



Analysis of Drownings 2010

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

Total Drownings each year:	2010: 112
	2009: 145
	2008: 158
	2007: 156
	2006: 131

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2010 was 112, the lowest figure since 1952 when 104 people drowned. The highest figure recorded in any one year to date is 229 in 1994.

Ireland averaged 150 drownings each year in the decade to 2010, a decade during which Irish Water Safety developed a range of educational and promotional campaigns to raise awareness about water safety.

We have ended a decade in which we can report that drownings in Ireland in 2010 were at their lowest for 58 years - reason enough to be confident that the work of Irish Water Safety and our partners in the public and private sector is having the desired outcome – more people enjoying our wonderful aquatic facilities more safely.

Each figure in the following graphical analysis 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 drowning statistics continue this downward trend.

A synopsis of some general contributory factors over the years:

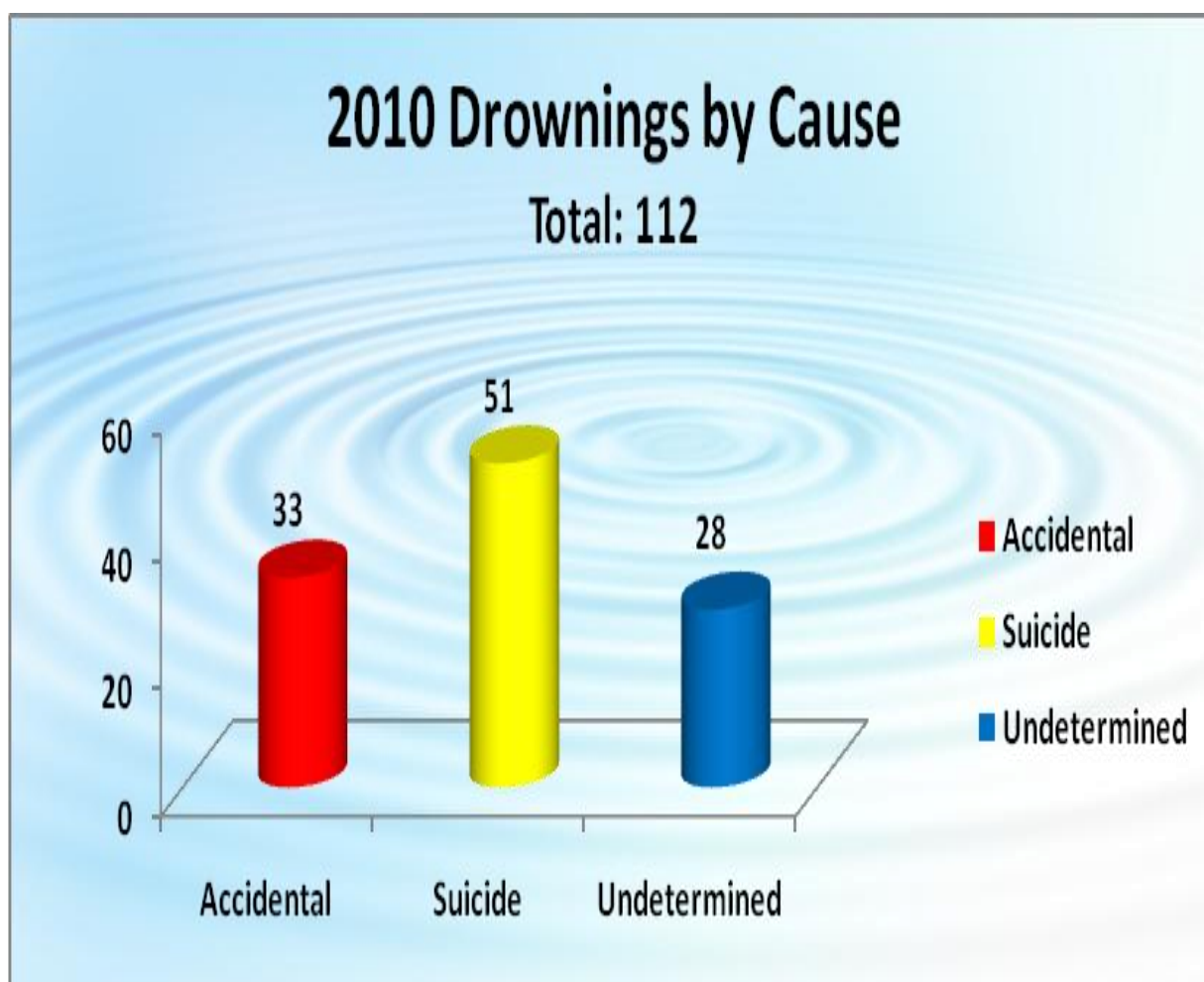
1. Poor or inadequate equipment (e.g. boats or lifejackets);
2. Not wearing a correctly fitting lifejacket.
2. Alcohol consumption;
3. Falling unexpectedly into water;
4. Improper use of boats and equipment;
5. Overestimation of skills;
6. Lack of local knowledge when travelling in Ireland and abroad;
7. Not being able to swim or not having lifesaving and water survival skills;
8. Easy unauthorized access to waterways;
