



Analysis of Drownings 2012

Irish Water Safety - targeting at-risk groups with drowning prevention initiatives...

Total Drownings each year:	2012: 147
	2011: 128
	2010: 112
	2009: 145
	2008: 158
	2007: 156

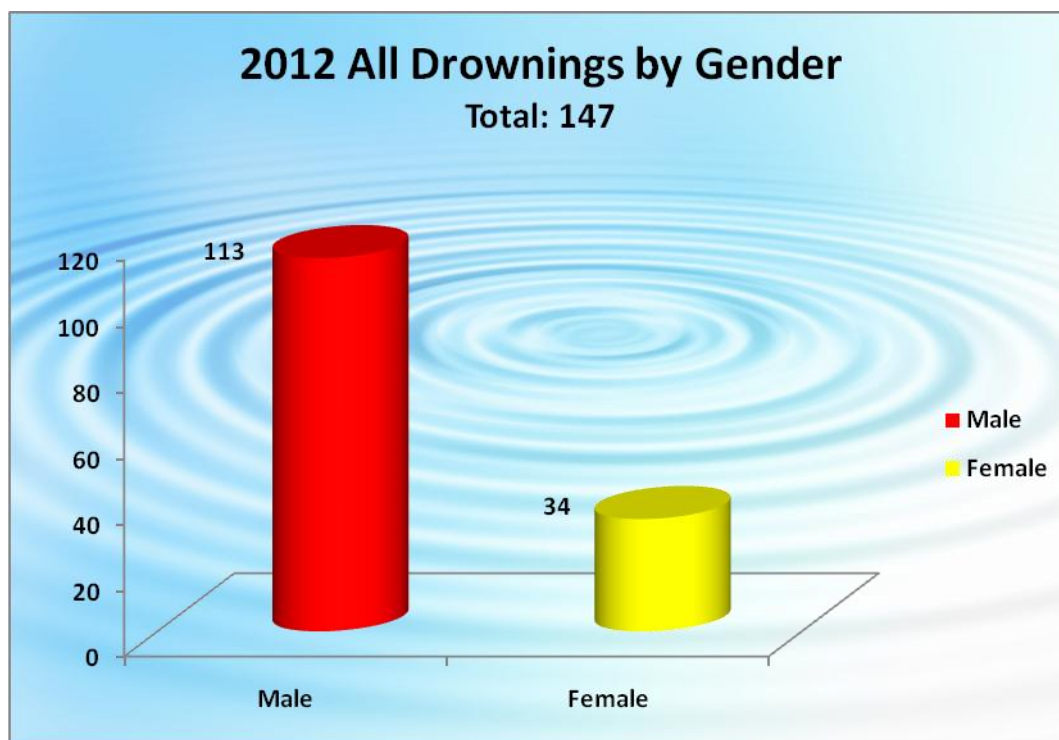
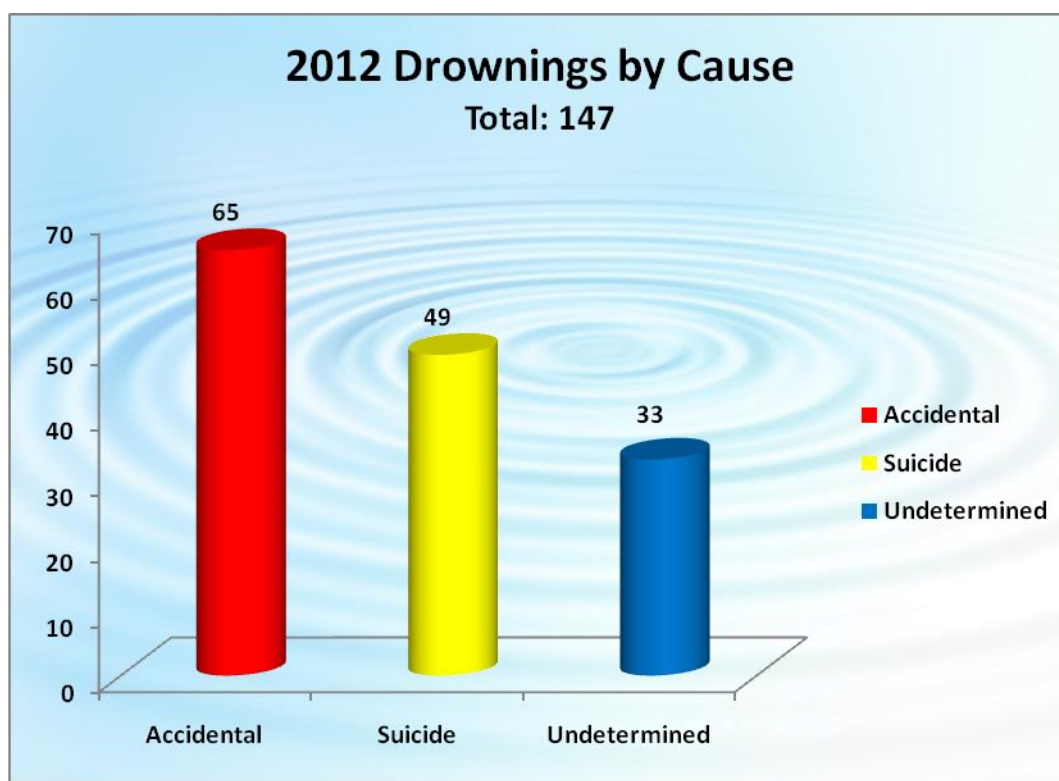
The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2012 was 147, nineteen more than the previous year when 128 people drowned. The highest figure recorded in any one year to date is 229 in 1994.

