

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES DROWNING REPORT

WATER-RELATED FATALITIES 2011-2015

The Northwest Territories contains many lakes and waterways; the utilization of watercraft is an integral part of the northern lifestyle. With so many activities taking place in, on, and around the water and ice, drownings and water-related injuries are prevalent in the Northwest Territories.

From 2011 to 2015 (the most recent year for which data is available) 16 people have drowned in the Northwest Territories.

- 88% of the drowning victims were male.
- 81% of the drowning victims were adults.
- Alcohol was a factor in 50% of the water-related deaths.
- 100% of the water-related deaths occurred in natural bodies of water (rivers, lakes and oceans).
- Over half of the water-related deaths (56%) were as a result of daily living activities (the victim was in, on or around water or ice as part of their daily activities e.g. travel, subsistence hunting and fishing).

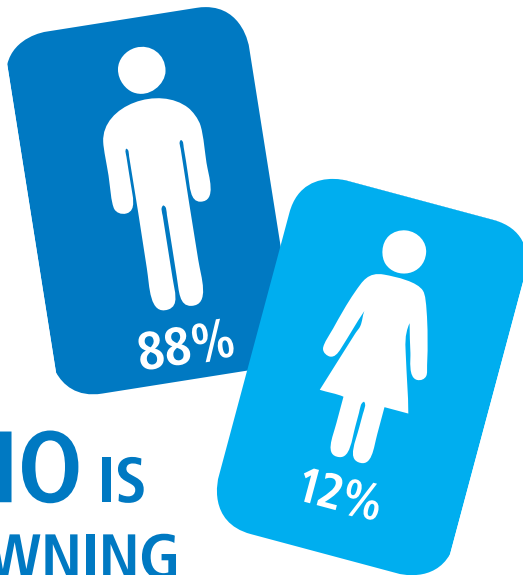
The data outlined in this report is the most recent data collected from the Office of the Chief Coroner in the Northwest Territories.

- The majority of drowning deaths in the Northwest Territories occurred in the warmer months. The highest number of drowning deaths (63%) occurred in the months of June and September.
- 100% the boating-related drowning victims were not wearing a lifejacket (present but not worn or not present).
- Over half (56%) of the drowning victims were alone.
- All children and youth that drowned had no adult supervision or were alone.

Risk Factors

The main risk factors related to drowning incidents in the Northwest Territories include: not wearing a lifejacket or PFD, boating or swimming alone, and alcohol consumption.





WHO IS DROWNING

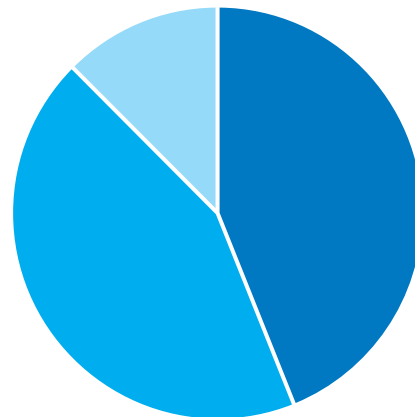
The vast majority of drowning victims in the Northwest Territories continue to be men (88%).

81% of the drowning victims were adults (18-65+ years).