9. Cold;
10. Current (including rip currents, river currents, and tidal currents);
11. Offshore winds (including flotation devices);
12. Pre-existing diseases (e.g. heart attacks);
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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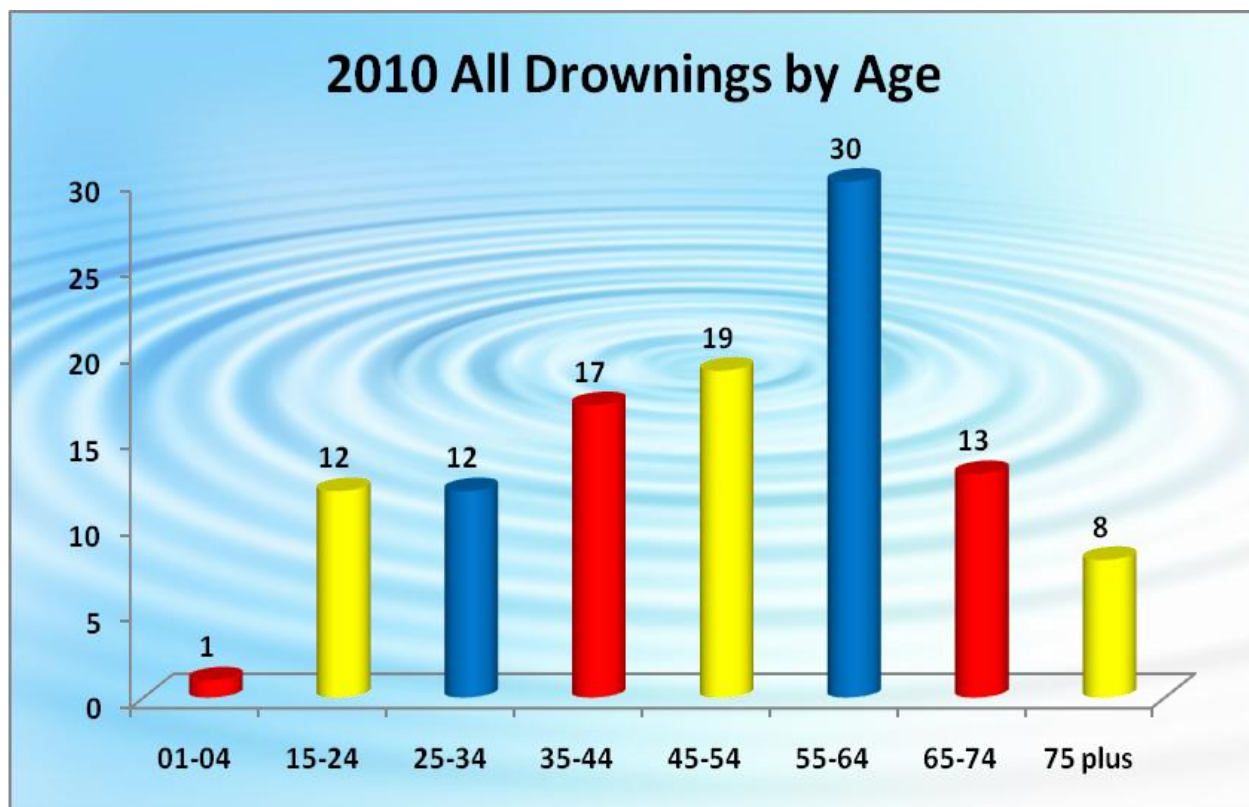
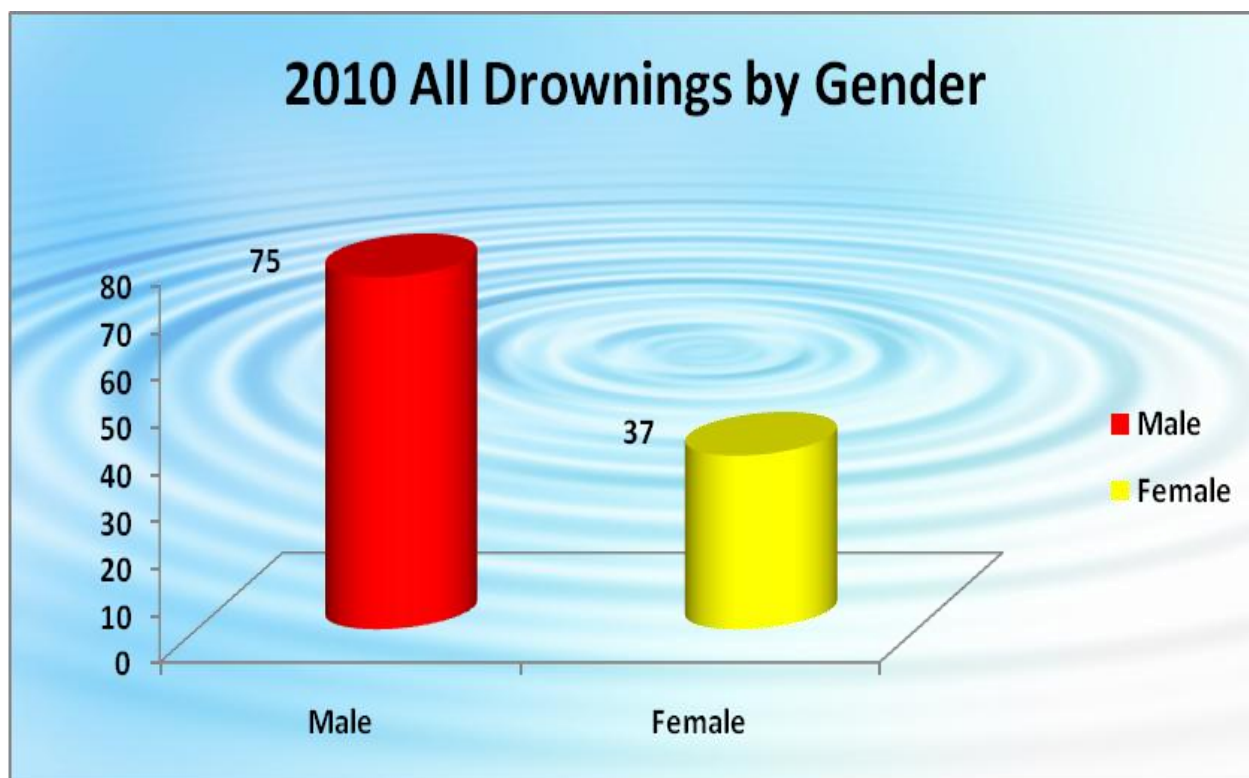
A synopsis of some general preventive and management actions:

1. Public education by Irish Water Safety regarding hazards and safe behaviours;
2. Teaching children to stay away from water when unsupervised through the IWS PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) programme;
3. Continual adult supervision of children;
4. IWS media campaigns that drowning can happen quickly and quietly;
5. Promote in IWS press announcements, the restriction of alcohol provision before or during aquatic activities;
6. Provision by Irish Water Safety of properly trained and equipped lifeguards;
7. Provision of rescue services;
8. Irish Water Safety Risk Assessments that include assessments of local hazard warning notices, access to emergency response and availability of resuscitation skills/facilities and other factors;
9. Development by Irish Water Safety of rescue and resuscitation skills among general public and user groups;
10. Coordination by Irish Water Safety with user group associations concerning hazard awareness and safe behaviours;
11. Wearing of adequate lifejackets and Personal Flotation Devices when boating;
12. Fencing and doors to isolate outdoor pools and other water features.

