"National Water Safety Awareness Week" press release

114 Drowned in 2014, 9 fewer than in 2013

79% were male; Six were children aged 14 and under...

Appeal – "Teach children how to stay safe near water".

Today's release by Irish Water Safety of the drowning statistics for 2014 reflects the importance of uninterrupted child supervision and an appeal for people to take training before pursuing aquatic activities. This appeal comes in the wake of 114 drownings last year, **9 fewer than in 2013**.

An analysis reveals that:

OVERALL:

114 people drowned in Ireland in 2014. 55 were accidents (**77 in 2013**), 33 suicides (**27 in 2013**), 25 undetermined (**19 in 2013**), 1 homicide. **123 drowned in 2013**.

The highest figure recorded in any one year was 235 in 1983, the lowest was 73 in 1936.

GENDER:

Males were particularly at risk, accounting for 79% of drownings (90); 24 females drowned.

Of the 24 females: 50% suicide, 29% accident, 17% undetermined, 4% homicide.

Of the 90 males: 53% accident, 23.5% suicide, 23.5% undetermined.

AGE:

Six children aged 14 and under drowned. Six teenagers drowned (3 accidental, 3 suicide).

23% of all those who drowned were adults aged 50-59.

25% drowned aged 0-29; 55% aged 30-59; 20% aged 60-85.

LOCATION:

Leinster 39%; Munster 33%; Connacht 17%; Ulster(partof) 11%

Dublin had the highest (16); Cork and Limerick had 2nd highest (13 each); Galway had 3rd highest (12).

BY COUNTY - See Over....

Irish Drowning Fatality Data by County and Year (2014 and 2013)

County	Number of Drownings 2014	Number of Drownings 2013
Carlow	5	3
Cavan	5	1
Clare	6	6
Cork	13	23
Donegal	6	8
Dublin	16	20
Galway	12	11
Kerry	2	6
Kildare	7	3
Kilkenny	0	2
Laois	2	1
Leitrim	0	1
Limerick	13	2
Longford	2	0
Louth	3	5
Mayo	4	6
Meath	2	5
Monaghan	1	1
Offaly	3	3
Roscommon	0	3
Sligo	3	2
Tipperary	3	2
Waterford	1	3
Westmeath	3	1
Wexford	2	3
Wicklow	0	2

Advice to prevent drownings:

It only takes seconds for tragedy to strike but this can so easily be avoided if people take responsibility for their own safety by taking note of the following in advance of any aquatic activity:

1. Teach schoolchildren how to stay safe for summer, listed on www.iws.ie

2. Take training with a recognised provider, listed on www.safetyzone.ie

3. Swim at Lifeguarded waterways, listed on www.iws.ie

4. If there is no Lifeguarded waterway nearby then swim at a recognised, traditional bathing area.

5. Swim within your depth - stay within your depth;

6. Never use inflatable toys at beaches, rivers or lakes.

7. Use local knowledge to determine local hazards and safest areas to swim;

8. Ensure that ringbuoys are present;

9. Make sure that the edges are shallow shelving so that you can safely and easily enter and exit;

10. If you drink alcohol, only do so after your aquatic activity has ended.

11. Wear a lifejacket with crotch strap when on the water.

Media Enquiries:

Irish Water Safety, The Long Walk, Galway. LoCall: 1890.420.202 / Tel: 091-56.44.00

Mobiles: John Leech 087-6789600; Roger Sweeney 087-6789601

Websites: www.iws.ie / www.aquaattack.ie / www.ringbuoys.ie

Any interpretation of the figures must be exercised with caution because they are provisional, pending supplementary documentation and therefore subject to change pending further correspondence.