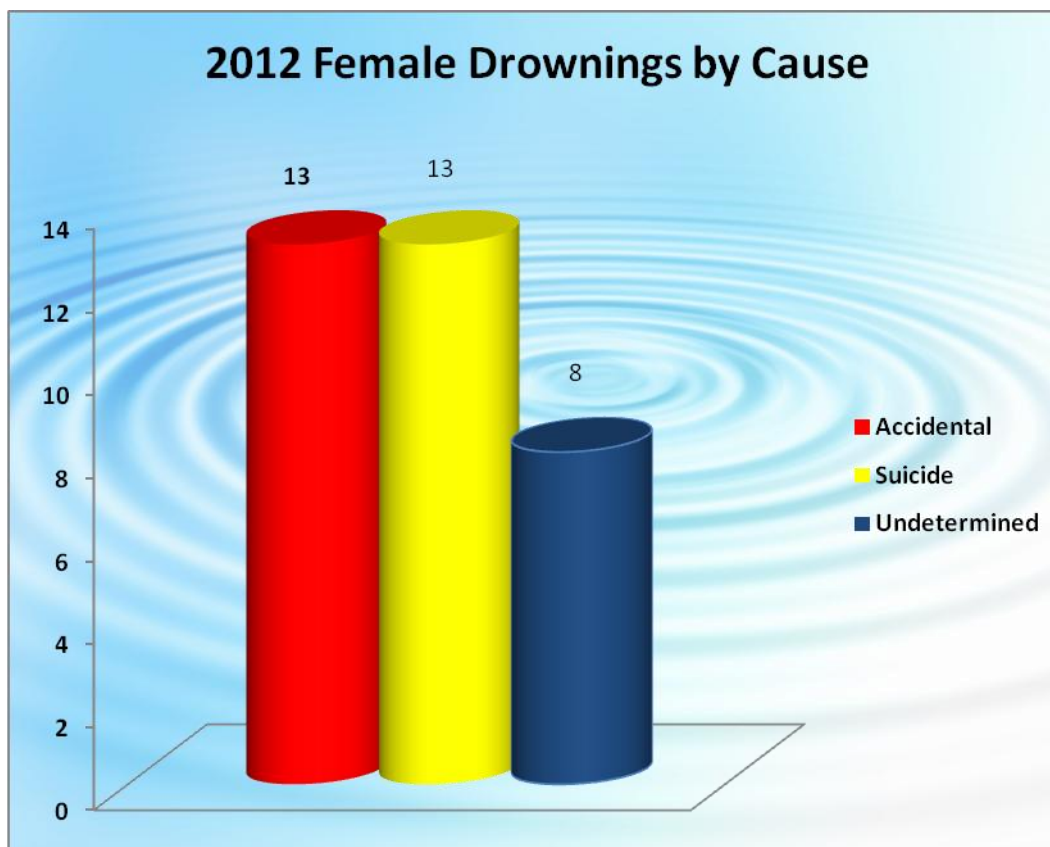
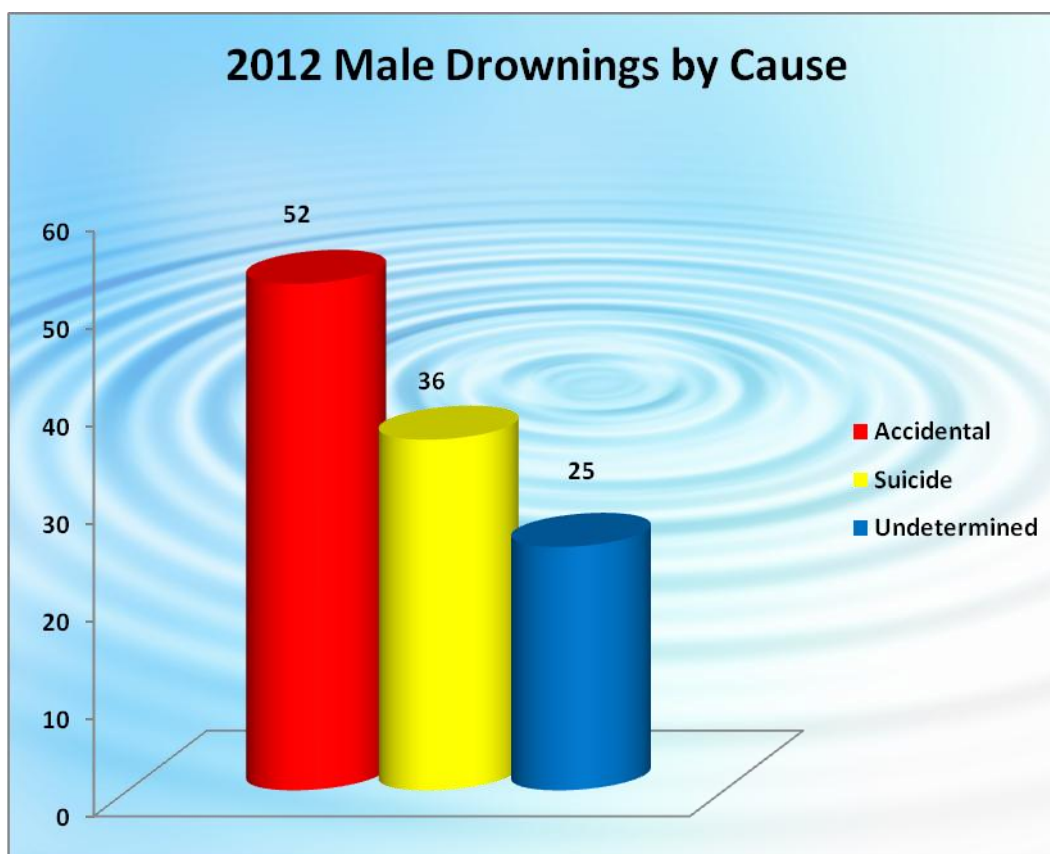
Each figure in the following graphical analysis, be it accidental, suicide or of undetermined cause, reflects a preventable tragedy that affects so many lives. Irish Water Safety continues to target at-risk groups with initiatives to highlight best practices so that drownings decline from the annual average of 141.