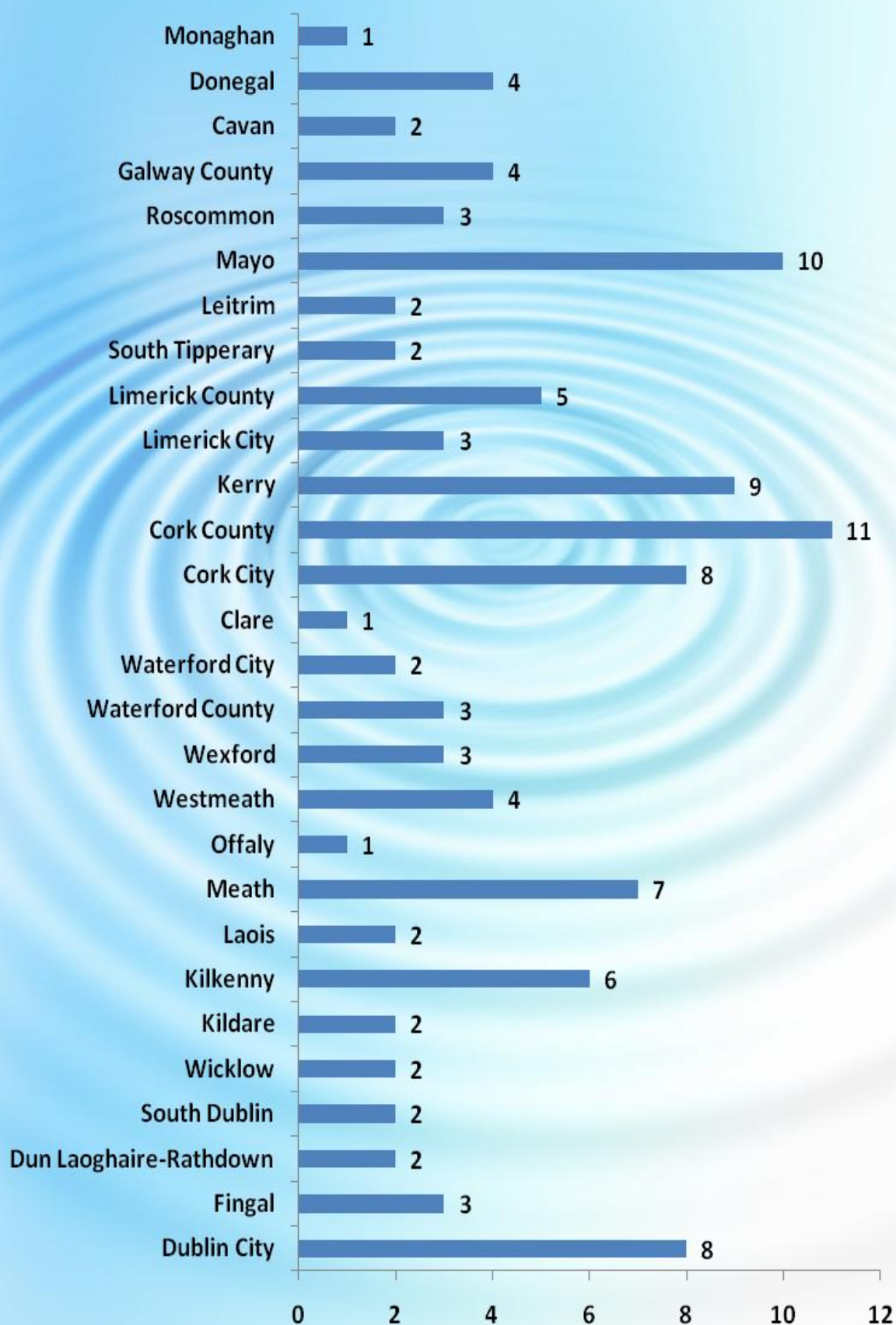
Graphical Analysis 2010:

