



# Analysis of Drownings 2011

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

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

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2011 was 128, the second lowest figure since 1957 when 123 people drowned. The highest figure recorded in any one year to date is 229 in 1994.

Ireland averaged 140 drownings each year in the decade to 2011, during which time Irish Water Safety developed a range of educational and promotional campaigns to raise awareness about water safety. The work of Irish Water Safety and our partners in the public and private sector is having the desired outcome – an overall decrease in the number of drownings at a time when more people are enjoying our wonderful aquatic facilities.

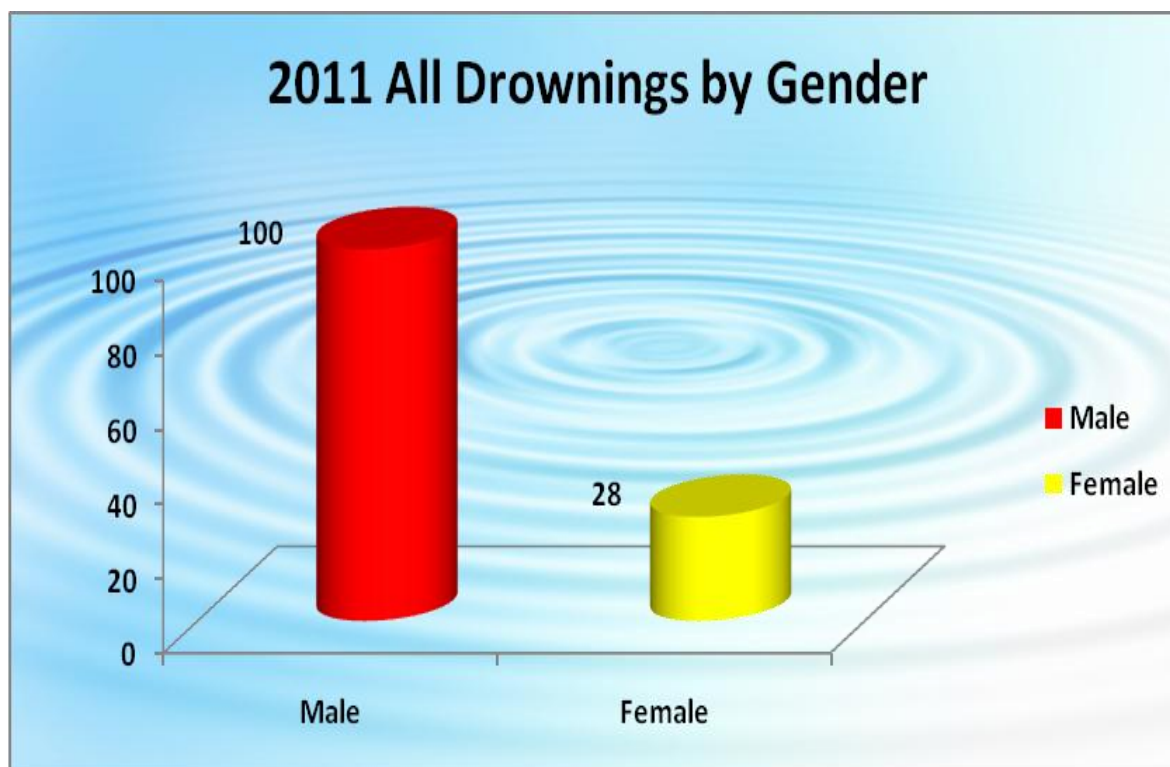
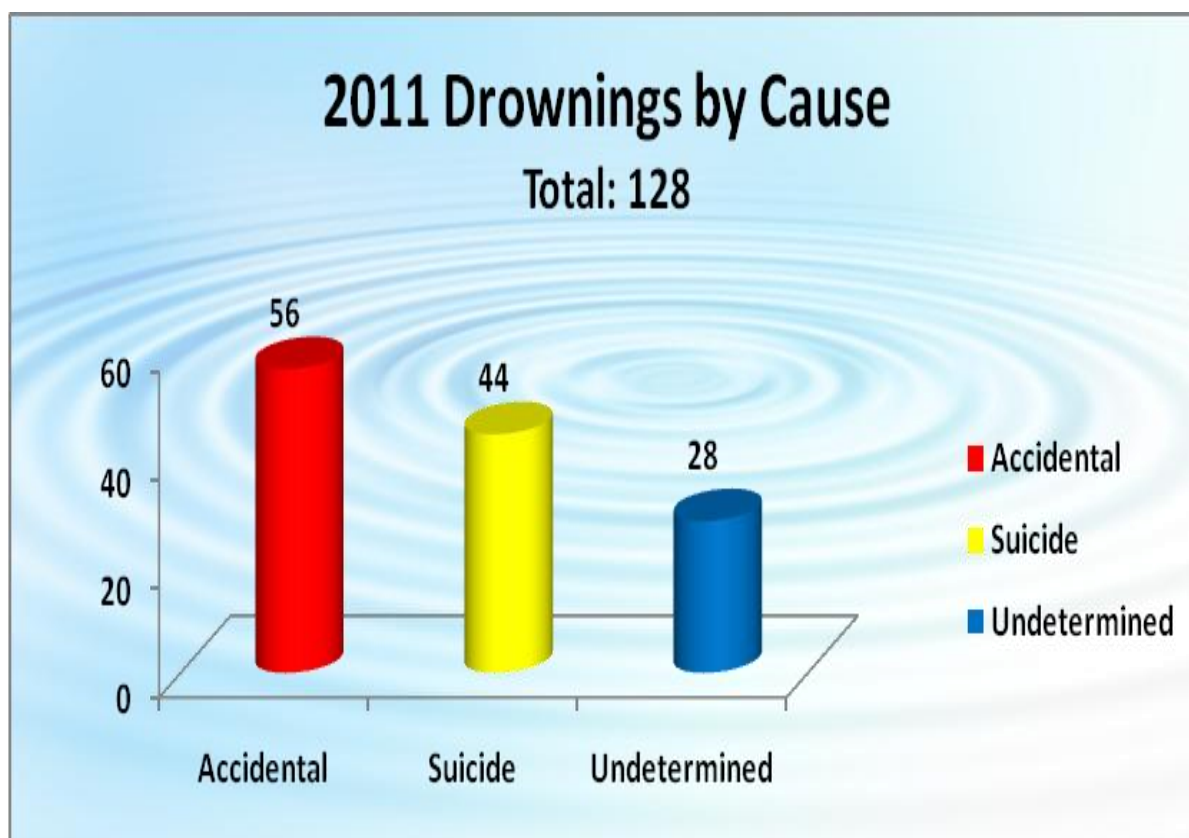
Each figure in the following graphical analysis, be it accidental, suicide or of undetermined cause, reflects a preventable tragedy that affects so many lives. Irish Water Safety continues to target at-risk groups with initiatives to highlight best practices so that drowning statistics continue this overall downward trend.