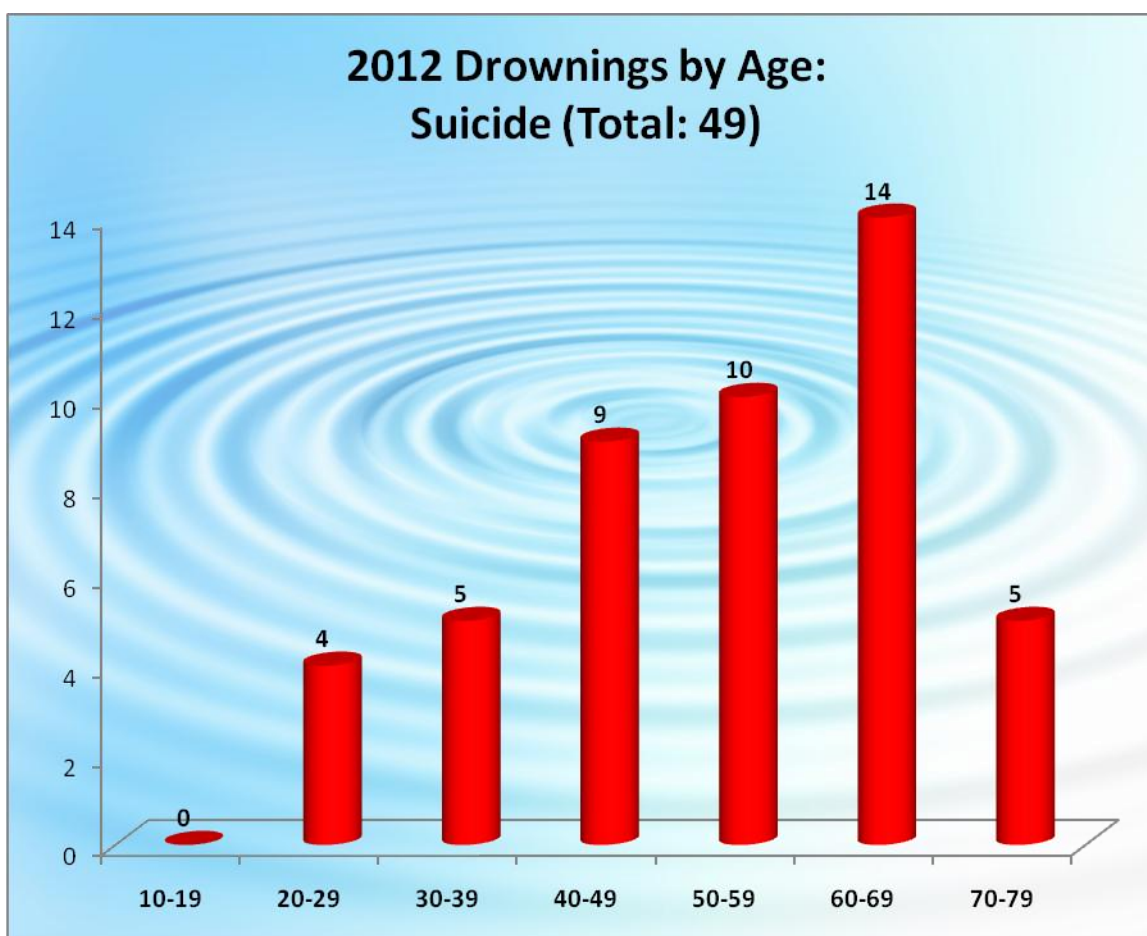
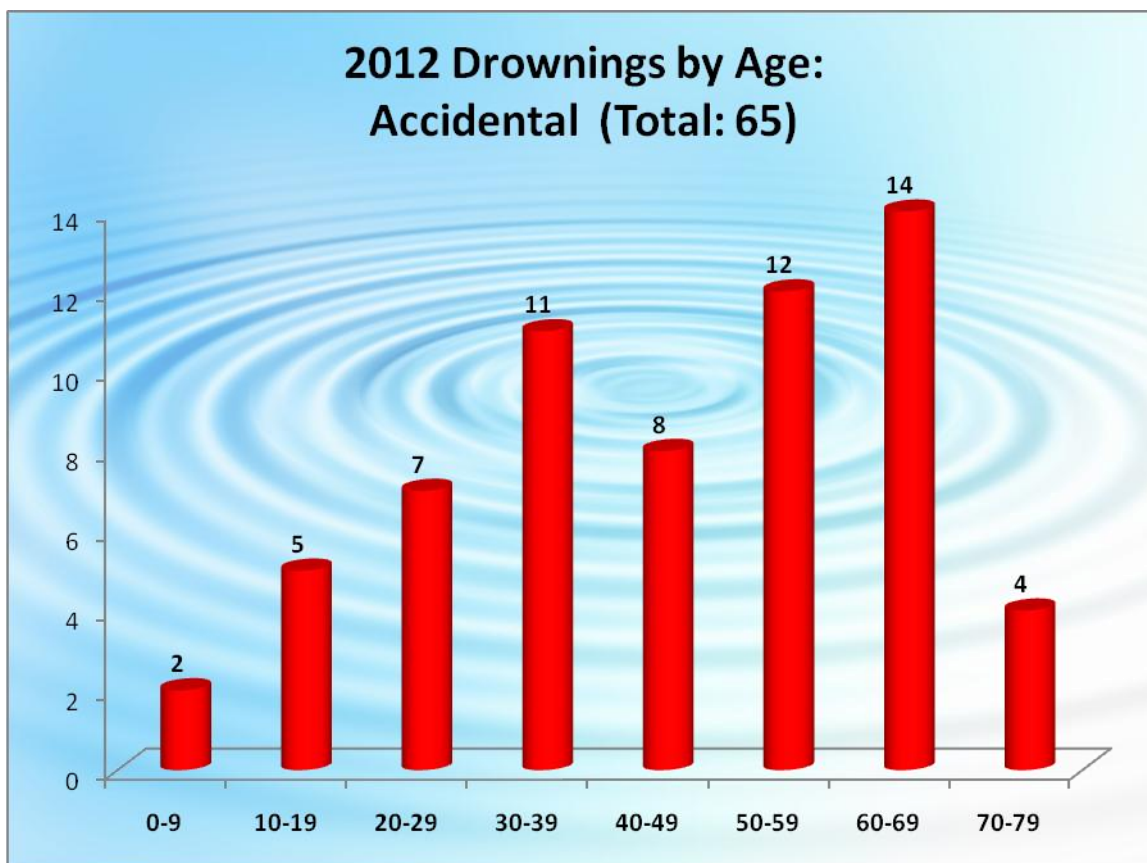
A synopsis of some general contributory factors over the years:

