



LIFESAVING SOCIETY

The Lifeguarding Experts

Swim to Survive+ 2013 Drowning & Water Safety Fact Sheet

Below is a summary of facts about drowning deaths in Canada. The statistics are from the Lifesaving Society's recently released *Canadian Drowning Report 2013 Edition*. Data was compiled from the Chief Coroner's Offices in all provinces. The year 2010 is the most recent year for which complete data is available.

While final data on drownings for 2011-2012 is not yet available from the provincial/territorial Chief Coroners and Medical Examiners, the following interim statistics are available from the Lifesaving Society. Data is derived from media releases, media clippings, news reports and internet searches. These statistics do not represent all fatalities but give a preliminary idea of trends until Chief Coroner's statistics become available.

In Canada

- In 2012, drowning incidents accounted for 344 deaths (347 in 2011) in Canada. In Ontario, there were 105 reported drownings in 2012 – an increase of 8 per cent from 2011 when 97 drownings were reported.
- The majority of drownings occur between May and September, with July and August peaking at 62 per cent of total drownings.
- Year after year, eight out of 10 drowning victims are male. The skew to male victims is evident across all age groups, but most pronounced among 18 to 34 year olds where nine of every 10 victims are male. This reflects higher risk behaviour around water among men than women.
- About half (51 per cent) of all fatal incidents occur on the weekend, (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) when participation in aquatic recreation is highest.
- The majority of drownings occur in lakes, rivers and streams (63%).
- Preliminary data for 2013, based on media and internet reports indicated that there have been 119 reported drownings from January 1st to June 17th, 2013 in Canada – that's an increase 3 per cent during the same period last year (116 in 2012).

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Number of Canada-Wide Preventable Water-Related Deaths
2011 to 2012
Preliminary Interim Data from Media and Internet Reports

	2011	2012
Alberta	31	29
British Columbia	54	62
Manitoba	20	14
New Brunswick	9	10
Newfoundland and Labrador	12	11
Northwest Territories	0	6
Nova Scotia	9	17
Nunavut	6	1
Ontario	97	105
PEI	3	0
Quebec	83	77
Saskatchewan	21	10
Yukon	2	2
Total	347	344

Complete data from provincial coroner's offices is available in the *Canadian Drowning Report – 2013 Edition* (www.lifesavingsociety.com). This data includes all deaths collection from coroner's offices in each province from 1990-2010.

Drowning can occur very quickly, in as little as 10 seconds, and is often silent. The Lifesaving Society offers these drowning prevention tips:

- Restrict and control access to the water. Enclose backyard pools on all four sides with a fence and a self-latching, self-closing gate; drain bathtubs when not in use; empty unattended wading pools, ponds and buckets.
- Wear a lifejacket when boating. Toddlers should wear a lifejacket anytime they are near water.
- Don't drink and drive your boat.
- Never leave children alone near water. Stay within arms' reach of toddlers and non-swimmers when they are near water – watch every child and make sure non-swimmers wear lifejackets. Swim at lifeguard-supervised beaches and pools.
- Learn to swim. Enroll children in swimming lessons and in a swimming survival programs such as the Lifesaving Society's *Swim to Survive* or *Swim to Survive+*.

About the Lifesaving Society

The Lifesaving Society is a full-service provider of programs, products and services designed to prevent drowning. We save lives and prevent water-related injury through our training programs, Water Smart[®] public education, drowning prevention research, aquatic safety management and lifesaving sport. Each year, more than 1,000,000 Canadians participate in the Society's swimming, lifesaving, lifeguarding and leadership programs. For more information, please visit www.lifesavingsociety.com.

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For more information or to book an interview with Barbara Byers, please contact:

Andrea Burmaster
Praxis
905-949-8255 ext. 231
416-460-3159 (cell)
andrea@praxispr.ca

Danielle D'Agostino
Praxis
905-949-8255 ext. 233
416-525-6725 (cell)
danielle@praxispr.ca

Barbara Byers
The Lifesaving Society
416-490-8844
416-727-5636 (cell)
barbarab@lifeguarding.com