

NON-FATAL DROWNINGS

Non-fatal drowning is a drowning incident where **a person survives** after experiencing respiratory impairment from being submerged or immersed in liquid.

For every fatal drowning, there are approximately 3 non-fatal incidents,

**Children
(0-4 years)**

Have the highest **fatal** to **non-fatal** ratio, with **8 non-fatal** incidents for every **1 fatal drowning**.

They are at the **highest risk** of non-fatal drowning in **swimming pools**.

**Teenagers and
Adults**

Are more likely to experience **non-fatal drowning** in natural water bodies.

They are at the **highest risk** of non-fatal drowning in **rivers, lakes, and beaches**

Long-Term Impacts:

Non-fatal drownings can lead to significant long-term health issues, including:
hypoxic brain injury impacting an individual's quality of life.

Australia's Drowning Deaths 2024/25

357

Drowning deaths in
2024/25

27%

Increase

281

10 year average

81%

Were Male

33%

Were aged 65
years or older

32%

Were born
overseas

TOP 3 LOCATIONS

28%

River / creek

23%

Beach

11%

Ocean / Harbour

TOP 3 ACTIVITIES

24%

Swimming /
Recreational

10%

Unintentional fall
into water

9%

Boating

Who drowns?

Age groups

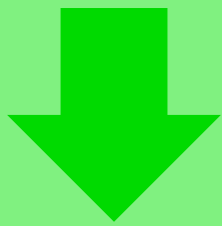
**Infants
0-4 years**



20%

Decrease compared to the 10 year average.

**Children
5-14 years**



6%

Decrease compared to the 10 year average.

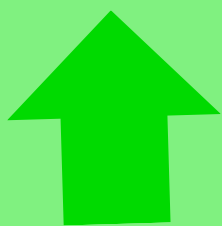
**Teenage /
Young Adult
15-24 years**



28%

Increase compared to the 10 year average.

**Adult
65 years
and over**



48%

Increase compared to the 10 year average.

Who drowns? Country of birth

53%

of people who drown,
country of birth was known

Of those
(61 people)

32%

were born overseas

The highest number of people who drowned in 2024/25 were born in UK and China followed by people from India, Malaysia, Nepal and Papua New Guiana



UK



China



India



Malaysia



Nepal



PNG

Who drowns? Where

Infant 0-4 years

53%
Unintentional
fall into water

13%
Swimming and
Recreational

33%
Unknown

Children 5-14 years

53%
Swimming and
Recreating

36%
Unintentional
fall into water

9%
Unknown

Teenage and Young Adult 15-24 years

41%
Swimming and
Recreational

14%
Unintentional
fall into water

7%
Non-Aquatic
transport

5%
Jumped in

5%
Swept in

5%
Rock fishing

5%
Unknown

Who drowns? Where

Adult 25-34 years

24%
Swimming and
Recreational

12%
Rock fishing

9%
Non aquatic
transport

9%
Unintentional
fall into water

6%
Attempted
rescue

35%
Unknown

Adult 35-49 years

16%
Swimming and
Recreational

10%
Diving and
Snorkeling

9%
Rock fishing

7%
Watercraft

5%
Boating

5%
Swept in

5%
Unknown

Who drowns? Where

Adult

50- 64 years

15%

Swimming and
Recreational

11%

Boating

11%

Diving and
Snorkeling

9%

Watercraft

9%

Non aquatic
transport

5%

Unintentional
fall into water

3%

Other

5%

Unknown

Adult

65 + years

16%

Swimming and
Recreational

5%

Boating

10%

Diving and
Snorkeling

8%

Non aquatic
transport

6%

Unknown