This infographic summarizes the most recent data on water-related fatalities available from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for Alberta. With the exception of the first chart, all data refers to the most current five-year period, 2013-2017.

### Drowning Report

#### Alberta Water-Related Fatalities and Death Rates, 2008-2017

- **Number of Deaths / Year**
- **Death Rate per 100,000 / Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Death Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Who is Drowning?

- **73% male**
- **27% female**

- **Age 15-19**: 8% (1.5)
- **Age 50-64**: 23% (1.4)
- **Age 65+**: 15% (1.4)

*Death Rate per 100,000 / Year*

#### Where?

- **Lake/Pond**: 24%
- **River**: 32%
- **Pool/Hot Tub**: 9%
- **Bathtub**: 21%
- **Other**: 14%

**Drowning in a Lifeguard Supervised Setting**: <2%

#### When?

- **60% of Drownings Occurred from May to September**
WHAT WERE THEY DOING?

AQUATIC* 29%  
BOATING 16%  
BATHING 21%  
NON-AQUATIC** 17%

*The person intended to be in the water (e.g. swimming/wading)  
**Unintentional fall into water (e.g. walking/biking/working near water and fell in)

WATER-RELATED FATALITIES BY MOST COMMON RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

- Swimming: 34%  
- Non-Powered Boating: 15%  
- Walking/Running/Playing Near Water: 13%  
- Diving/Jumping: 9%  
- Hot Tubbing: 9%

WHY? RISK FACTORS

CHILDREN <5 YEARS  
100% Supervision Absent or Distracted

YOUNG ADULTS 15-34 YEARS  
83% 53% 44%

MIDDLE-AGED ADULTS 35-64 YEARS  
80% 47% 67%

OLDER ADULTS 65+ YEARS  
100% 26% 74%

METHODOLOGY:
Water-related death data is extracted from the office of the Chief Coroner or Medical Examiner for each province and territory. Data is collected for all deaths resulting from incidents “in, on or near” water. “Near water” incidents were included if the intent was closely related to water-based recreational, vocational or daily living activity. The data includes only unintentional deaths, not deaths due to natural causes, suicide, or homicide.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
We gratefully acknowledge the support, co-operation and efforts of:
- The Chief Coroner’s and Medical Examiner’s Offices in each province/territory, who permitted and facilitated confidential access to coroner’s reports on unintentional water-related deaths.
- The volunteers who contributed their time and energy to extract data from the files.

CONTACT US:
The Drowning Prevention Research Centre is the lead agency for drowning and water-injury research in Canada. Tel: 416-480-8844, Email: experts@drowningresearch.ca
Lifesaving Society Alberta and Northwest Territories Tel: 780-415-1755, Email: experts@lifesaving.org, www.lifesaving.org