### **A synopsis of some general contributory factors over the years:**

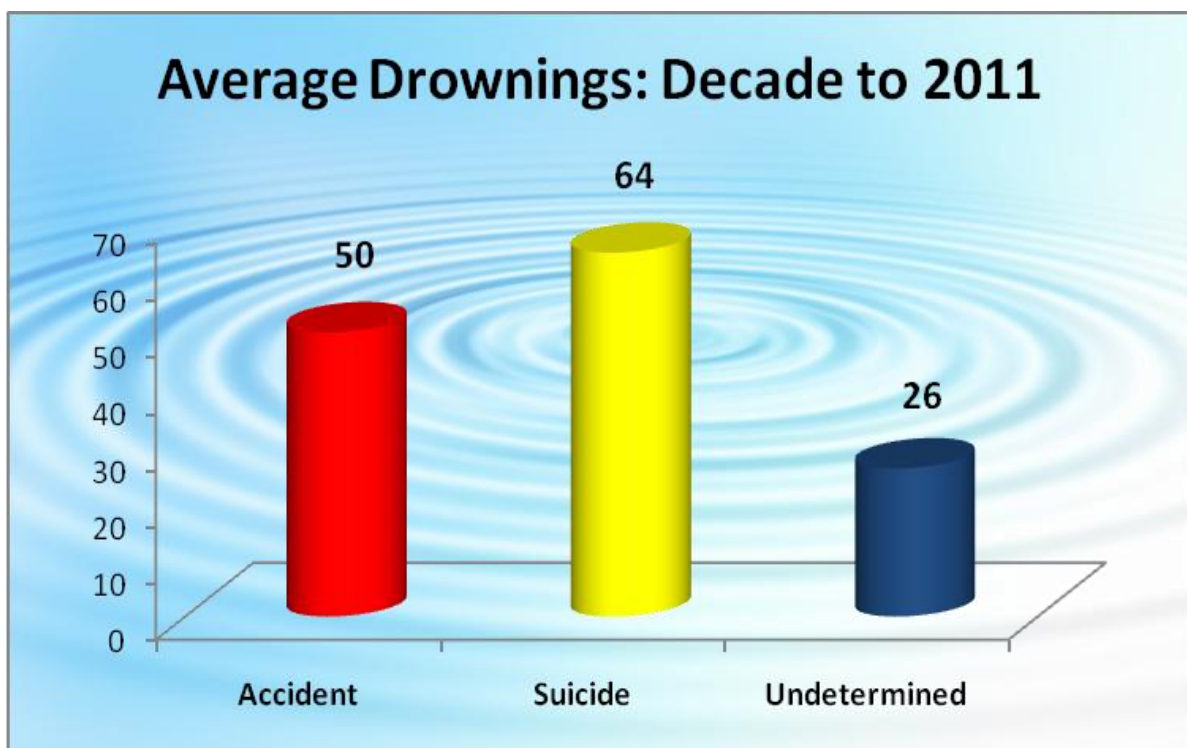
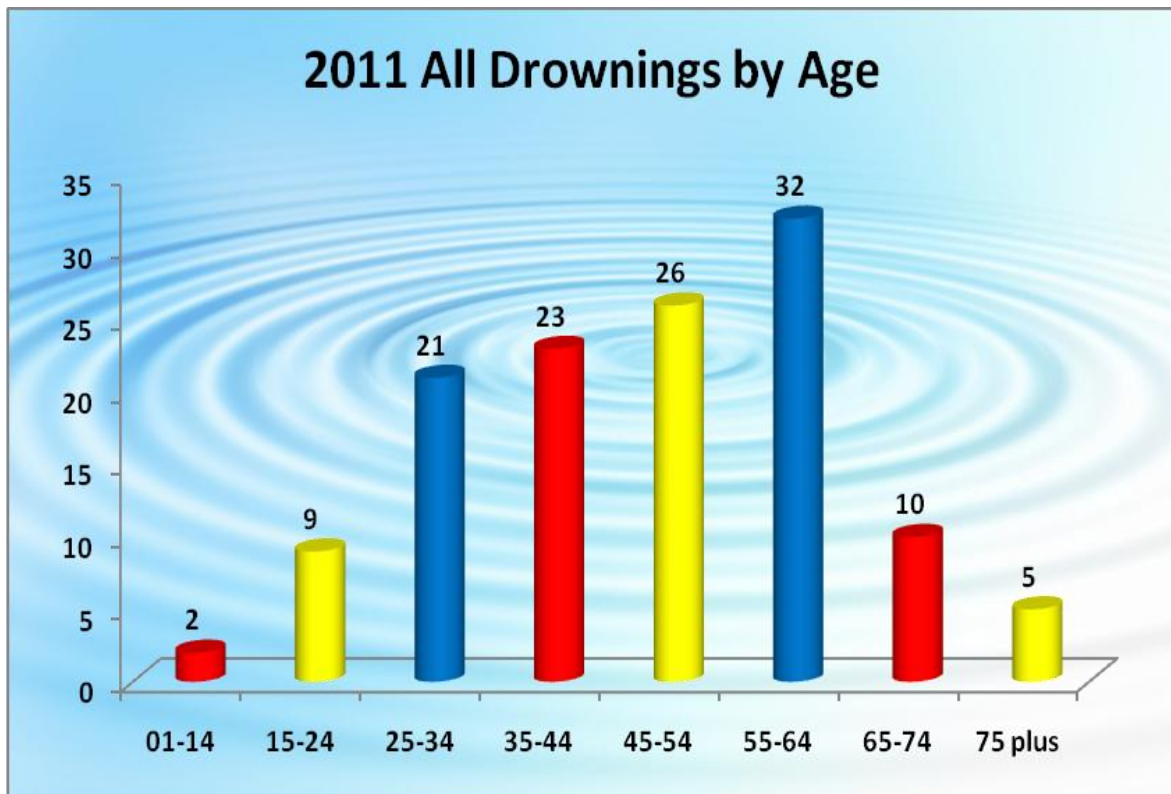
1. Poor or inadequate equipment (e.g. boats or lifejackets);
2. Not wearing a correctly fitting lifejacket;
2. Alcohol consumption;
3. Falling unexpectedly into water;
4. Improper use of boats and equipment;
5. Overestimation of skills;
6. Lack of local knowledge when travelling in Ireland and abroad;
7. Not being able to swim or not having lifesaving and water survival skills;
8. Easy unauthorized access to waterways;
9. Cold 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.

