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Acknowledgements

With special thanks to our government partners.





Drowning is the respiratory impairment of lungs due to submersion / immersion in liquid. It can be fatal (mortality), or non-fatal (morbidity) resulting in a stay in hospital of 24 hours or longer.

Introduction

It is with a heavy heart that I introduce the 2015 drowning report, a year in which 113 lives were lost to drowning, 25 percent up on the previous year's total of 90. Tragically, 86 of these 113 drownings were preventable.

The number of hospitalisations as a result of water immersion incidents make grim reading too, topping 188, the highest since records began in 2003. And figures show the death rate per 100,000 people (2.0) remains high compared to our Trans-Tasman neighbours Australia (1.1) and the United Kingdom (1.3).

This report provides a snapshot of the drowning problem in 2015. It breaks down the number of fatalities by age groups and activities such as boating and swimming. It also includes the environment in which they died, be it at the beach or river, and comparisons to 2014 and fiveyear averages.

As Water Safety New Zealand's new Chief Executive, it's my job to lead our organisation and sector partners through the next five years as we work to meet the ambitious goals of halving the male (preventable) drowning toll and bringing the number of pre-school drownings down to zero.

Through the New Zealand Water Safety Strategy 2020, we are investing heavily in new programmes and initiatives to ensure Kiwis have the skills and knowledge needed to enjoy the water safely.

The targets agreed to by the sector and the progress being made towards these shared goals are for the first time - outlined in this document.

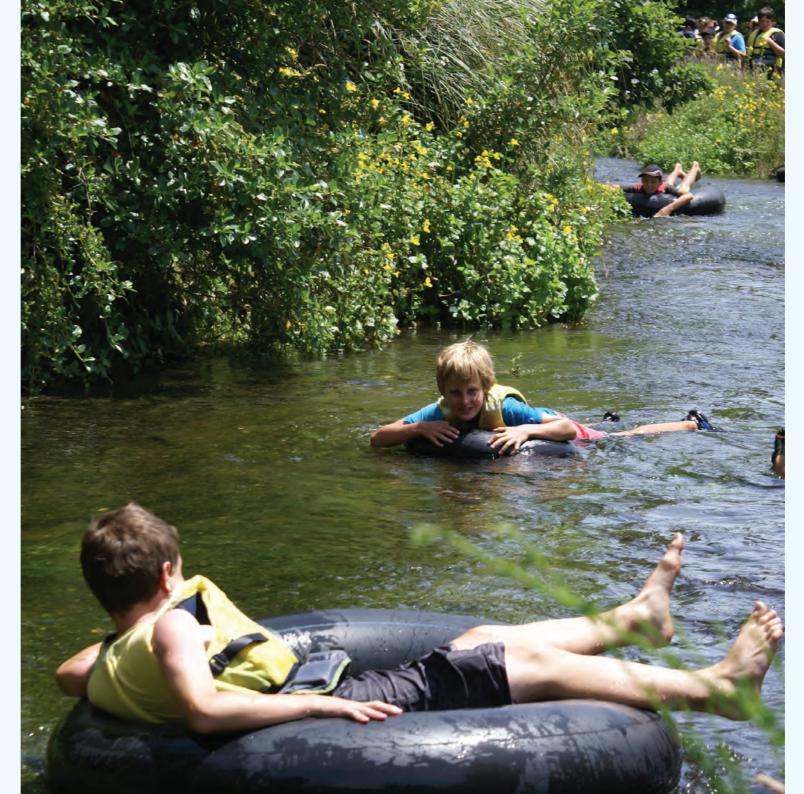
To keep track of the ongoing progress the Drowning Prevention Report will also be regularly updated during the coming year. You can view this at drownbase.org.nz.

The water safety sector is united in its commitment to meet drowning prevention targets, but to truly have an impact on these disturbing statistics all Kiwis must play a part. Only through a change of attitude and behaviour will we successfully address our high drowning toll.

By taking a safer and more responsible approach to water we can all enjoy the stunning waterways that make our country special safely.

