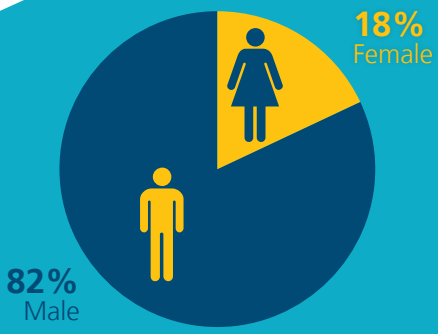
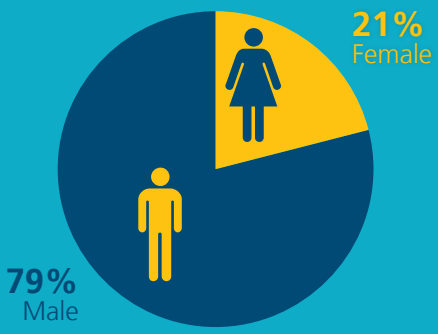
INLAND WATERWAYS

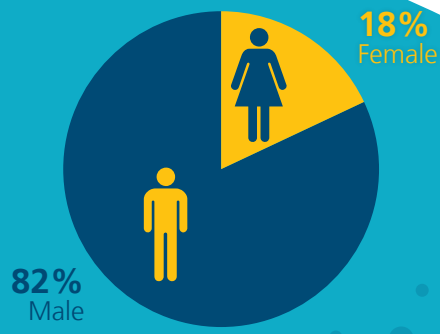
Drowning data for rivers/creeks/streams and lakes/dams/lagoons

2018/19	2017/18	10-YEAR AVERAGE
101 DEATHS	80 DEATHS	102 DEATHS ↓ 1%
0.4 Deaths per 100,000	0.2 Deaths per 100,000	0.4 Deaths per 100,000 — 0%

