



Young Males 15-29 Years

Fatal Drowning Data Brief



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
AUSTRALIA



Royal Life Saving is focused on reducing drowning and promoting healthy, active and skilled communities through innovative, reliable, evidence-based advocacy; strong and effective partnerships; and quality programs, products and services-underpinned by a cohesive and sustainable national organisation. Royal Life Saving Society – Australia is a public benevolent institution (PBI) dedicated to reducing drowning and turning everyday people into everyday community lifesavers.

> OUR VISION

A water-loving nation free from drowning.

> OUR PURPOSE

To lead efforts to reduce drowning and increase swimming, water safety and lifesaving skills.

> OUR VALUES

- Leadership, Collaboration and Integrity
- Humanitarianism and Social Entrepreneurship
- Quality and Innovation
- Diversity, Equality and Respect

About this Report

The information presented in this Data Brief is from the Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database, which relies on data collated from the National Coronial Information System (NCIS), State and Territory Coronial offices and year-round media monitoring. Information contained within the NCIS is made available by the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, recognising their continued connection to land, waters and communities.



> YOUNG MALES 15-29 YEARS: SNAPSHOT

985

Total number of drowning deaths among young males aged 15-29 years
July 2002 and June 2023

1.98

Cumulative fatal drowning rate per 100,000 population among young males aged 15-29 years between July 2002 and June 2023

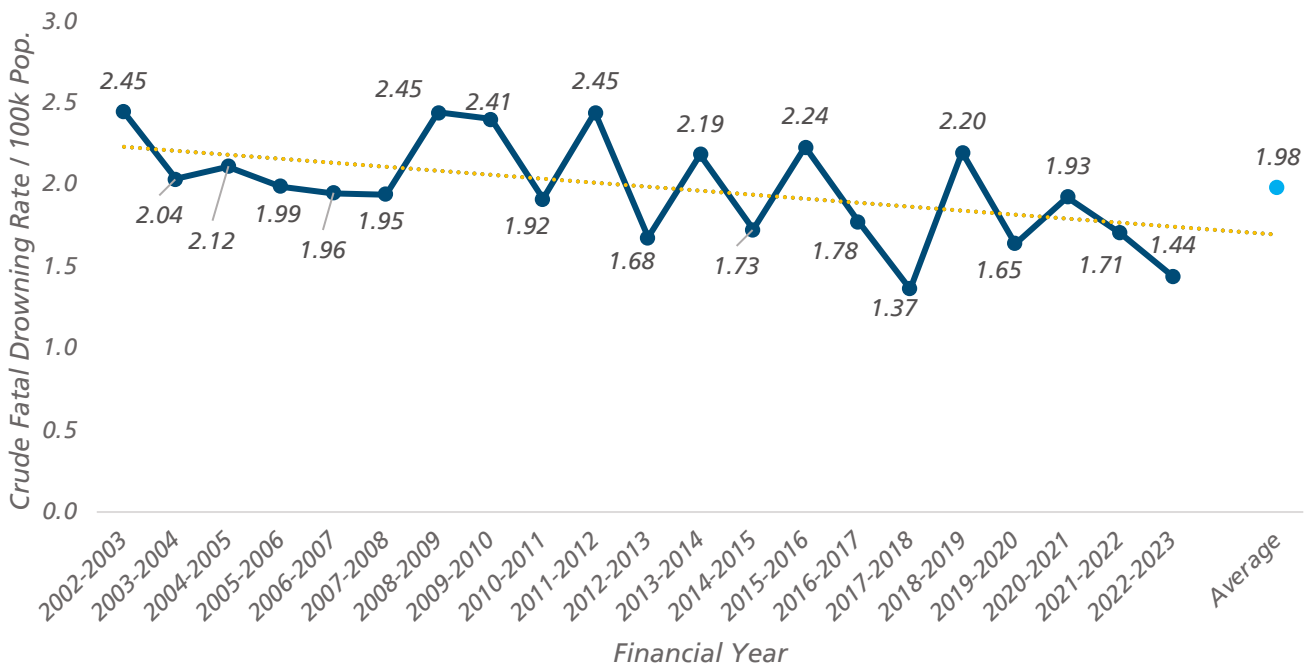
47

Average young male (15-29 years) drowning deaths per year, July 2002 - June 2023 [SD=6.9]