Jonty Mills

Chief Executive

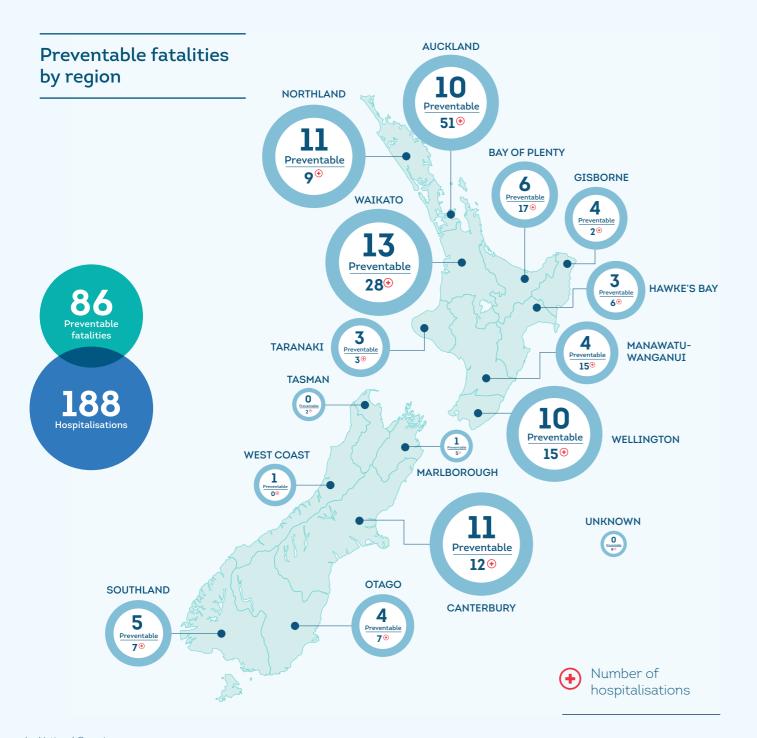


National Overview

2015

In 2015 there were 86 recreational (intending to be in the water) and non-recreational (no intention of being in the water) drowning fatalities. The following analysis of fatalities is based on these 86 incidents (and is compared to previous years' recreational and non-recreational deaths).

The remaining 27 fatalities are classified as 'other' (arising as a result of road or air vehicle accidents, homicide, suicide or of unknown origin) and are not considered applicable to the prevention and rescue efforts of the water safety sector.



2020 Goal Targets

Progress Towards New Zealand Water Safety Strategy 2020 Goals

		2010-2014 (average)	2015	2020 Goal
A	Deaths	77	86	50
•	Hospitalisations	172	188	100
Ť	Male	66	69	33
	Under fives	6	3	0

6 National Overview 2020 Goal Targets 7





Mortality by age group

Fatalities of under fives were the lowest since 2012.

Deaths of 15-24 year olds were the highest since 1998.

62% of 35-44 year old deaths occurred offshore - the majority being underwater deaths.

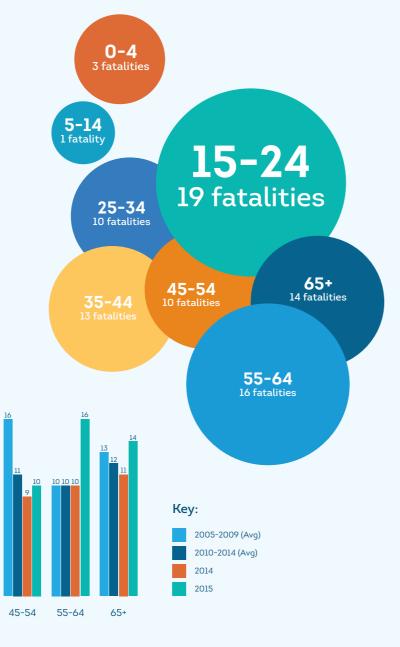
55-64 year olds had a 60% increase on 2014 and the five year averages, 38% occurred while boating.

15-24

25-34

Age

35-44



Mortality by gender

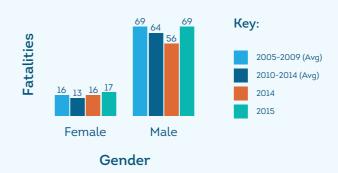
After a decrease in the past five years, the male toll is again up to 80% of the total fatalities.

Male and female deaths were the highest total since 2011.

The top activities for female deaths were immersion incidents (10, 59%) and swimming (3, 18%).

The top activities for males were immersion incidents (23, 33%) and boating (17, 25%).



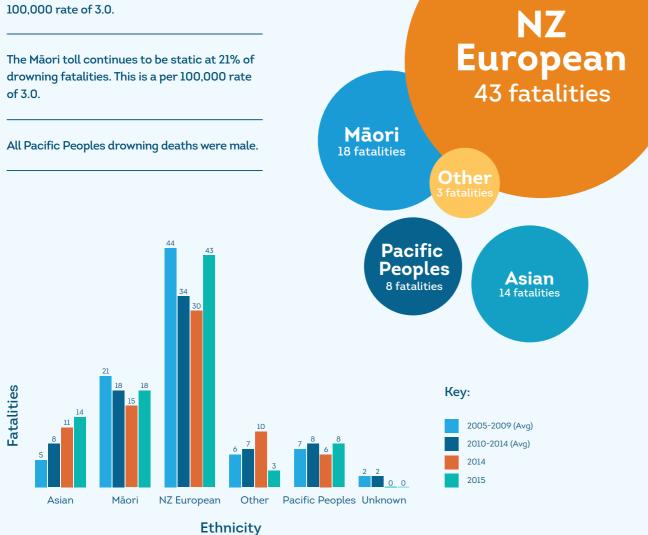


10 Mortality 11 Mortality 12

Mortality by ethnicity

14 fatalities was the highest Asian toll on record. This made up 16% of deaths at a per 100,000 rate of 3.0.

