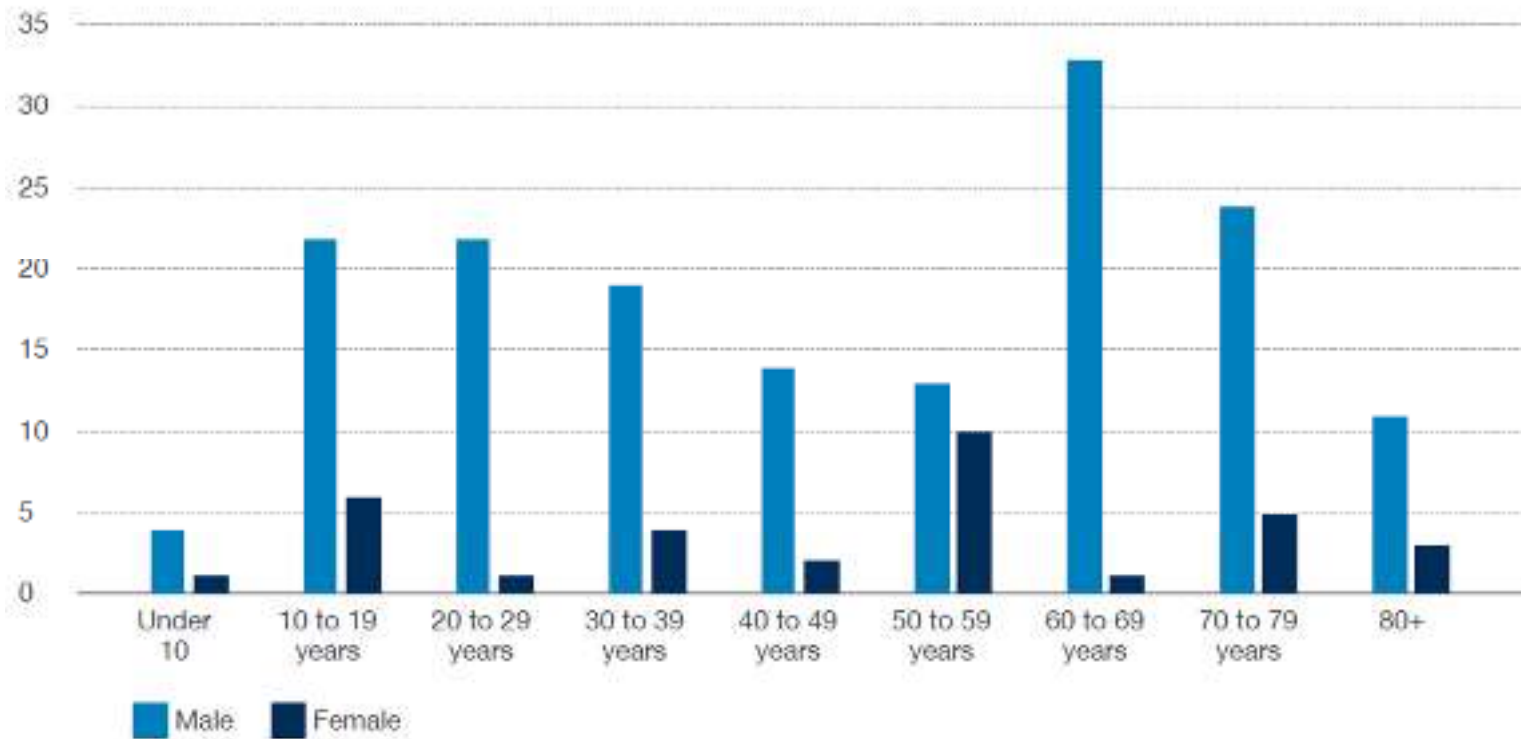


Figure 4: Accidental fatalities by age, N=195, 41 Not Recorded

Image taken from the NWSF WAID summary report 2023

Accidental fatalities by location, activity & time of year

FIG. 5: % UK accidental fatalities by inland location