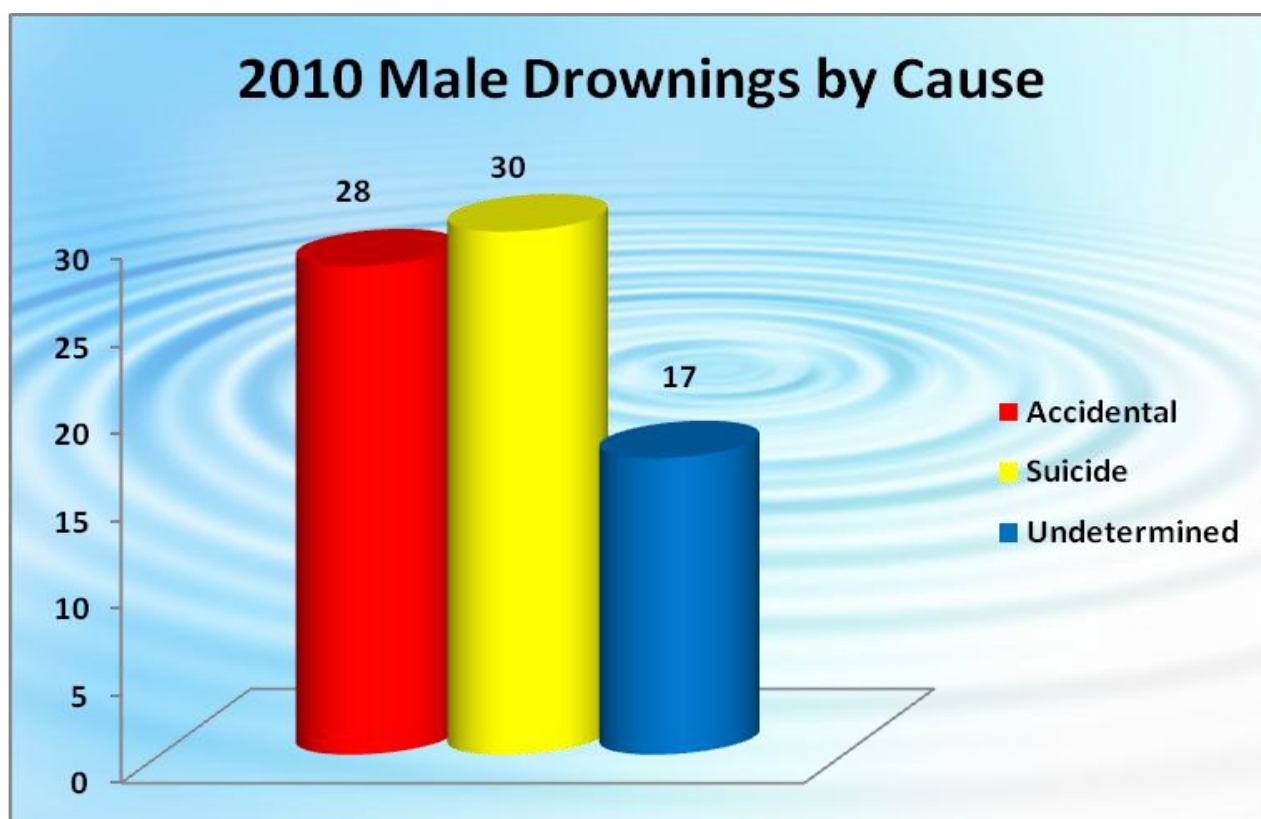
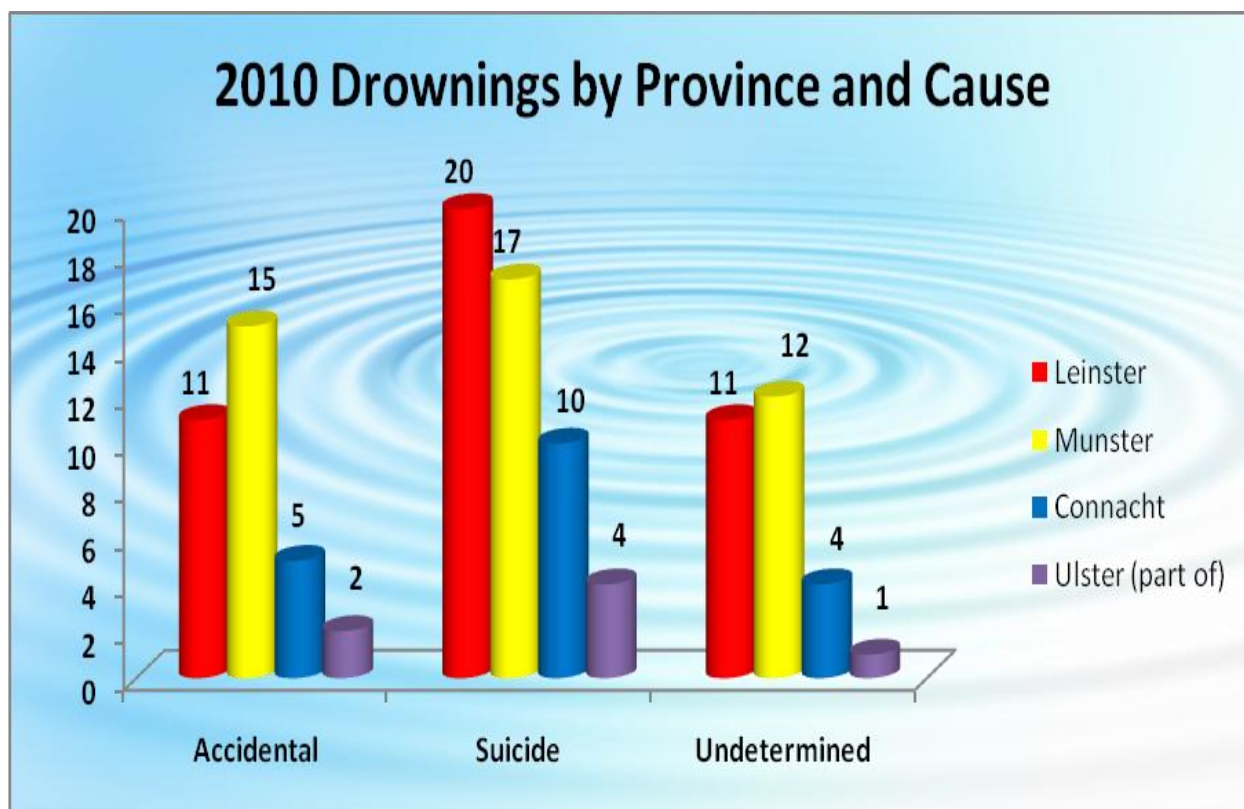