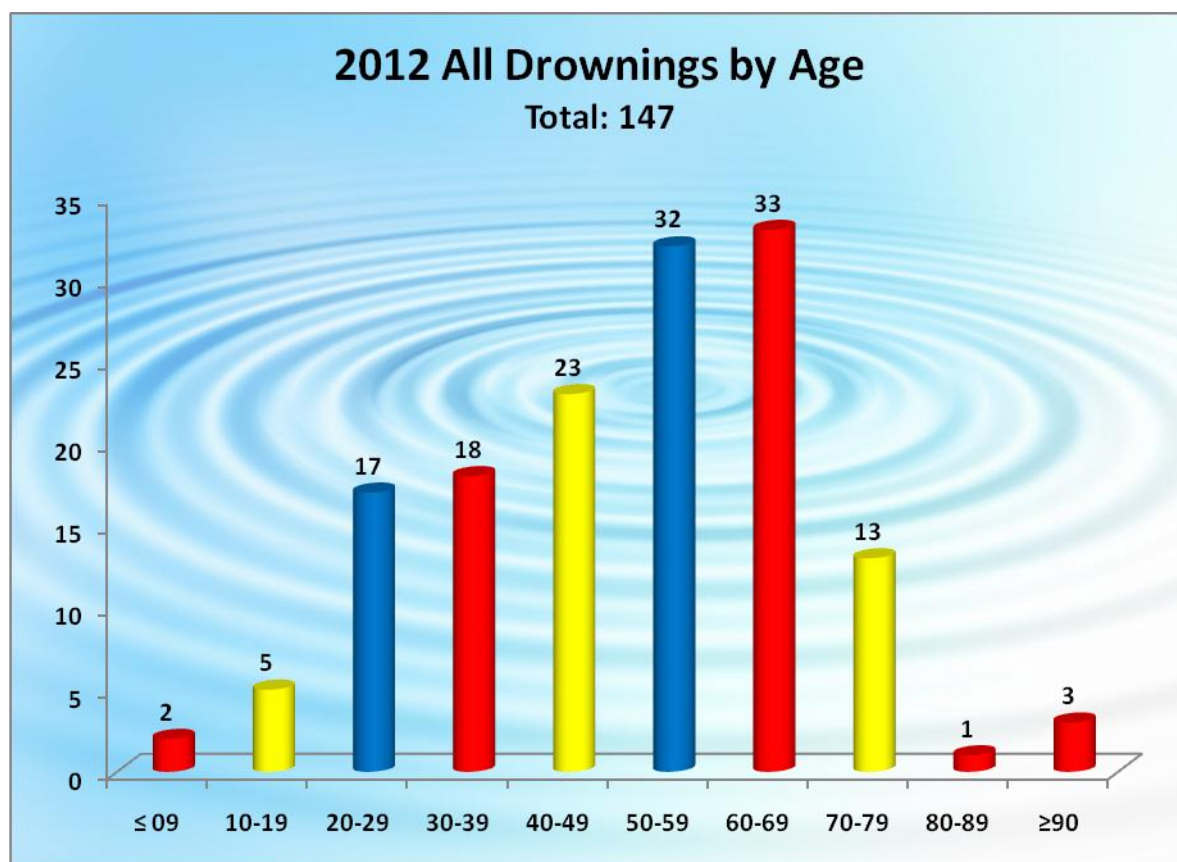
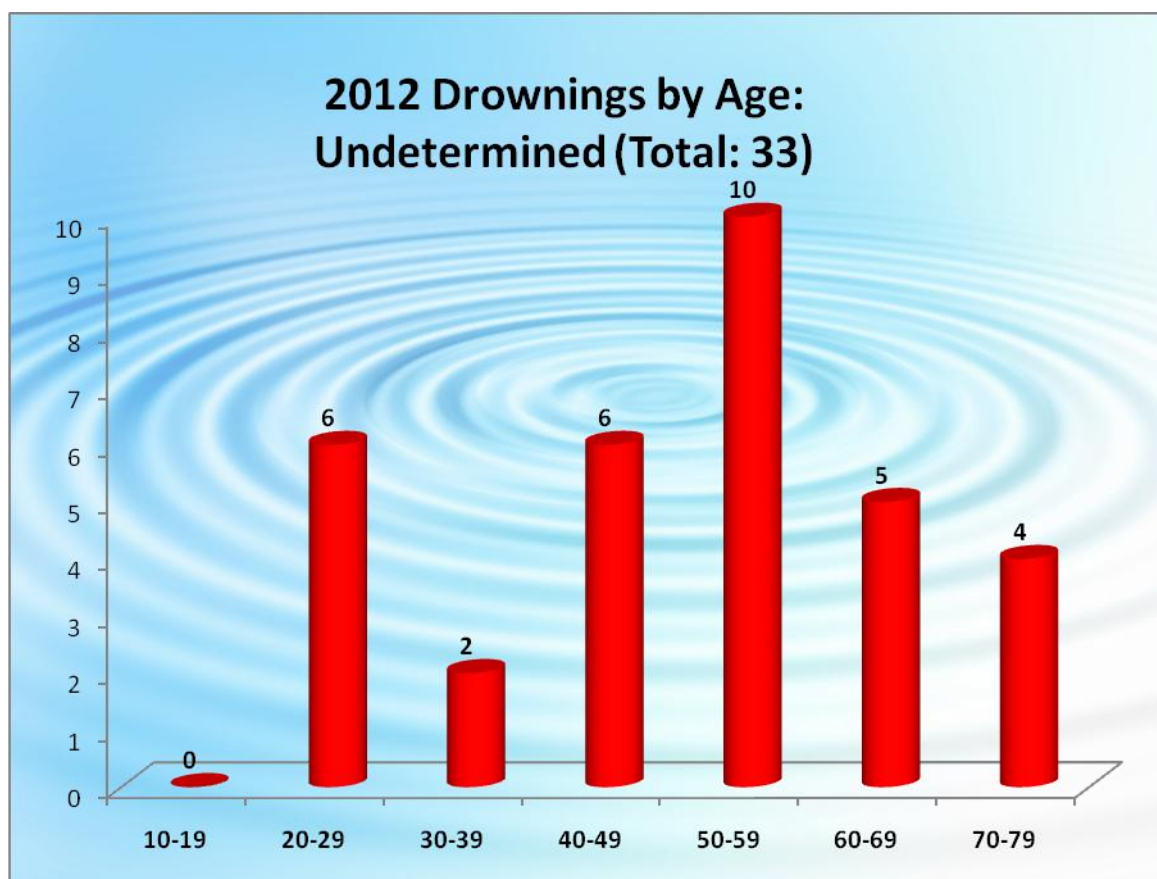
1. Poor or inadequate equipment (e.g. boats or lifejackets);
2. Not wearing a correctly fitting lifejacket;
2. Alcohol consumption;
3. Falling unexpectedly into water;
4. Improper use of boats and equipment;
5. Overestimation of skills;
6. Lack of local knowledge when travelling in Ireland and abroad;
7. Not being able to swim or not having lifesaving and water survival skills;
8. Easy unauthorized access to waterways;
9. Cold water shock and hypothermia;
10. Current (including rip currents, river currents, and tidal currents);
11. Offshore winds (including flotation devices);
12. Pre-existing diseases;
13. Underwater entanglement;
14. Bottom surface gradient and stability;
15. Waves (coastal, boat);
16. Water transparency;
17. Impeded visibility (including coastal configuration, structures and overcrowding);
18. Lack of parental supervision (infants and children);
19. Change in weather conditions;
20. Excessive „horseplay“ or over exuberant behavior (including “tombstoning” from cliffs);
21. Swimming outside the depth of the user.

