

# WHO is drowning?

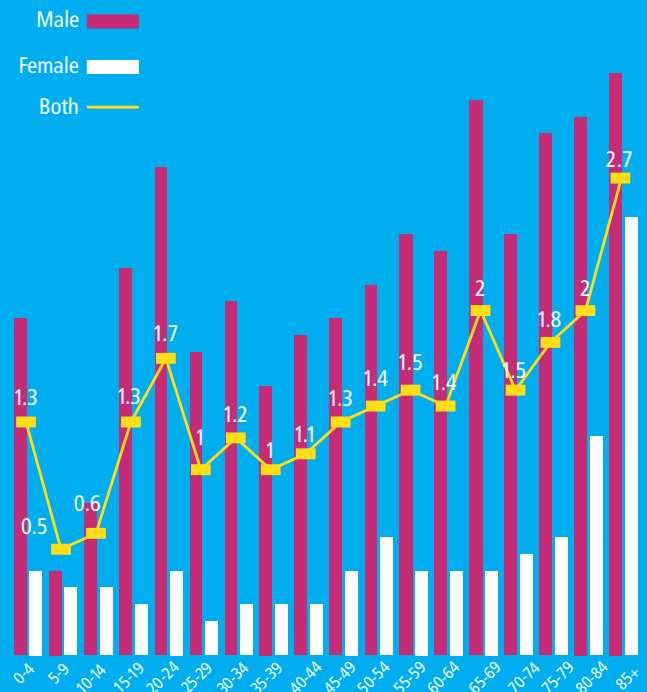
The vast majority of Ontario drowning victims are men, mirroring the trends in national statistics. In the 2007-2011 period, the average yearly water-related fatality rate for men in Ontario was 2.1 per 100,000 population compared to a rate of 0.5 for women, with roughly 8 out of 10 drowning victims being male. Unlike in other provinces however, death rates in Ontario are high among both the very young and much older adults.

Drowning rates for children under 5 years of age and for men and women 65 years of age and older in Ontario are almost 20% higher than the historic national averages for those age groups.

While not as high as Canadian numbers, fatality rates indicate that drowning in young adults is a serious concern in Ontario where 136 15-24-year-olds lost their lives in a water-related incident between 2007 and 2011.

By gender, the highest rates of drowning in Ontario are found among men 15-24, and those over 55 years of age; and among women over 85 years of age.

## Death Rate 2007-2011 by Age: Male vs. Female and Both Sexes



## WHERE are they drowning?

In the 2007-2011 period, over two thirds (69%) of drownings in Ontario occurred in natural bodies of water with the highest proportion occurring in lakes (48%), followed by flowing water such as rivers and streams (22%). The most common man-made setting for drownings in Ontario is bath tubs (11%) which are especially hazardous for individuals at the extremes of age: children under 5 (22%) and older adults over 80 (42%).

Private pools, which account for 10% of all drownings in Ontario, pose a concern especially in the under-five age group for whom they are the number one setting for drownings (44%).

Very few drownings occur in lifeguard supervised settings: in 2007-2011 only 1% of all drownings in Ontario occurred in a lifeguard supervised setting.

The vast majority (74%) of Ontario drownings occur in urban settings. Approximately 86% of the Ontario population lives in an urban area.