drowning fatalities. This is a per 100,000 rate of 3.0.

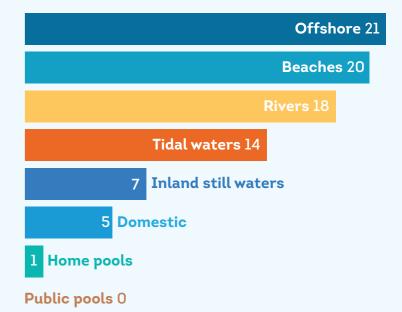


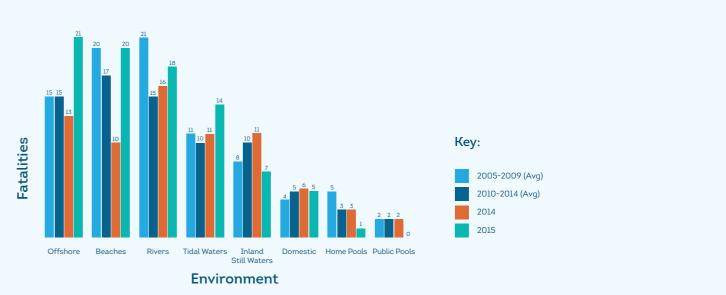
Mortality by environment

Offshore was the environment with the highest toll in 2015 (23% of fatalities). 44% of Māori deaths occurred offshore.

Fatalities at beaches were twice the 2014 toll and it was the highest beach toll since 2011.

The rivers toll was the highest since 2010. 67% of NZ European deaths occurred at rivers.





12 Mortality Mortality 13

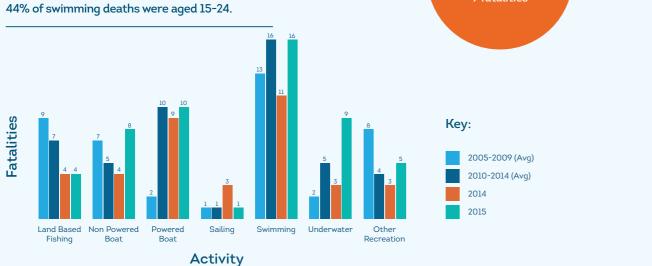
Mortality by activity

Non-powered boat deaths were double the 2014 toll. 63% were kayakers - the highest kayaking toll since 2004.

Four of the powered boat deaths occurred on a harbour/river bar - almost quadruple the five year average.

The land based fishing toll was the same as last year, down 50% on the ten year average. All occurred in the North Island and all were male.

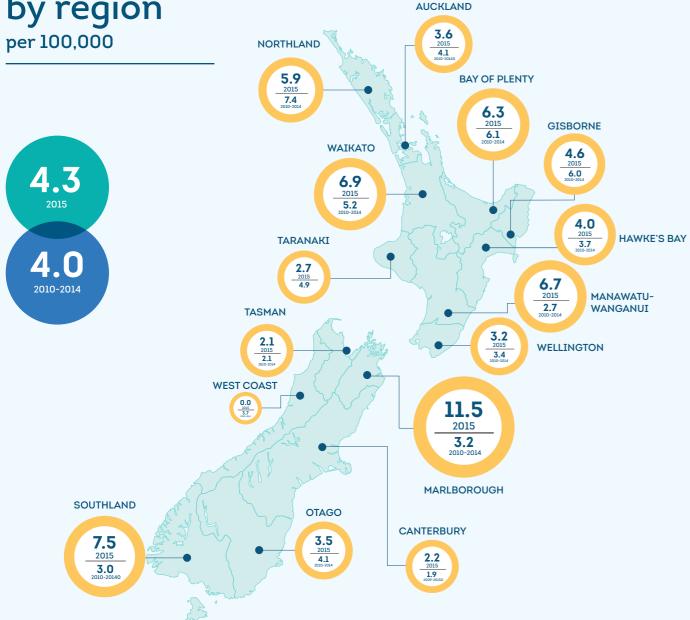
Underwater fatalities were the highest since 2011. 78% of underwater fatalities occurred while the person was fishing/gathering kai. In most cases, none had a buddy within visual distance.