20%

Of all drowning deaths in Australia between July 2002 and June 2023 were young males (15-29 years)

TRENDS OVER TIME

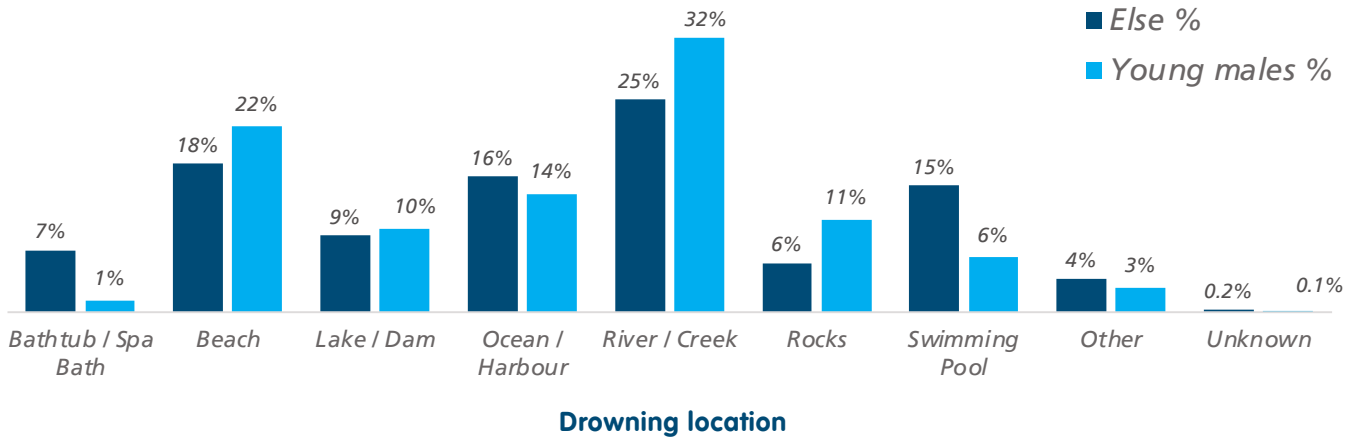


Crude fatal drowning rates among young males (15-29 years) per 100,000 population decreased at a statistically significant level between 2002/03 and 2022/23, on average by 1.45% each year (Annual Percent Change = -1.45; 95%CI: -2.9 - - 0.01; p = 0.019).

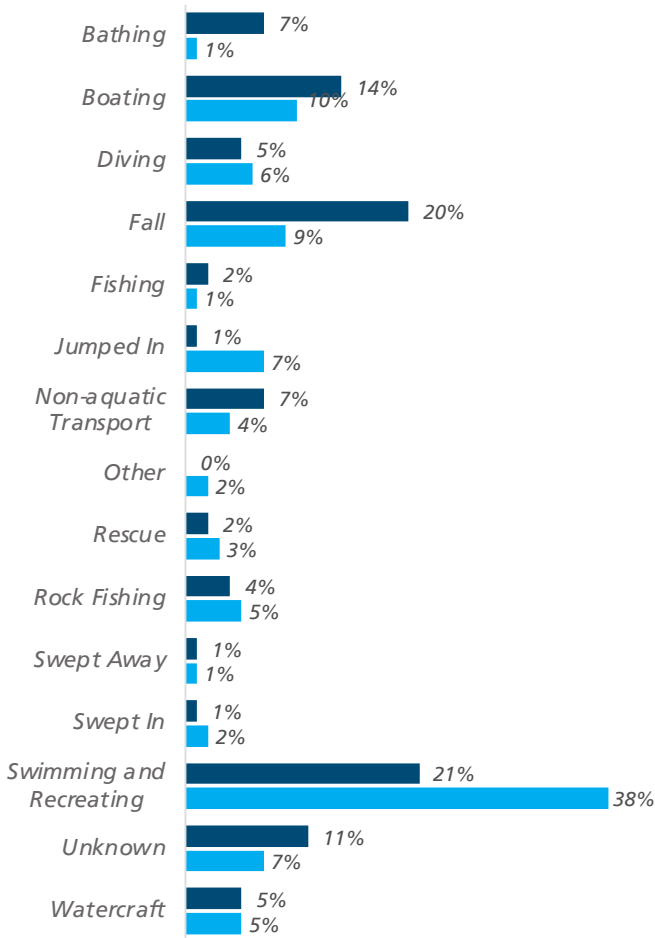
Time trends analysed using Joinpoint Regression.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF DROWNING DEATHS

The following bar charts show the percent of drowning deaths by for young males (15-29 years) compared to everyone else (inclusive of females and males of all other ages), July 2002 – June 2023.