***Irish Water Safety – targeting at-risk groups to reduce drownings... Visit [iws.ie](http://iws.ie)***

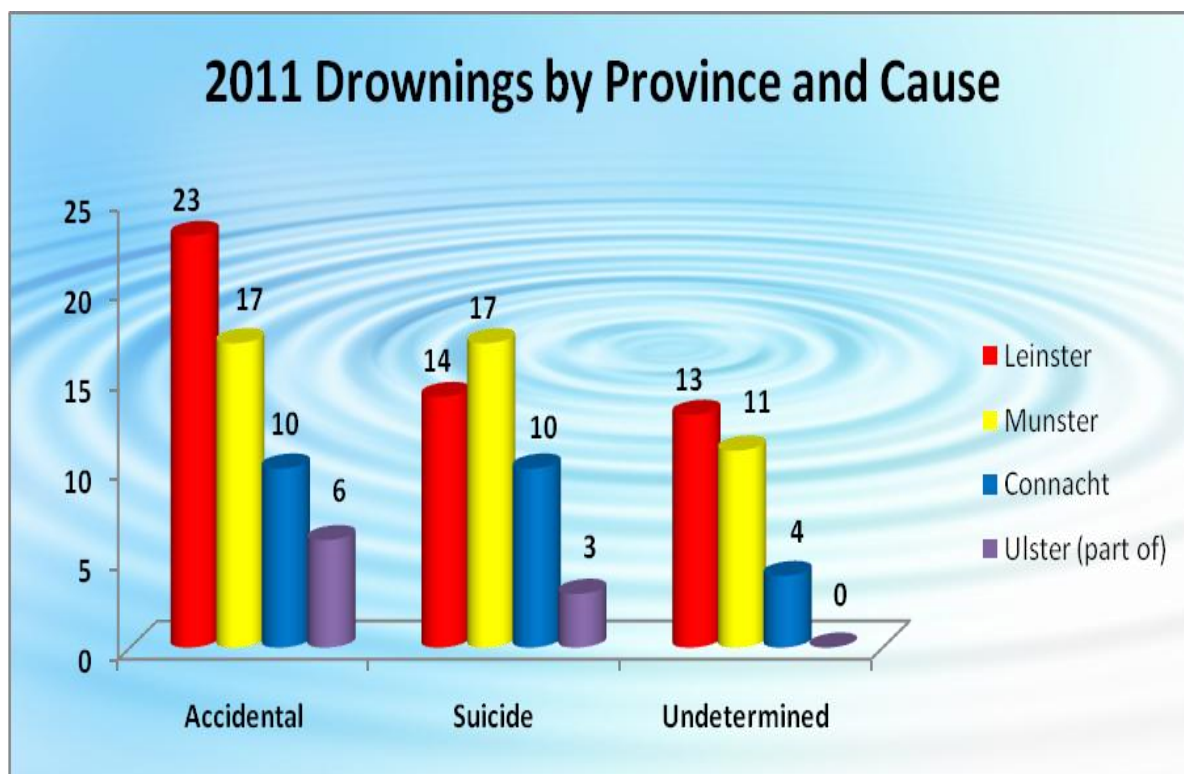
## Graphical Analysis 2011:



