

Drowning Fact Sheet

Activity – Immersion Incident



The following facts represent fatal drownings as a result of an Immersion Incident (no intention of recreating in the water) in New Zealand from 2006-2010.

All data is sourced from Water Safety New Zealand's DrownBase™.

Drownings by Activity – Immersion Incident

Activity	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Accidental Immersion	29	32	28	29	16	134
Commercial Fishing	-	-	2	-	-	2
Flood/Civil Emergency	-	-	2	-	-	2
Rescuing Others	2	1	3	2	2	10
Total	31	33	35	31	18	148

- 28% of total drownings occurred as a result of an Immersion Incident.
- 72% of Immersion Incident victims are Male.
- 21% of Immersion Incident drownings involved Alcohol.
- Environment Breakdown
 - 31% Rivers (eg. Rivers, streams or creeks)
 - 18% Beaches (eg. Surf, calm water beaches or rocky foreshores)
 - 11% Home Pools (eg. Home, spa or portable pools)
 - 13% Domestic Environment (eg. Baths or buckets)
 - 15% Tidal Waters (eg. Estuary, harbour, river/harbour bar or marina)
 - 9% Inland Still Waters (eg. Lakes, ponds, drains or other waters)
 - 3% Offshore (eg. 0-1, 1-5 or 5+ Km from Shore)
- Ethnic Breakdown
 - 59% NZ European
 - 22% Maori
 - 5% Pacific Peoples
 - 6% Asian
 - 3% Other Nationalities
 - 5% Unknown
- Age Group Breakdown
 - 19% 00-04 years of age
 - 4% 05-14
 - 13% 15-24
 - 7% 25-34
 - 16% 35-44
 - 11% 45-54
 - 8% 55-64
 - 22% 65+

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