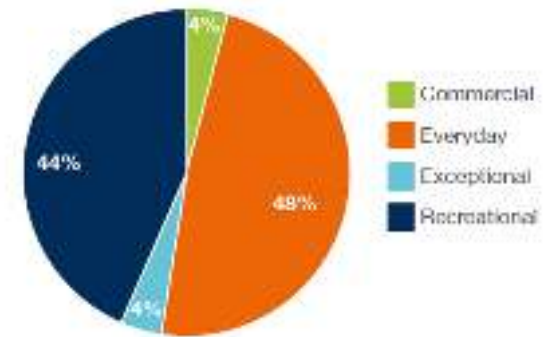
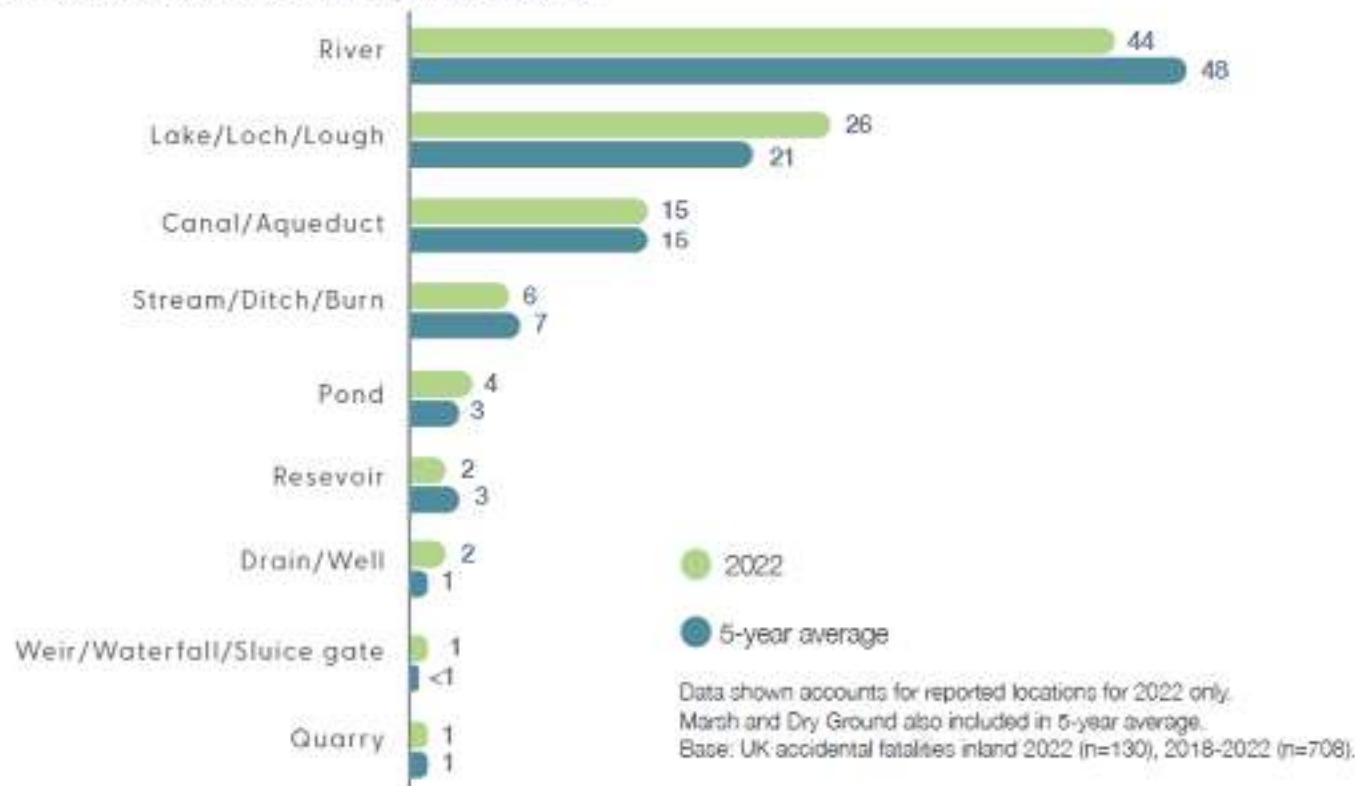


Figure 6: Accidental fatalities by activity, N= 221, 15 excluded



Seven people
lost their lives
on Monday 18 July 2022
when temperatures exceeded 38°C.