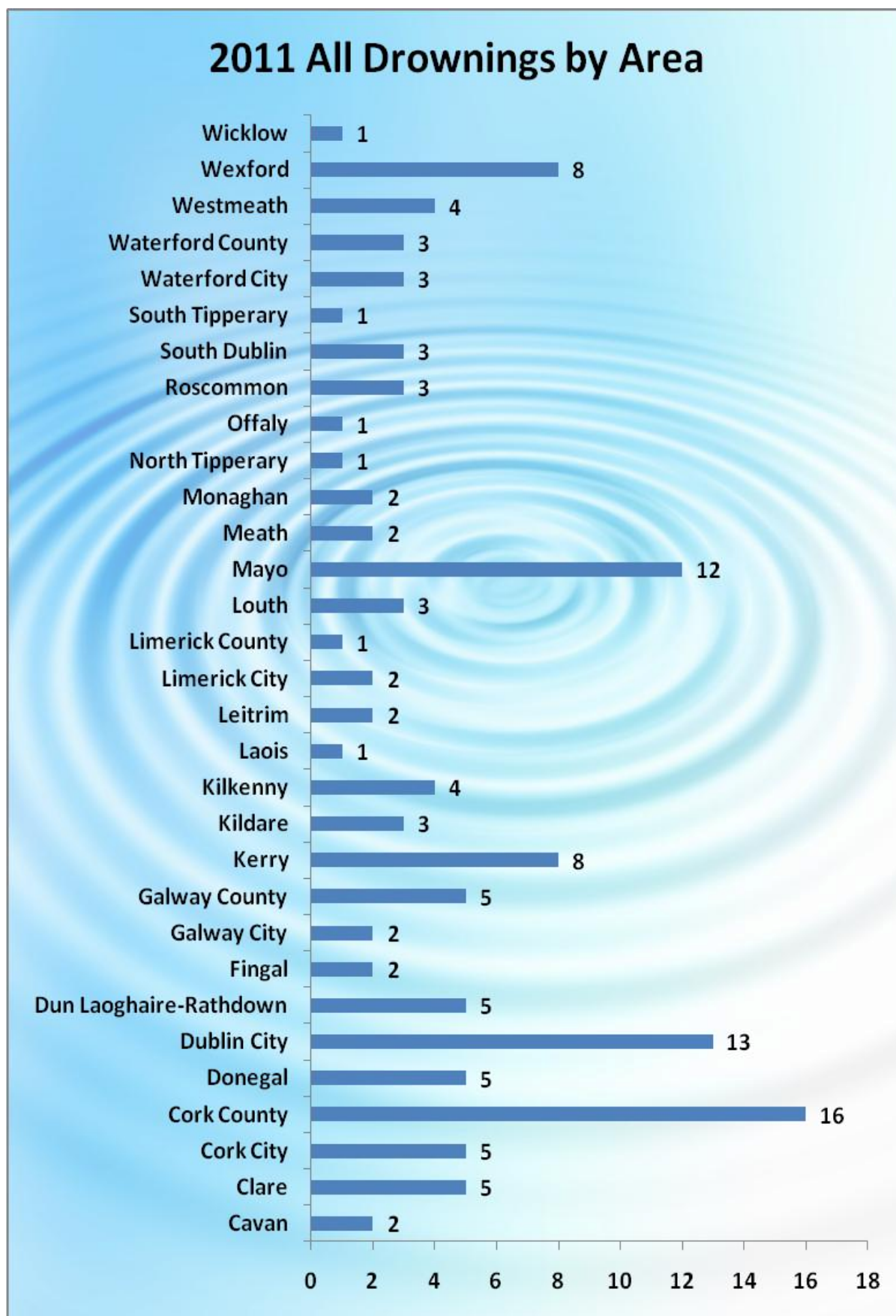
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