44%
Lake / Pond

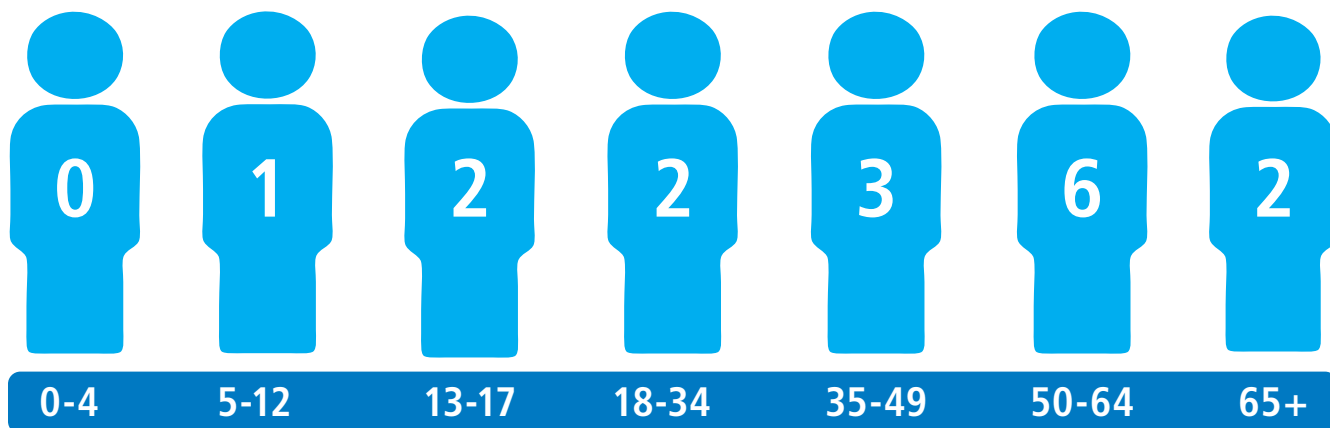
44%
River / Creek

12%
Ocean



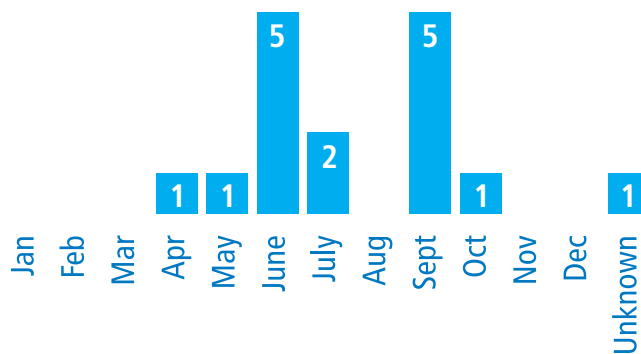
WHERE ARE THEY DROWNING

All water-related deaths in the Northwest Territories occurred in natural bodies of water.