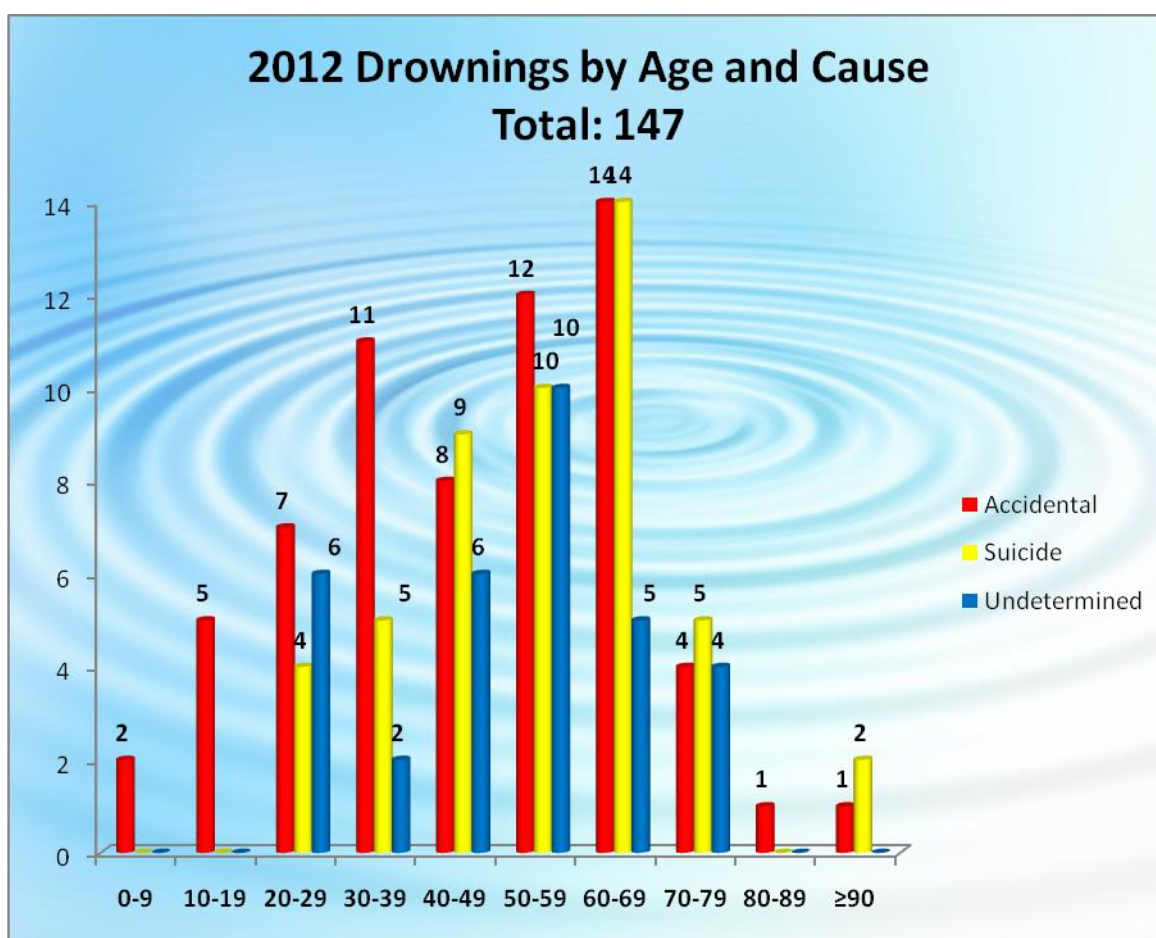
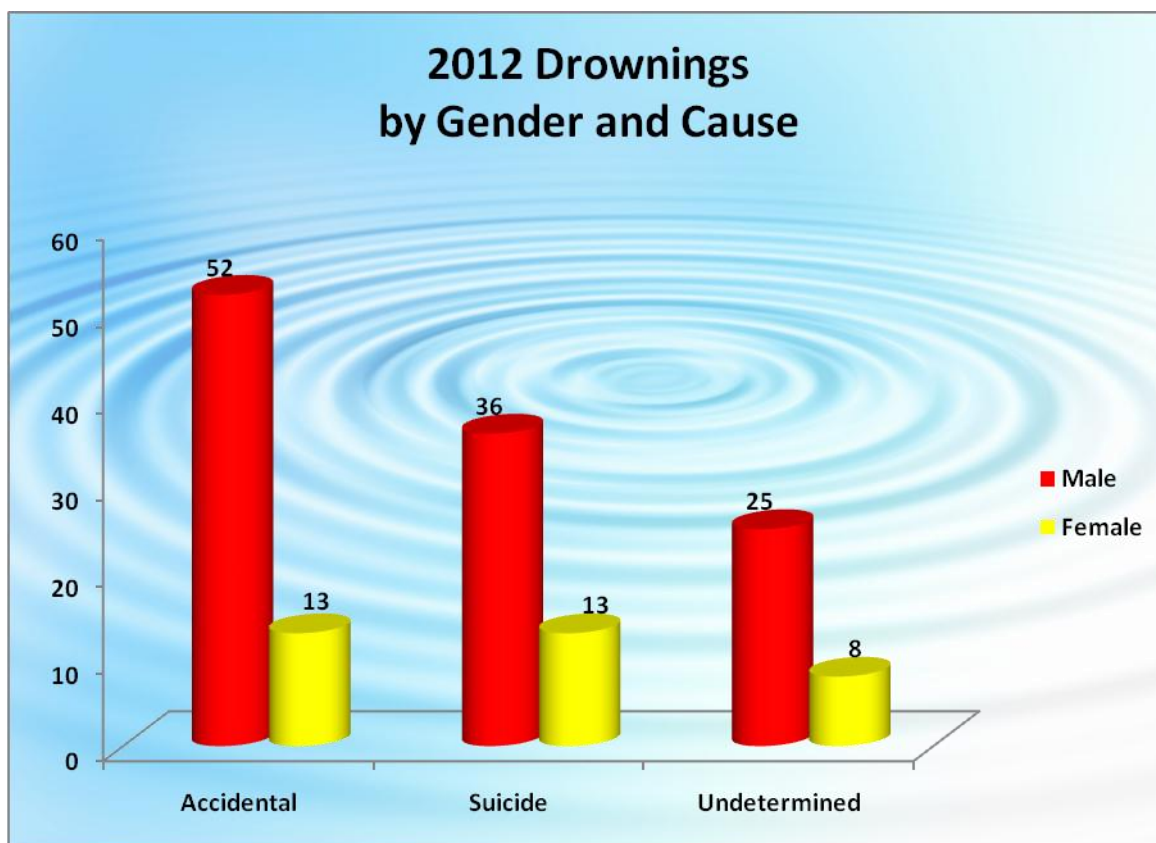
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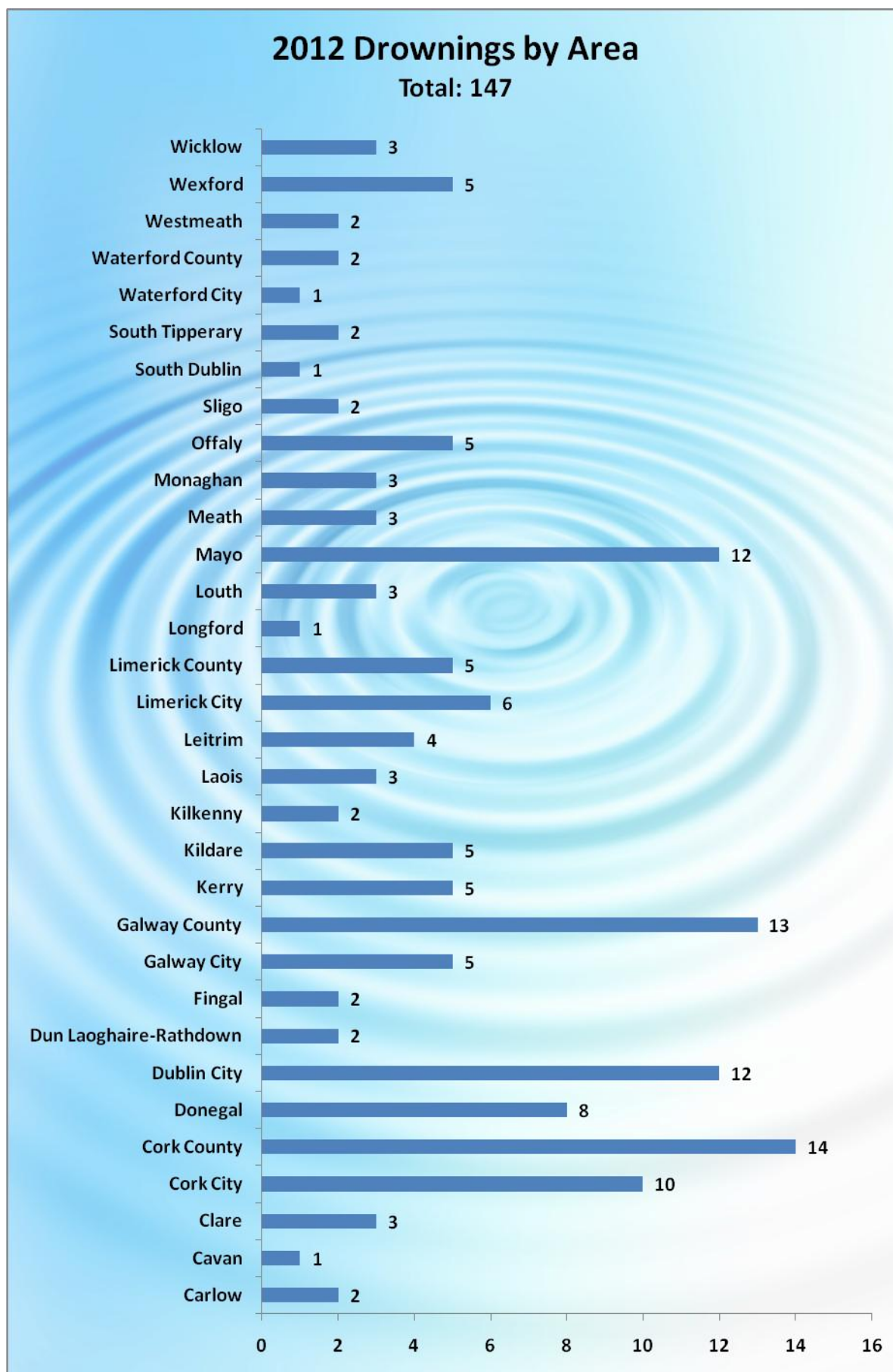