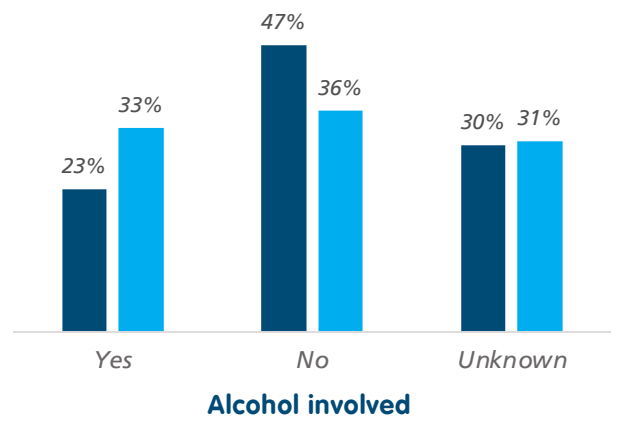


Young males drown in greater proportions at beaches, rivers, and rocks compared to everyone else.



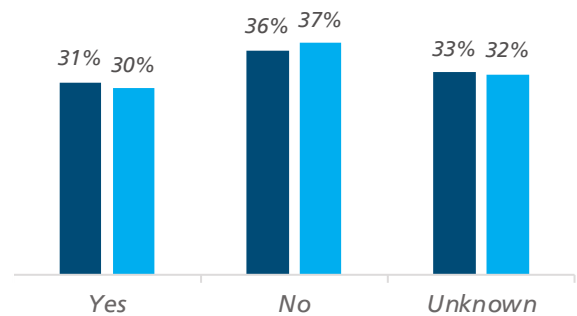
Activity prior to drowning

Young males drown in greater proportions while swimming & recreating and from jumping in compared to everyone else.



Alcohol involved

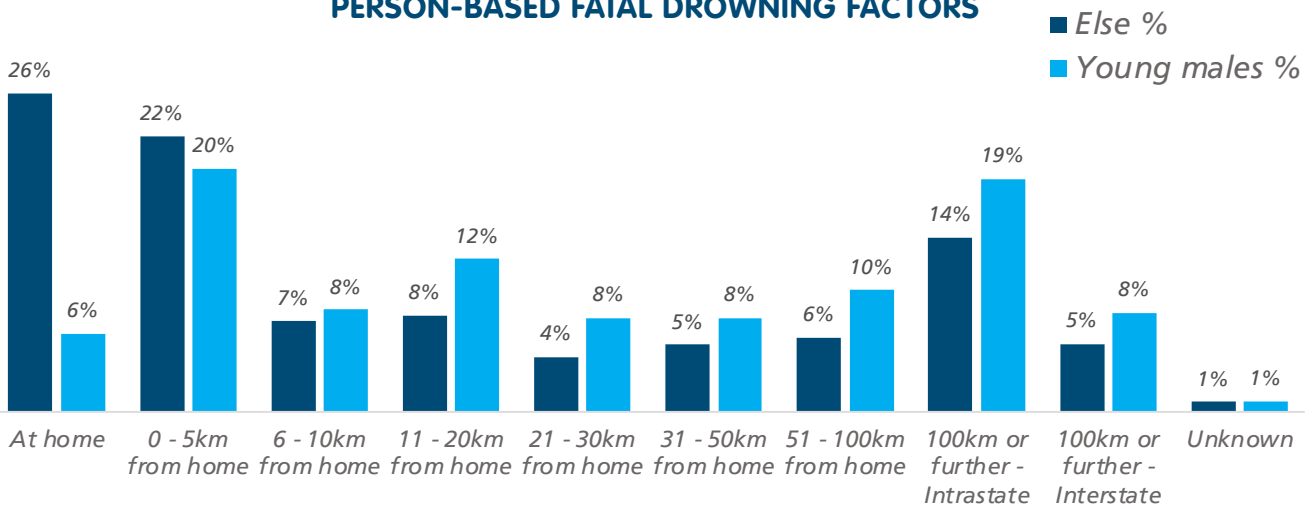
More young males drown with confirmed alcohol consumption compared to everyone else.