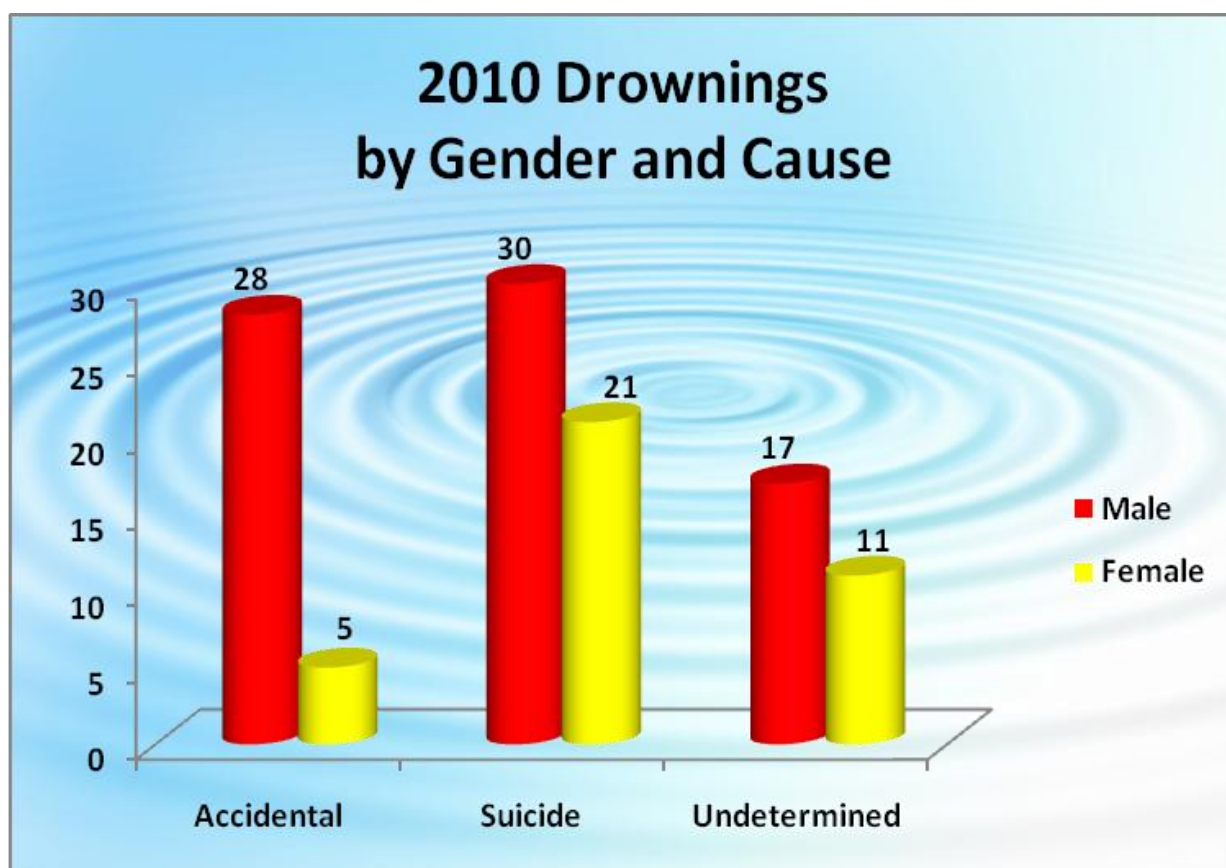
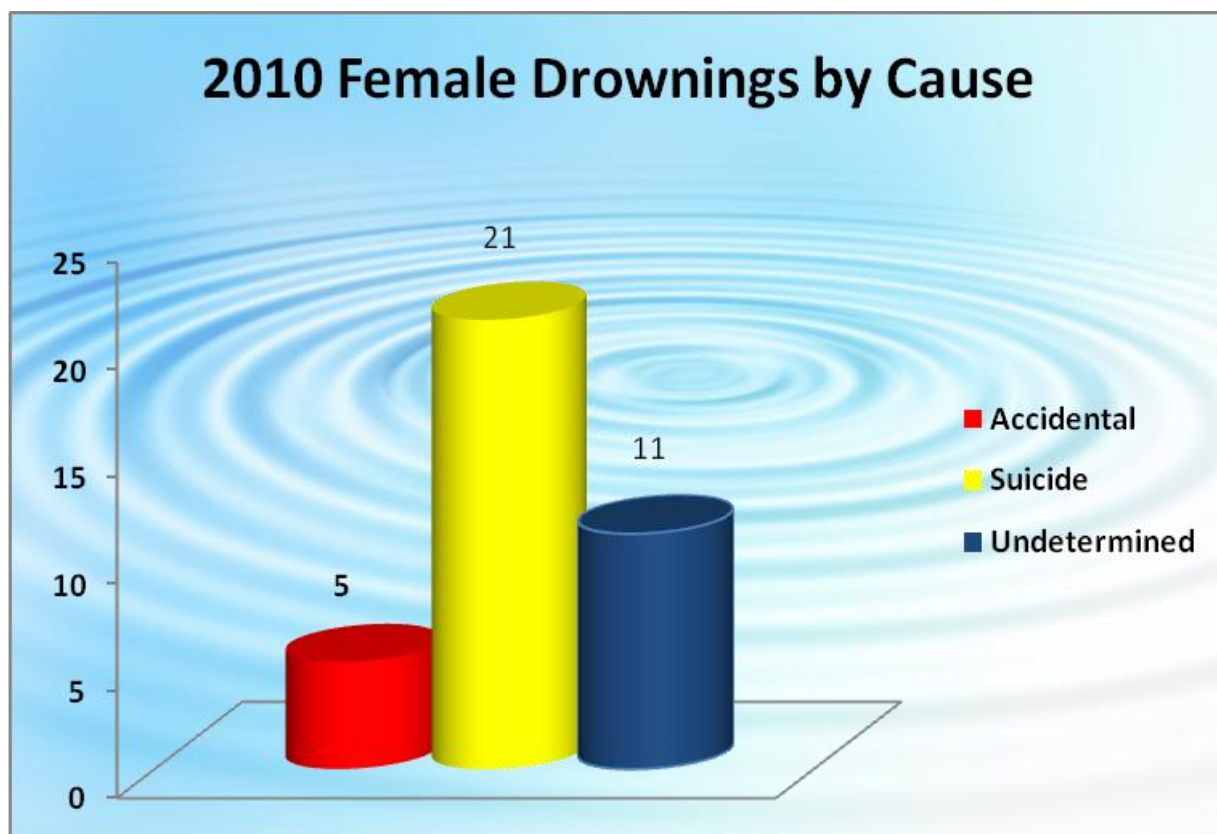