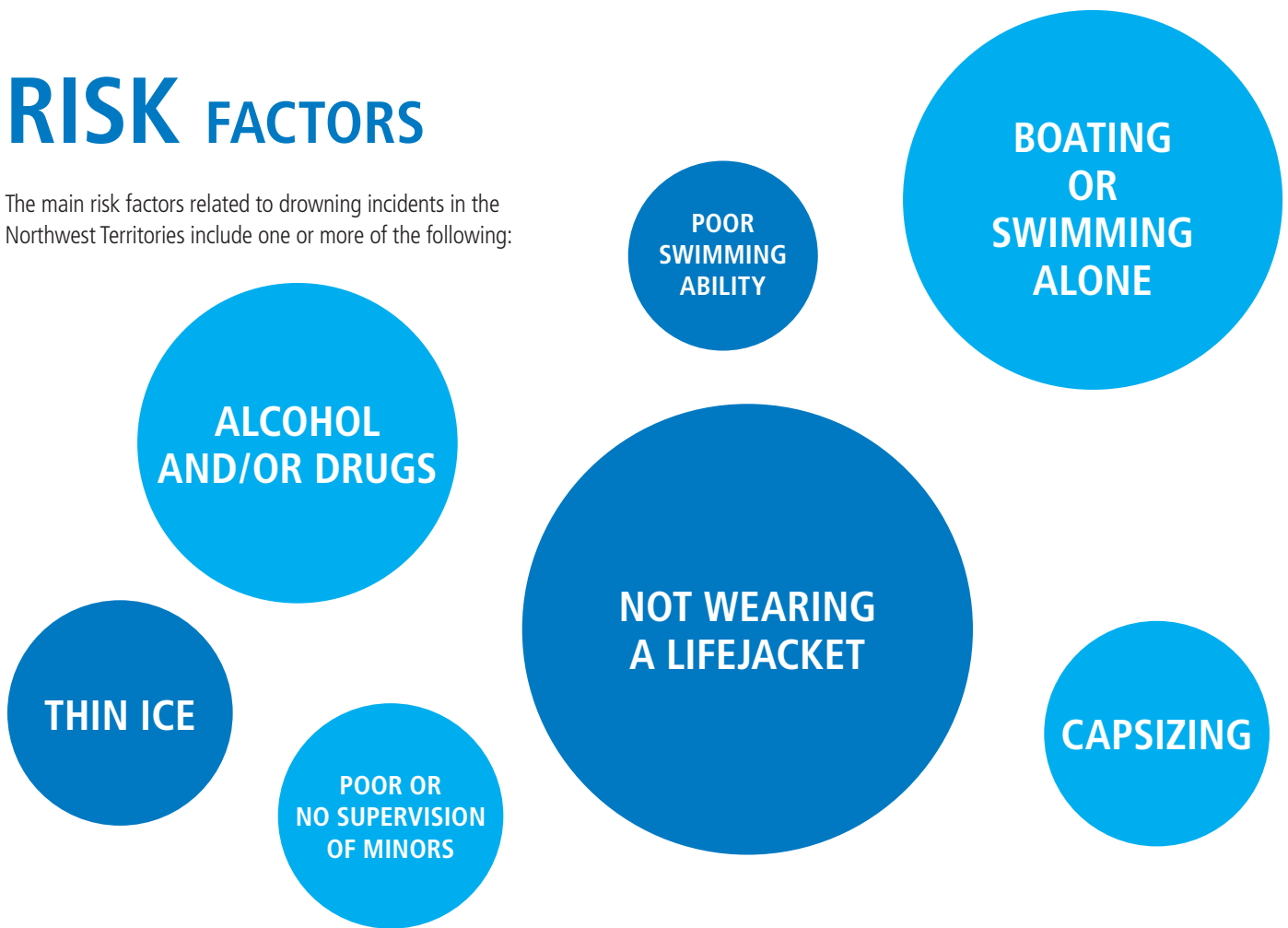
WHEN ARE THEY DROWNING

The majority of drowning deaths in the Northwest Territories occurred in the warmer months. The highest number of drowning deaths (63%) occurred in June and September.



RISK FACTORS

The main risk factors related to drowning incidents in the Northwest Territories include one or more of the following:



WHAT WERE THEY DOING

- Daily living activities account for the majority of drownings in the Northwest Territories (56%).
- 31% of the water-related deaths were as a result of recreational activities.
- 13% of the water-related deaths were as a result of occupational activities.
- Based on the type of activity the victim was engaged in when the incident occurred the majority included boating (56%) followed by land, ice, or air transportation (25%) followed by aquatic activities (13%).



Boating 56%

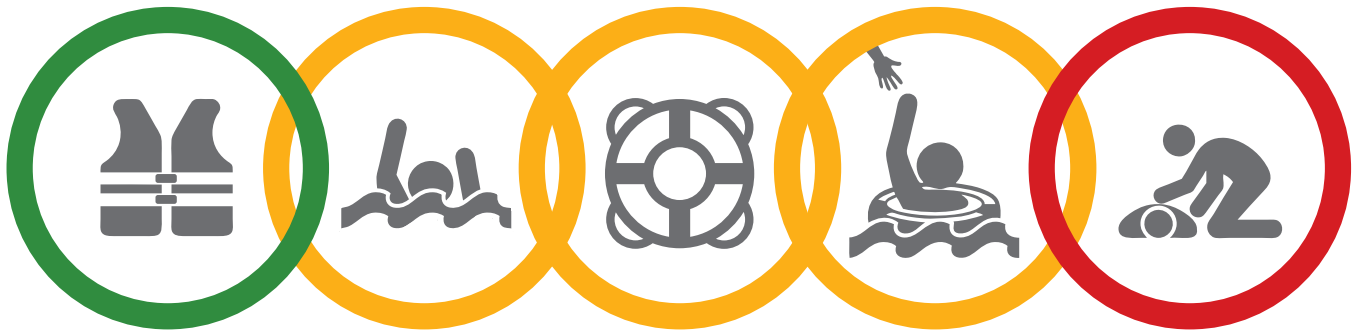


Land, Ice, or Air
Transportation 25%



Aquatic Activities 13%

DROWNING CHAIN OF SURVIVAL



PREVENT DROWNING
Be safe in and around water

RECOGNIZE DISTRESS
Ask someone to call for help

PROVIDE FLOTATION
To prevent submersion

REMOVE FROM WATER
Only if safe to do so

PROVIDE CARE AS NEEDED
Seek medical attention

PREVENTION

RECOGNITION, RESPONSE, AND RESCUE

TREATMENT

In Canada, Swim to Survive® is a proven method to prevent drowning. Swim to Survive® teaches people the necessary skills to survive an unexpected fall into the water. Swim and survival skills are as easy as 1-2-3; Roll into Deep Water; Tread 1 Minute; Swim 50 Meters.

The Lifesaving Society advocates for all ages to learn basic swim to survive skills in a global effort to eliminate drowning.

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 1,200,000 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.

Acknowledgments

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