SEX







Rivers/creeks/streams | Lakes/dams/lagoons

2017/18

59 21

2018/19

80 21

10-YEAR AVERAGE

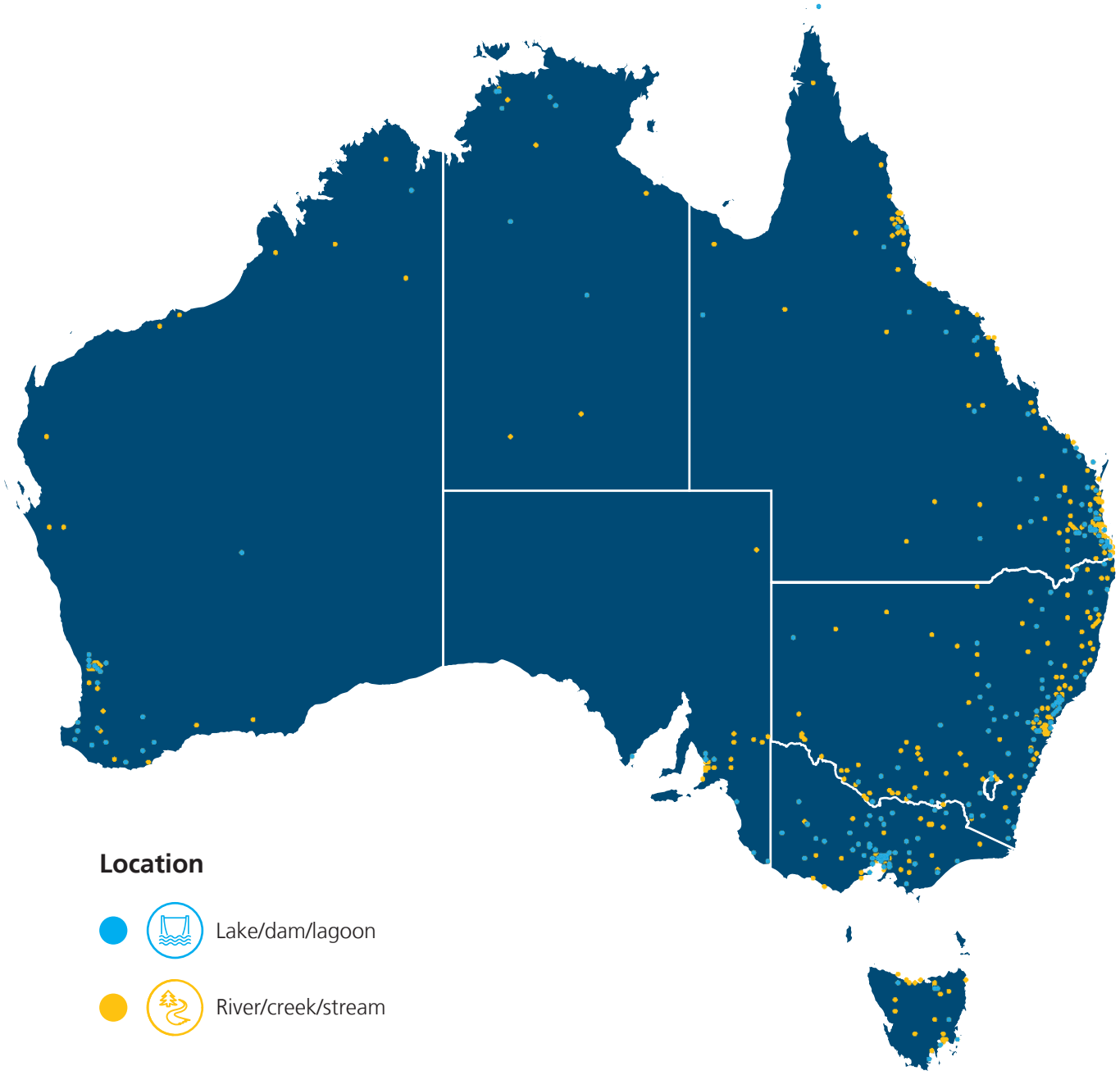
76 ↑5% 26 ↓19%

INLAND WATERWAYS

Swimming and aquatic recreation activities have become synonymous with the Australian identity. Given Australia's vast landscape and the remote nature of a large portion of the Australian population, inland waterways such as rivers, creeks, streams, lakes, dams and lagoons have become common areas for recreation. Recreational uses of these areas vary greatly from swimming, recreating and boating, to enjoying picnics and fishing.

Natural aquatic environments do, however, increase the risk of drowning.[32] This is due to changeable conditions and added risks such as geographical remoteness, lack of supervision of children and alcohol consumption.[32-33] Over the past 10 years, Australia has experienced consistently high numbers of drowning deaths in inland waterway locations.[33]

Drowning deaths in rivers, creeks and streams have previously been examined in detail,[32-33] with lakes, dams and lagoons reviewed more recently.



Inland waterway drowning deaths in Australia from 1st July 2008 to 30th June 2018