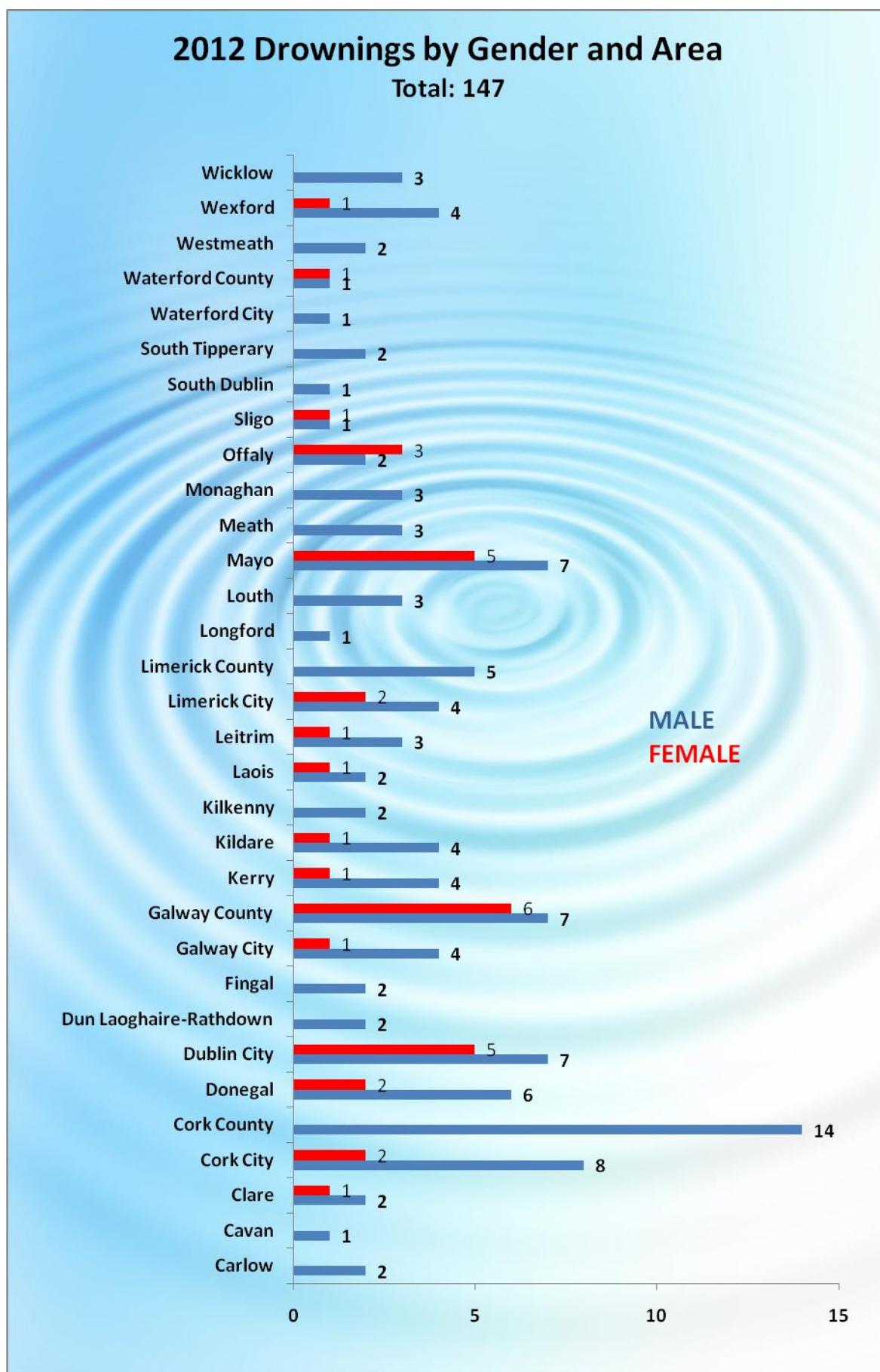


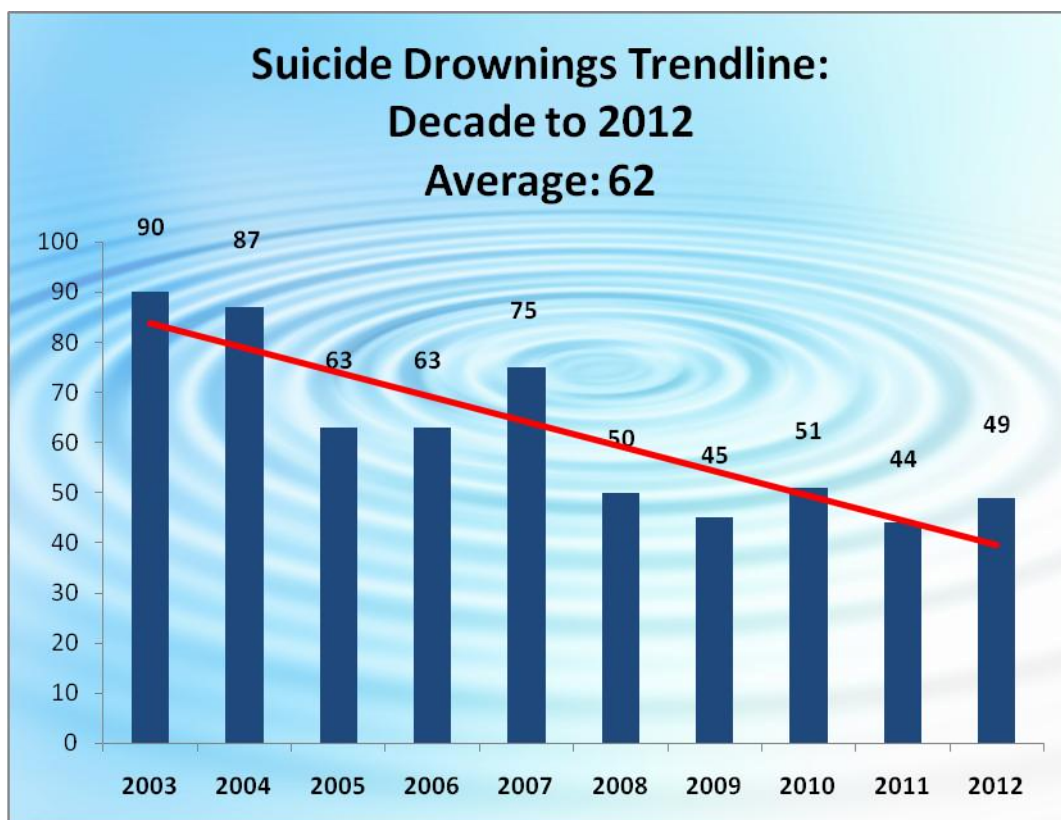
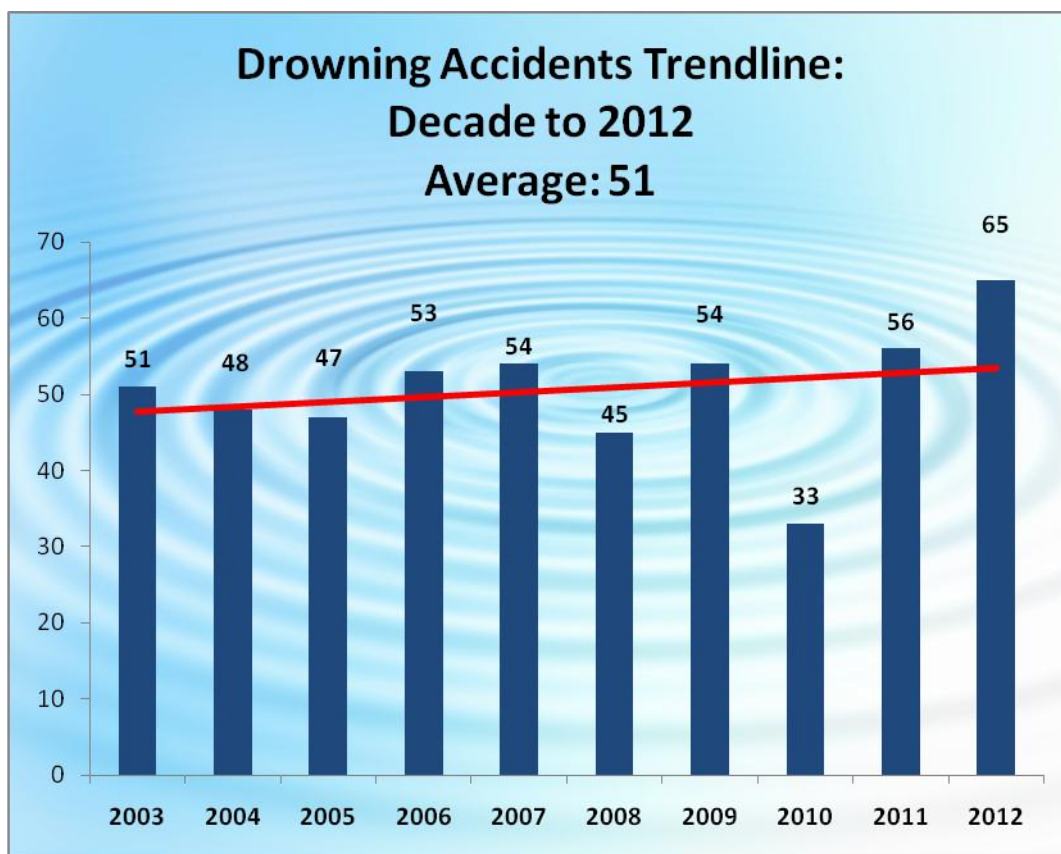