Hospitalisations by region

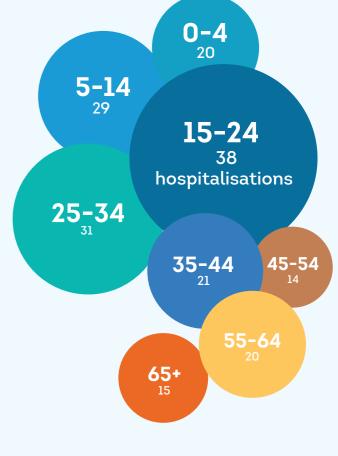


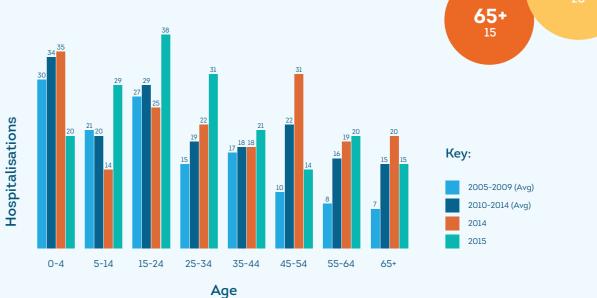
Hospitalisations by age group

Under fives hospitalisations are the lowest since records began in 2003. Māori comprise half of under five hospitalisations.

Hospitalisations of those aged 5-14 are double that on 2014. 69% occurred when swimming.

25-34 year olds and 55-64 year olds had the highest number of hospitalisations since records began in 2003.





16 Hospitalisations 17

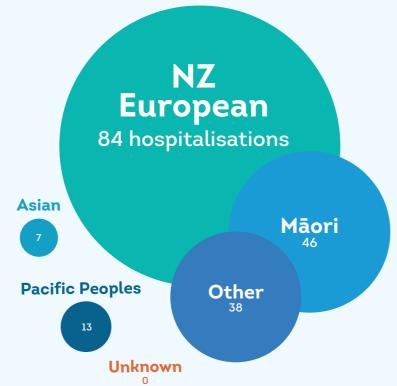


Hospitalisations by ethnicity

Māori hospitalisations increased 25% on 2014 and 7% on the five year average. Almost one quarter were aged 35-44.

Other ethnicities increased 19% on 2014 and 65% on the five year average. 74% were aged between 15-34.

Hospitalisations of Pacific Peoples stayed the same as the five year average. 77% were aged under 25.





Ethnicity

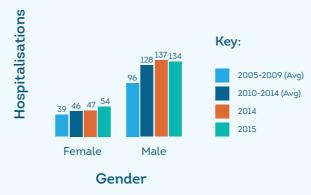
Hospitalisations by gender

There were 2.5 males hospitalised for every female.

56% of female hospitalisations were aged under 25.

Swimming was the highest activity toll for hospitalisations of both males (37%) and females (43%).





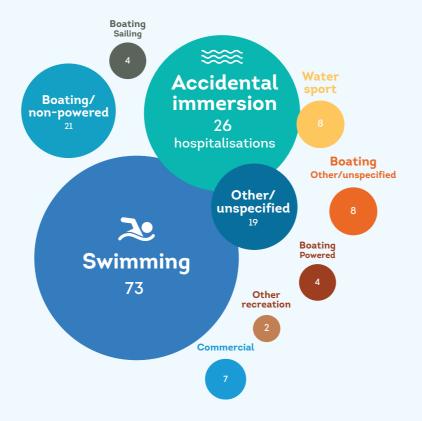
20 Hospitalisations 21

Hospitalisations by activity

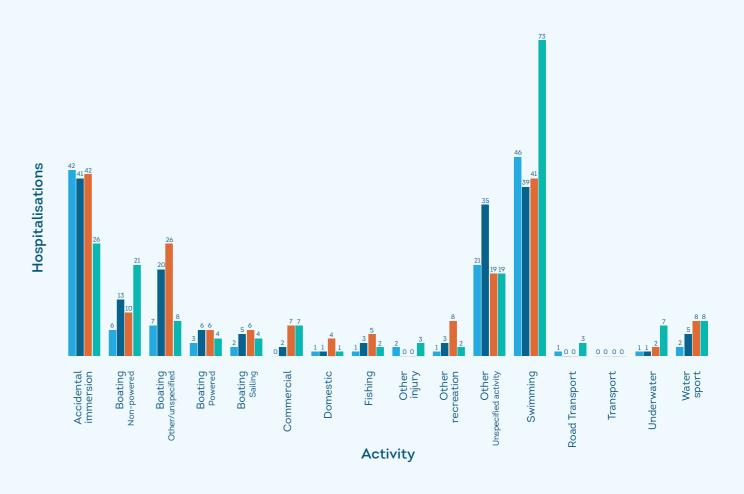
Boating hospitalisations in total decreased 23% on 2014 and 14% on the five year average, although non-powered boats almost doubled the 2014 toll. The largest age group being hospitalised from non powered boats incidents are those aged 15-24 (33%).