10-Year Data Breakdown

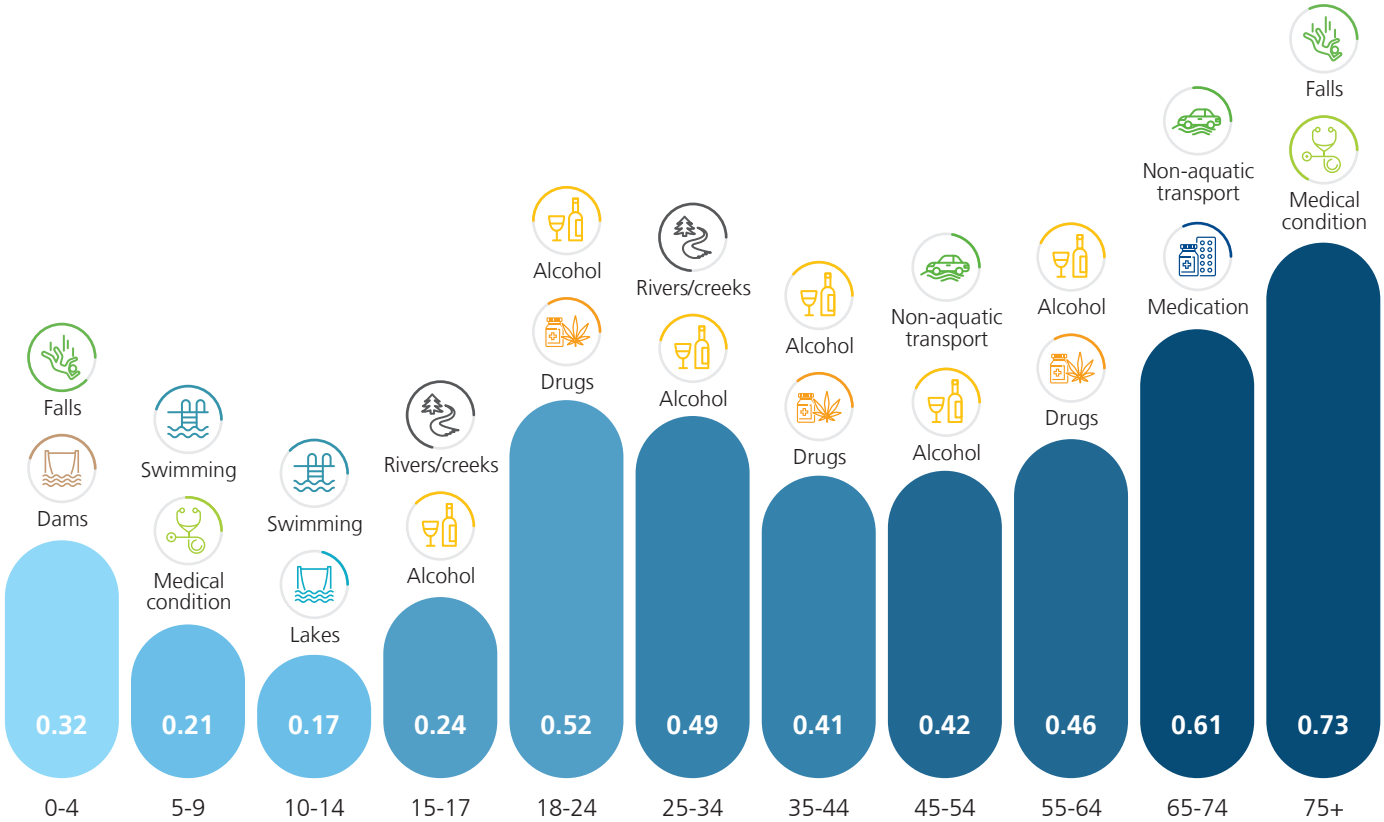
1019 People drowned

1st July 2008 — 30th June 2018

Inland waterways recorded the largest proportion of drowning deaths in Australia and showed the second greatest reduction in drowning deaths (22%)

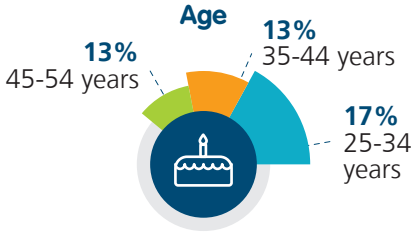
Inland waterways

27%	9%	17%	16%	14%	17%
River/creek/stream	Lake/dam/lagoon	Beach	Ocean/harbour	Swimming pool	Other

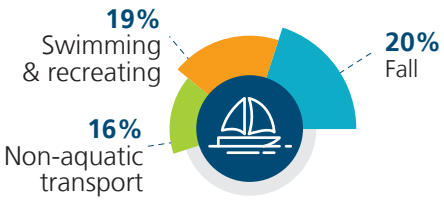


Drowning death crude rate by age per 100,000 population from 1st July 2008 to 30th June 2018

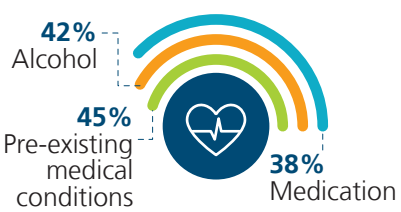
Age



Top activities



Risk factors



Index of relative socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage (IRSAD)

42% of people drowning in inland waterways reside in areas of low IRSAD (indicating high socioeconomic disadvantage) compared with an overall average of **30%** drowning regardless of where they drowned.