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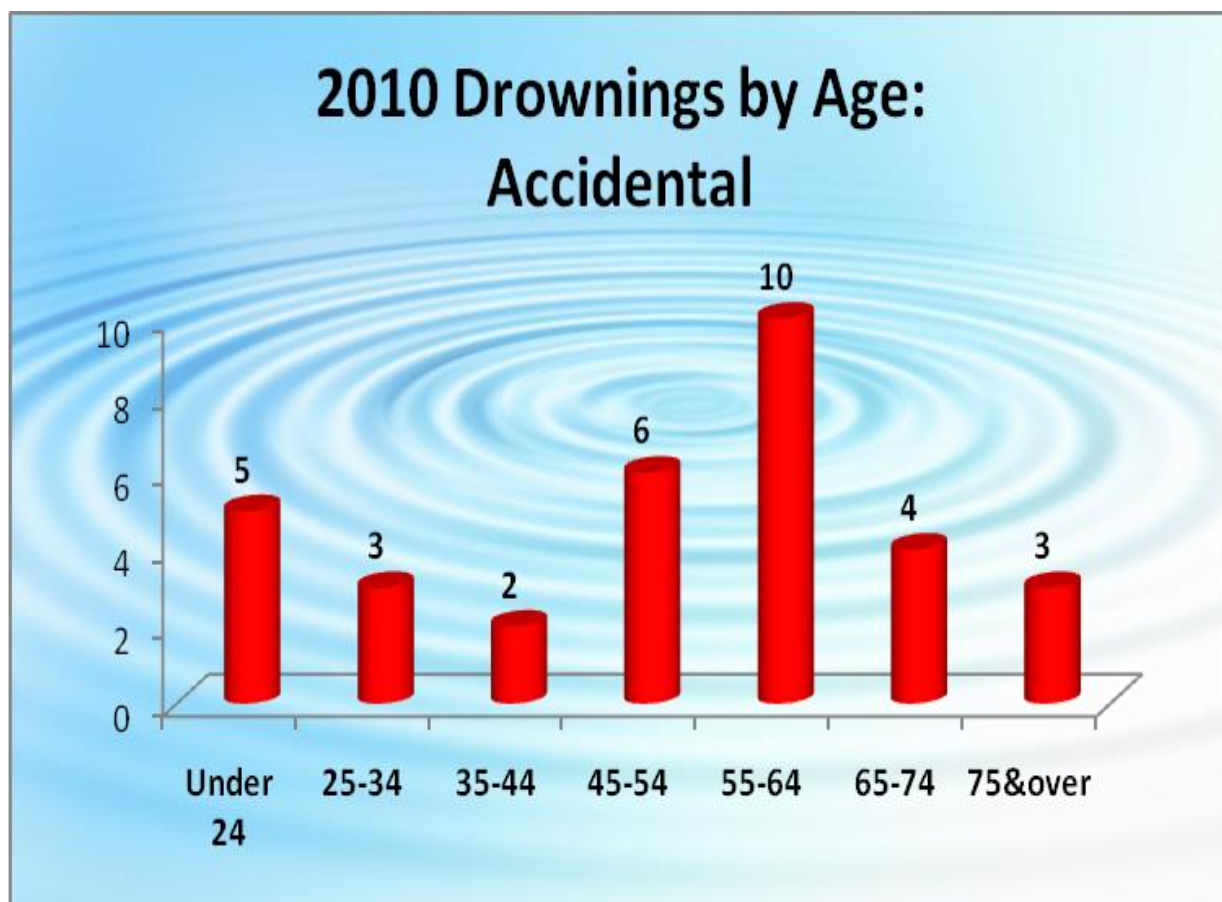