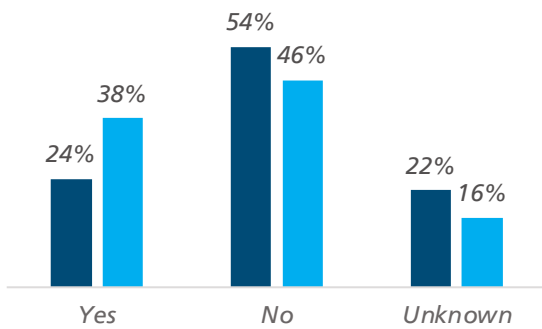
Drugs involved

No difference between young males and everyone else in terms of drowning deaths involving drugs.

PERSON-BASED FATAL DROWNING FACTORS



Young males drown in greater proportions farther away from home compared to everyone else.

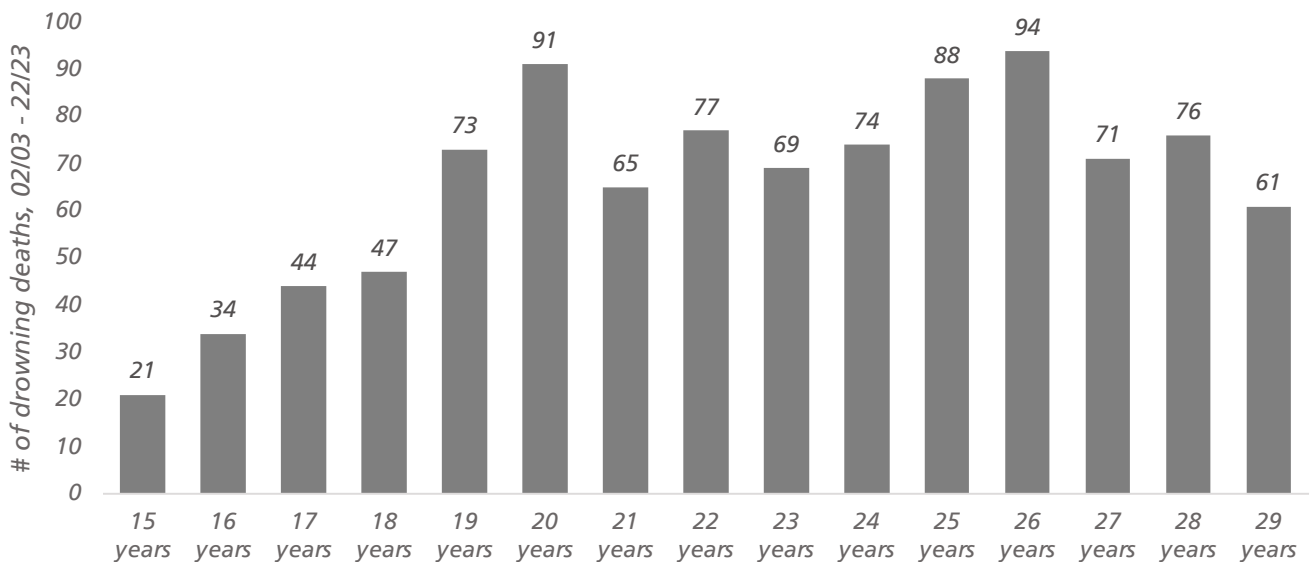


Born overseas

Higher proportions of young males were born overseas compared to everyone else.

Country of birth of young male (15-29 years) fatal drowning decedents

- > **38% were born overseas**
 - 10% of which were from India
 - 8% of which were from China
 - 6% of which were from South Korea
 - 5% of which were from New Zealand
- > **47% were born in Australia**
 - 11% of which were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- > **15% country of birth unknown**



Age in years at time of fatal drowning death





ROYAL LIFE SAVING
AUSTRALIA

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