10-year reduction in drowning deaths across all locations

Drowning deaths by remoteness

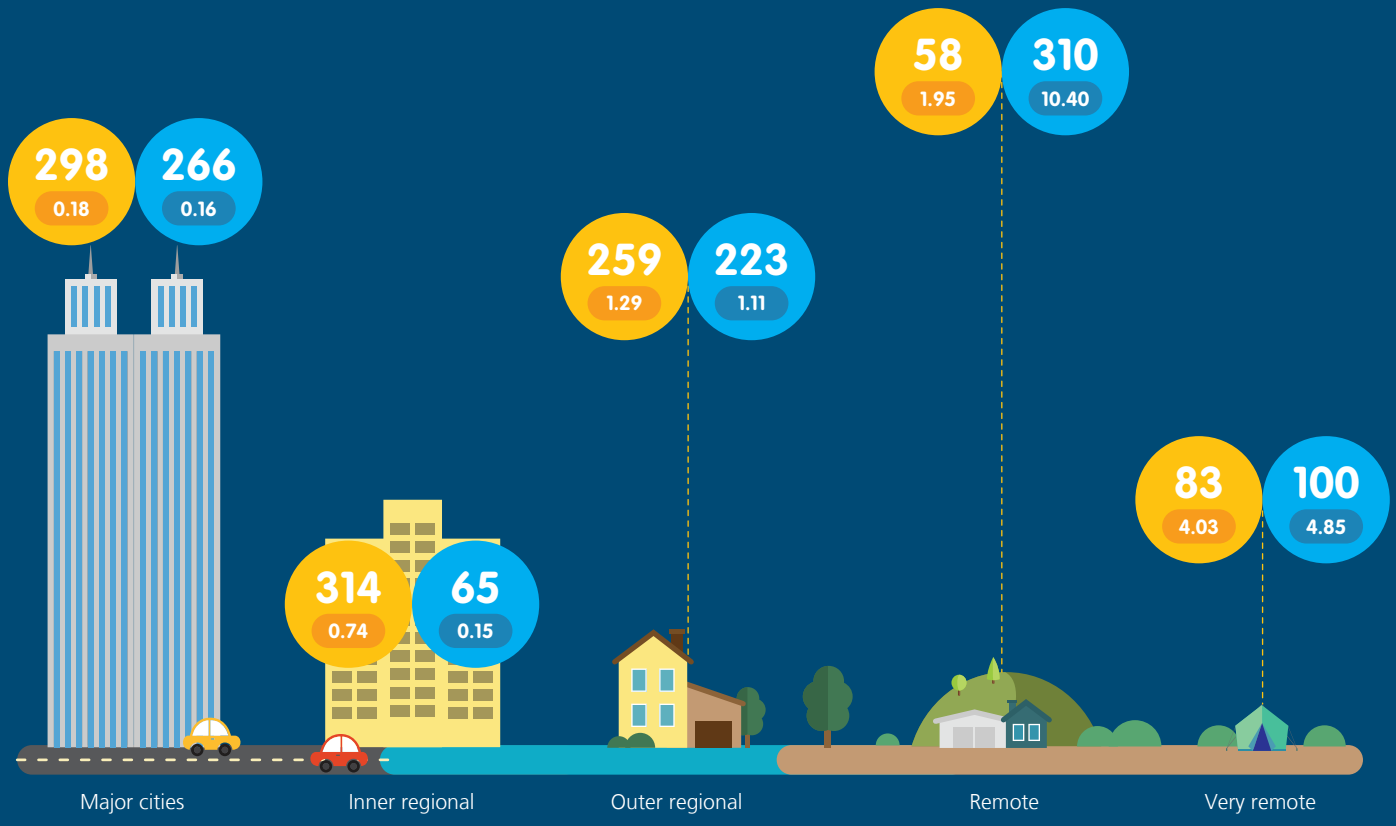
Very remote locations had 22 times more inland waterway drowning deaths than major cities, and 5 times more drowning deaths than inner regional locations.

- Drowning deaths based on location of incident
- Crude drowning rate per 100,000 population

Drowning deaths by residence

78% of inland waterway drowning deaths were local residents. Remote residents were most at risk of drowning in inland water locations, 65 times more likely than major city residents, and 9 times more likely than outer regional residents.

- Drowning deaths based on residence
- Crude drowning rate per 100,000 population



RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop partnerships with governments, communities, industry, private sector bodies and public health agencies to address drowning in specific inland waterway environments.

Enhance and build on existing communication strategies and campaigns to promote the dangers of using alcohol and drugs when recreating around water.

Ensure that young children are actively supervised around any aquatic environment, especially in natural waterways where environmental conditions can change quickly and easily.

Engage rural and remote communities to ensure that key messages are being disseminated effectively to acknowledge the differences between rural and remote residents and city dwellers.

Ensure that children under the age of five years living in rural and remote communities have access to swimming and water safety education.