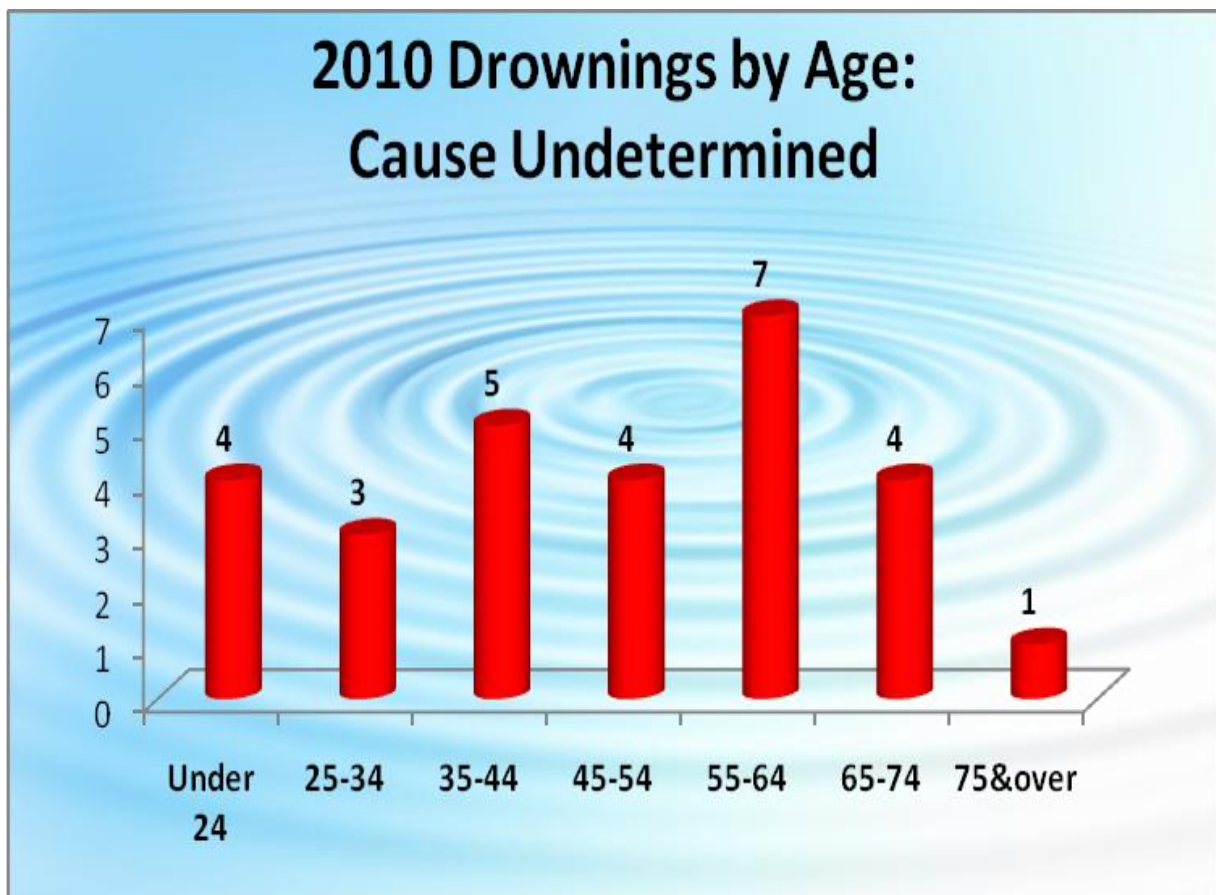
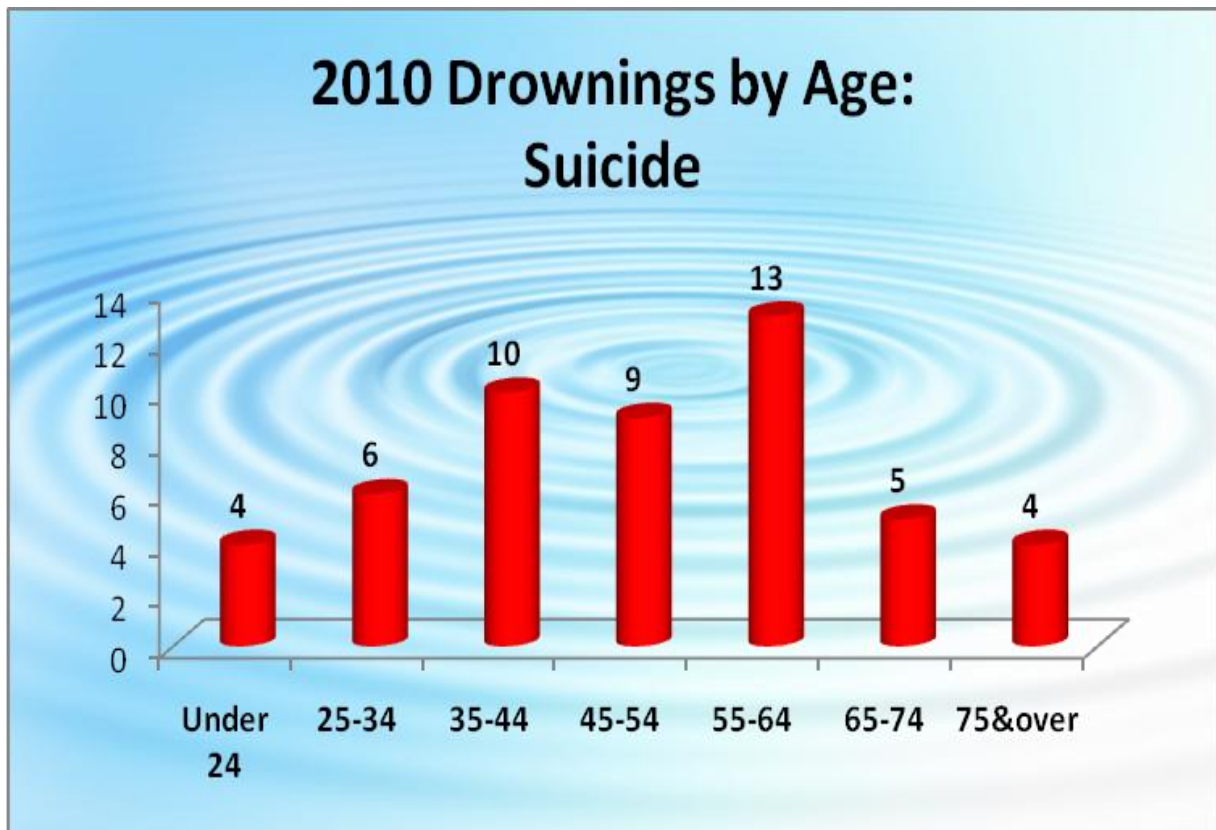
2010 All Drownings by Area