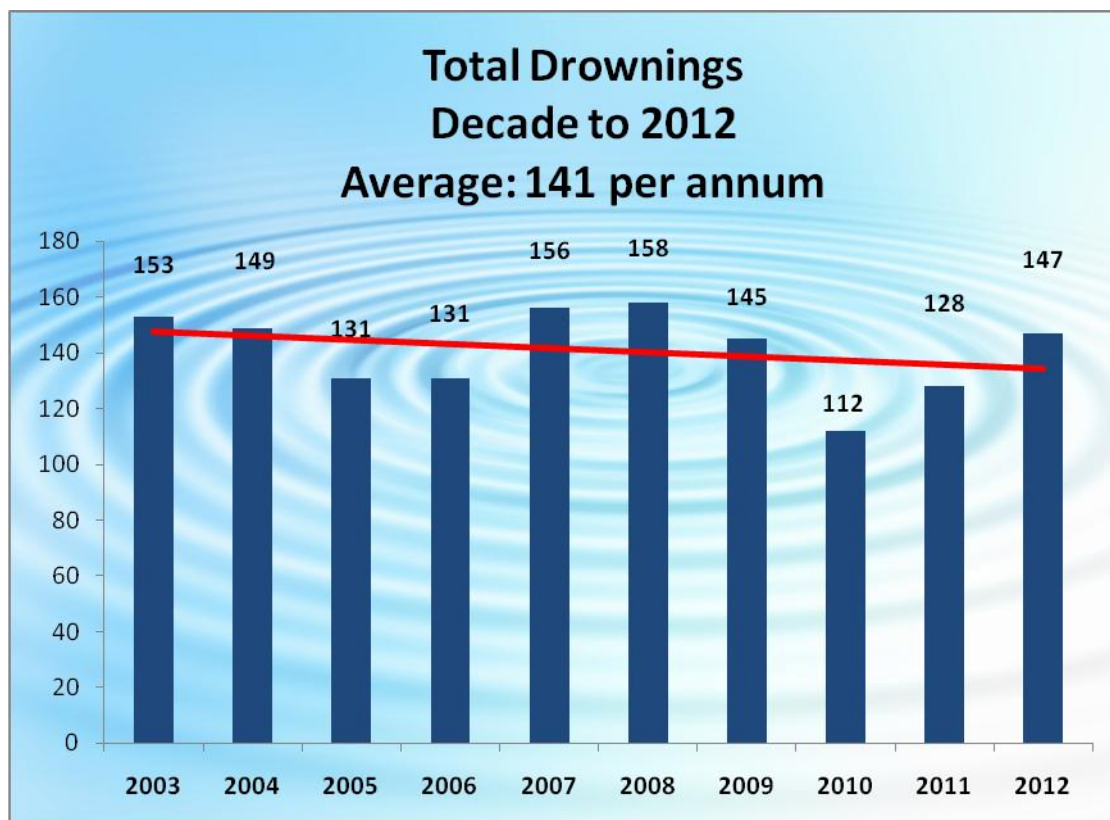
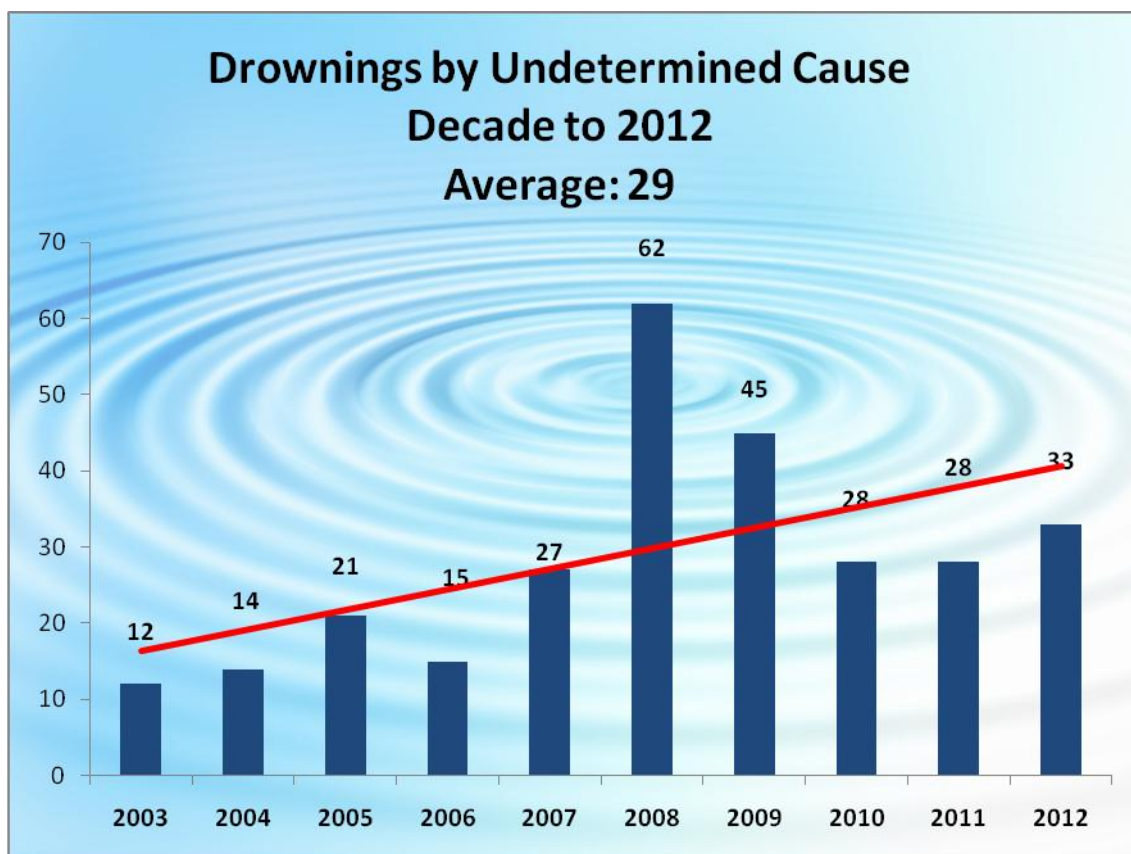