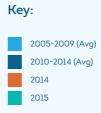
Swimming is the highest activity toll (39%). Swimming hospitalisations were up 78% on 2014 and 87% on five year average. The 2015 total was one third higher than previous high for swimming.

The largest group for swimming incidents was 5-14 (26%).



Hospitalisations by activity





22 Hospitalisations Hospitalisations 23

Hospitalisations by environment

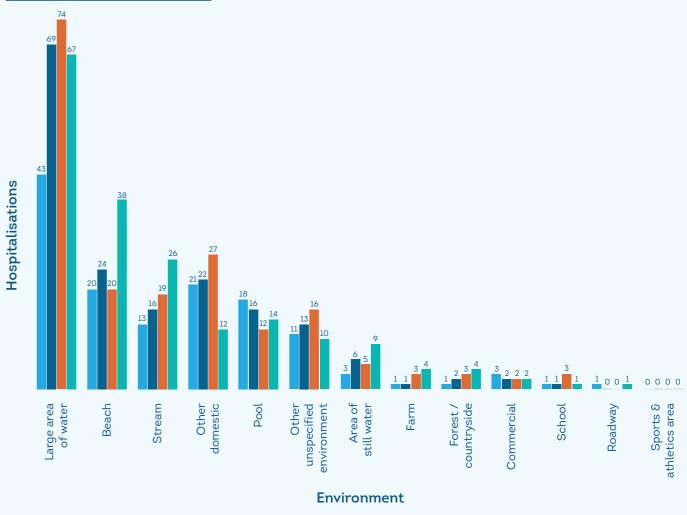
Beach hospitalisations increased 90% on 2014 and 37% on the five year average. Half of those hospitalised due to an incident on the beach were aged between 5-24.

Other Domestic hospitalisations decreased 56% on 2014 and 45% on the five year average due to a significantly lower under fives hospitalisation toll but under fives still made up 67% of other domestic hospitalisations.

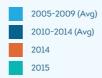
75% of pool hospitalisations of under fives were Māori.



Hospitalisations by environment



Кеу:



Note: Hospitalisation data is sorted using the ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS international coding system. A large amount of environmental coding is set to large body of water which does not allow for a more specific data breakdown. The system is based on internationally established codes.

24 Hospitalisations 25

Drowning fatalities and hospitalisation incidents 1980-2015

Hospitalisation incidents related to drowning have increased 69% between 2003 (111) and 2015 (188).





Quick Facts (fatalities)

	2015		2010-2014 average			
	Numbers	%rounded	Numbers	%rounded		
Recreational activity						
Land based fishing	4	4	7	7		
Non-powered boat	8	7	5	5		
Powered boat	10	9	10	10		
Sailing	1	1	1	1		
Swimming	16	14	16	16		
Underwater	9	8	5	5		
Other recreation	5	4	4	4		
Non-recreational activity						
Immersion incidents	30	27	26	25		
Occupational	3	3	2	2		
Other	27	24	26	25		
Total	113	100	103	100		
Environment						
Beaches	25	22	20	20		
Domestic	6	5	8	7		
Home pools	2	2	4	3		
Inland still waters	12	11	13	13		
Offshore	24	21	17	16		
Public pools	0	0	2	2		
Rivers	25	22	25	24		
Tidal waters	19	17	14	14		
Total	113	100	103	100		

	2015		2010-2014 average	
	Numbers	%rounded	Numbers	%rounded
Ethnicity				
Asian	19	17	10	10
Māori	24	21	21	20
NZ European	58	51	52	50
Other	4	4	9	8
Pacific Peoples	8	7	8	8
Unknown	0	0	3	3
Total	113	100	103	100
Gender				
Female	22	19	21	21
Male	91	81	81	79
Total	113	100	103	100
Age group				
00 - 04	3	3	7	7
05 - 14	2	2	4	3
15 - 24	24	21	19	18
25 - 34	13	12	12	11
35 - 44	16	14	15	15
45 - 54	13	12	15	15
55 - 64	20	18	13	13
65+	22	19	17	17
Total	113	100	103	100