Images taken from the RLSS Drowning report 2022 & NWSF WAID summary report 2023

The Drowning Chain



Preventing drowning is not a priority



Places are not safe/people are isolated



People cannot – or do not – behave safely



People cannot save themselves

Hazard Category's

- The water is moving.
- The edge can be dangerous
- There might be hidden dangers in the water
- The water is colder than you think



Cold Water

1. Cold Water Shock

- uncontrollable gasping, then hyperventilation.

2. Mid Term Immersion

- body temperature is rapidly decreasing, shivering will start

3. Long Term Immersion

- If the casualty is in the water for more than 30 minutes, onset of hypothermia



Key Messages

FLOATATION

Know how to float in an emergency

Always wear a lifejacket or buoyancy aid

CALLING FOR HELP

Always carry a means of calling for help and keep it on you at all times

WEATHER AND TIDES

Always check the weather forecast and tide times

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Always tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back

If you see someone in trouble, call 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard



Water Safety Campaigns



Research



New research aims to dispel myth around ethnicity and floating

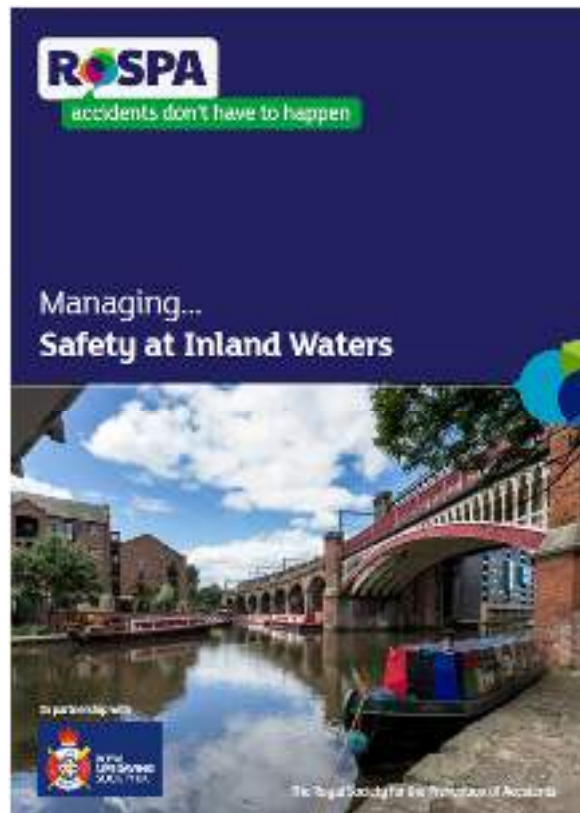


Accidental drownings vs Increased Air temperature



Hotspots for unintentional drowning in the UK from 2012-2019