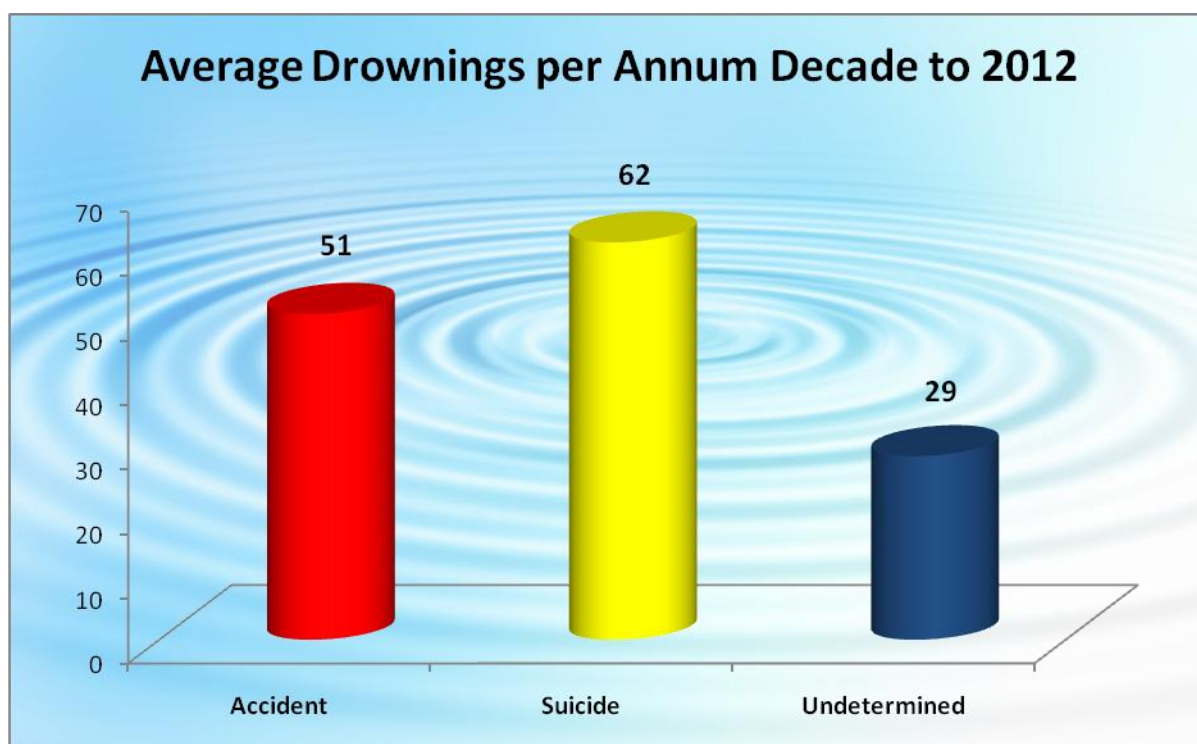








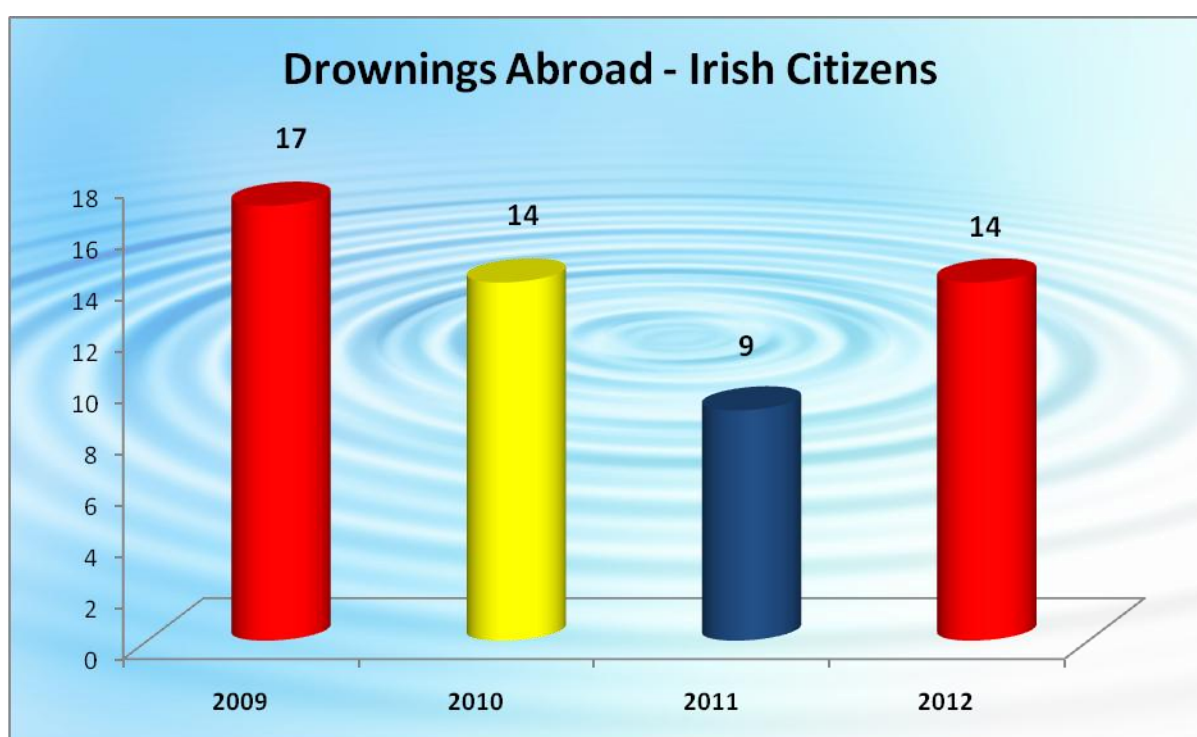




Drowning Statistics – Irish Citizens abroad in 2012

The Consular Assistance section of the Department of Foreign Affairs was informed of the deaths of 194 Irish citizens abroad in 2012. Of these, 14 were by drowning.

The breakdown by continent is as follows:
Europe: 6; Americas: 4; Australia: 3; Asia: 1.



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