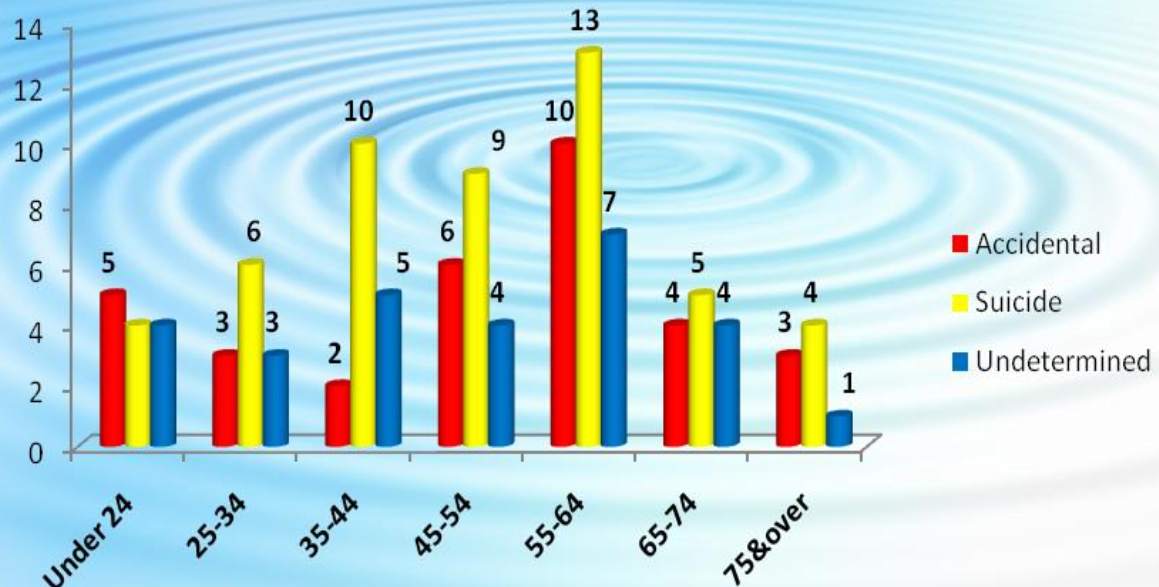






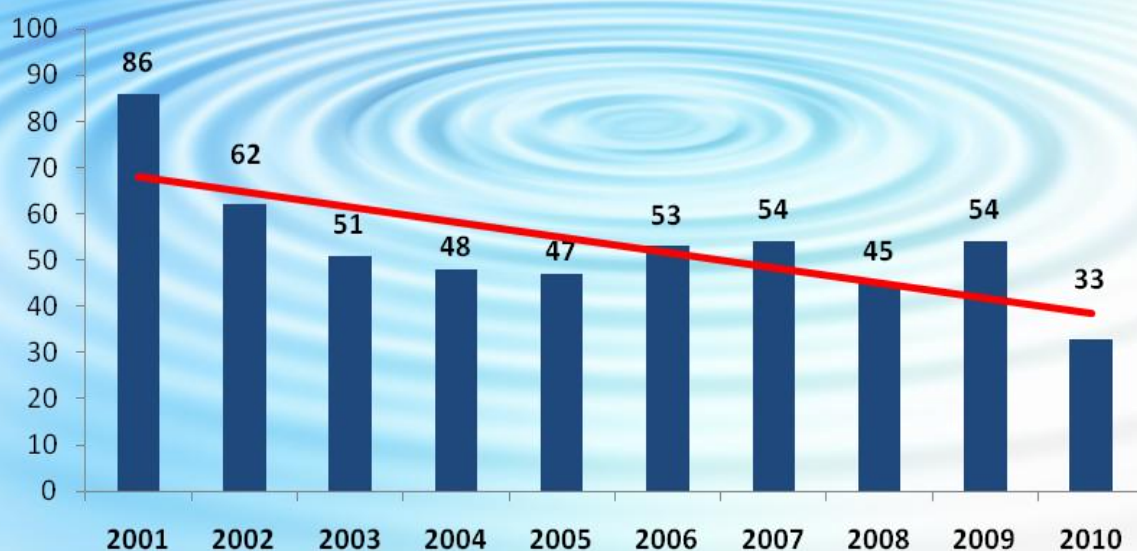
2010 Drownings by Age and Cause

Total: 112

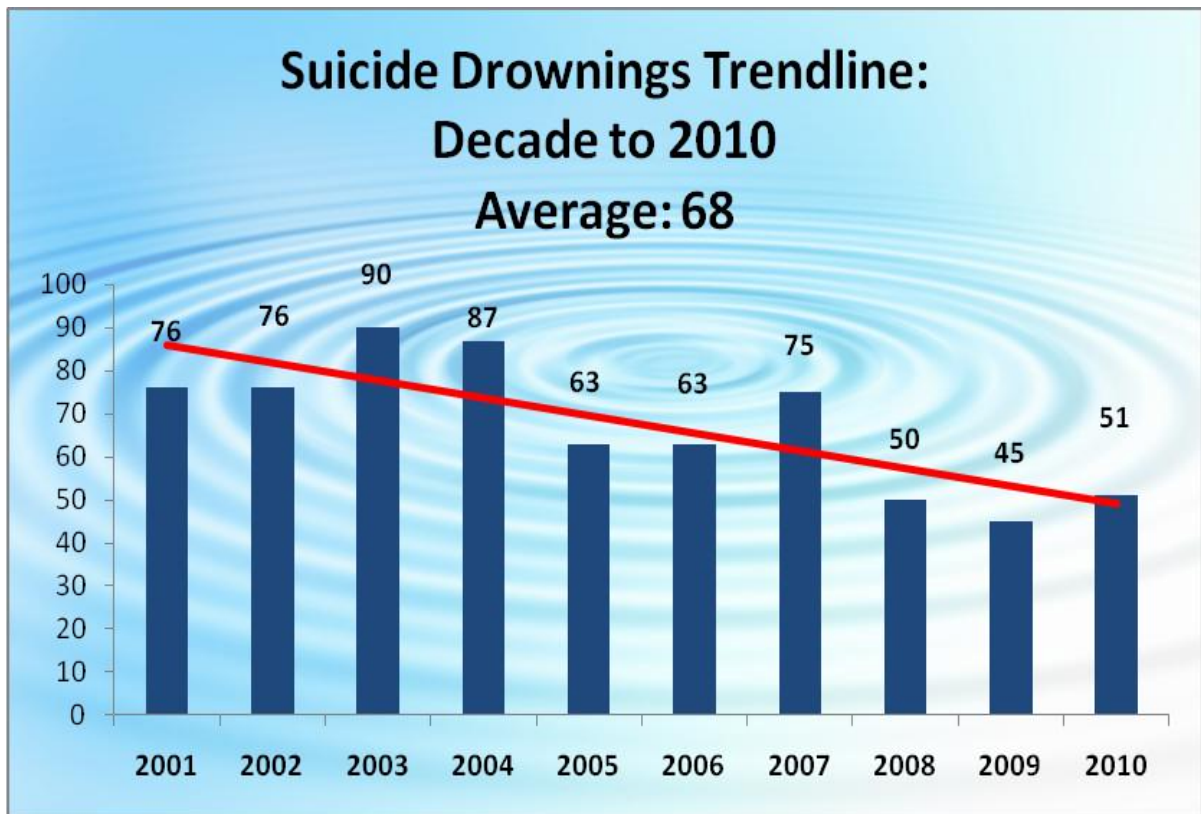


Drowning Accidents Trendline: Decade to 2010

Average: 53



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WHEN CONSIDERING THE ABOVE GRAPHICAL ANALYSIS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE NOTE OF THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN RECENT YEARS OF THE NUMBER OF DROWNINGS IN WHICH THE CAUSE (ACCIDENT / SUICIDE / ASSAULT) REMAINS UNDETERMINED. NOTE THE LINEAR TRENDLINE ON THE FOLLOWING TWO GRAPHS.