National Guidance



Principles

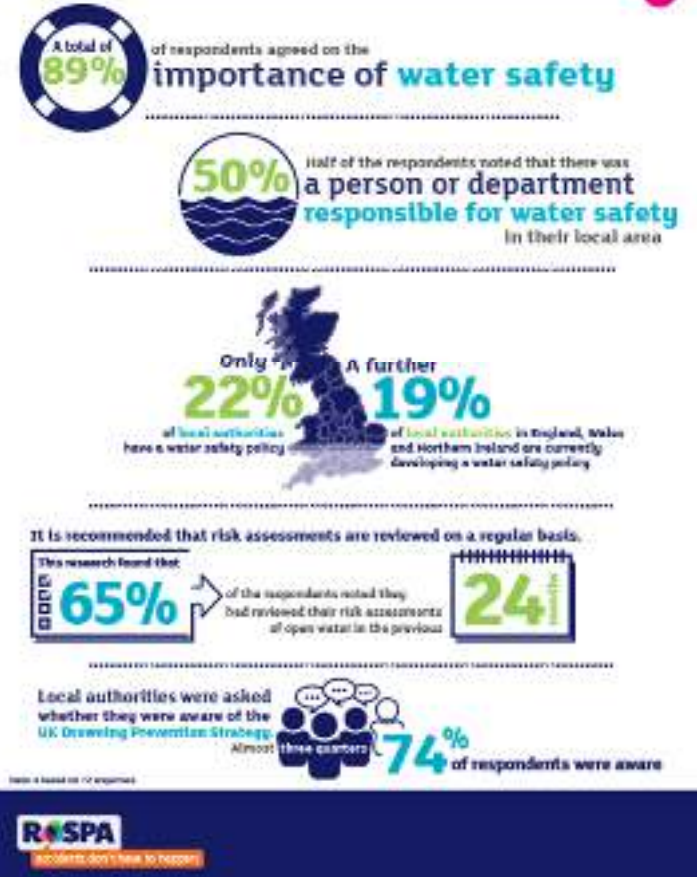
- Chapter 1 Water-related risks
- Chapter 2 Legal drivers and case law
- Chapter 3 Guiding principles for managing drowning and water safety risks
- Chapter 4 Planning for water safety
- Case studies and campaigns

Practice

- Chapter 5 Assessing and managing risk
- Chapter 6 Visitor information and campaigns
- Glossary
- References
- Appendix

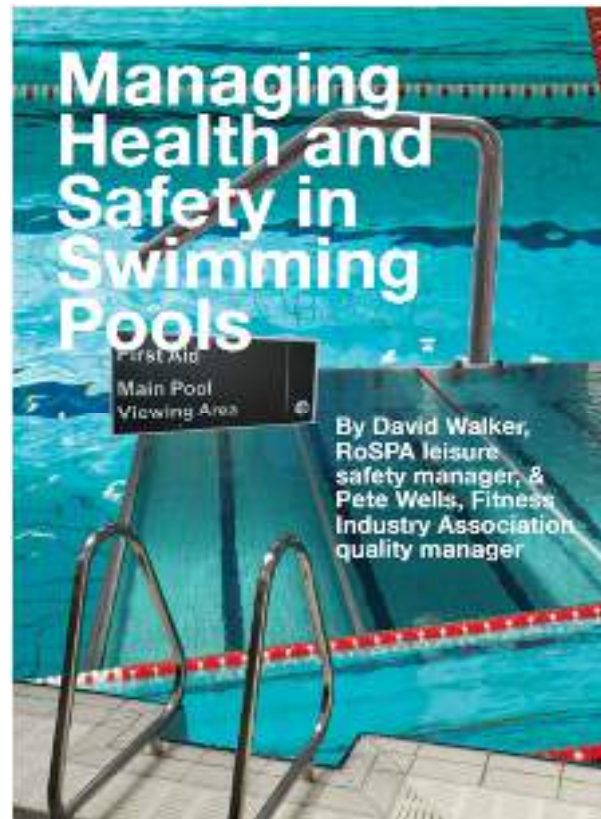
Local Authority Approaches to Managing Water Safety England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Responsibility for managing water safety is a key policy issue for leisure, this summary focuses on the results of research into the approaches adopted by local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. To see the full report please go to www.rosa.com/local-authority



<https://www.rosa.com/leisure-water-safety/water/research/inland>

National Guidance



- Coasteering
- Group Safety at Water Margins
- Inland Waters Risk Assessment
- Lifejackets Background
- Managing Health & Safety in Swimming Pools
- Principles of Managing Event Water Safety
- Scottish Local Authority Approaches to Managing Water Safety
- Weir Assessment

<https://www.rosipa.com/leisure-water-safety/water/advice>

National Water Safety Forum



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Questions ?