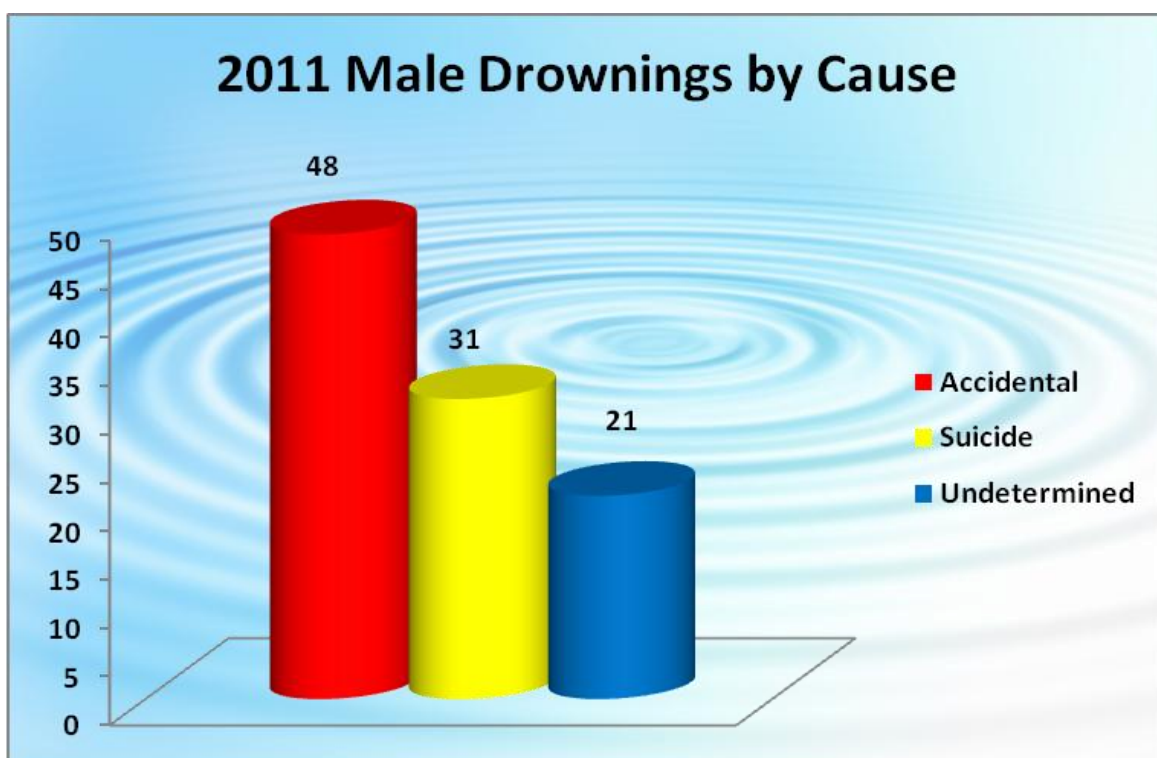
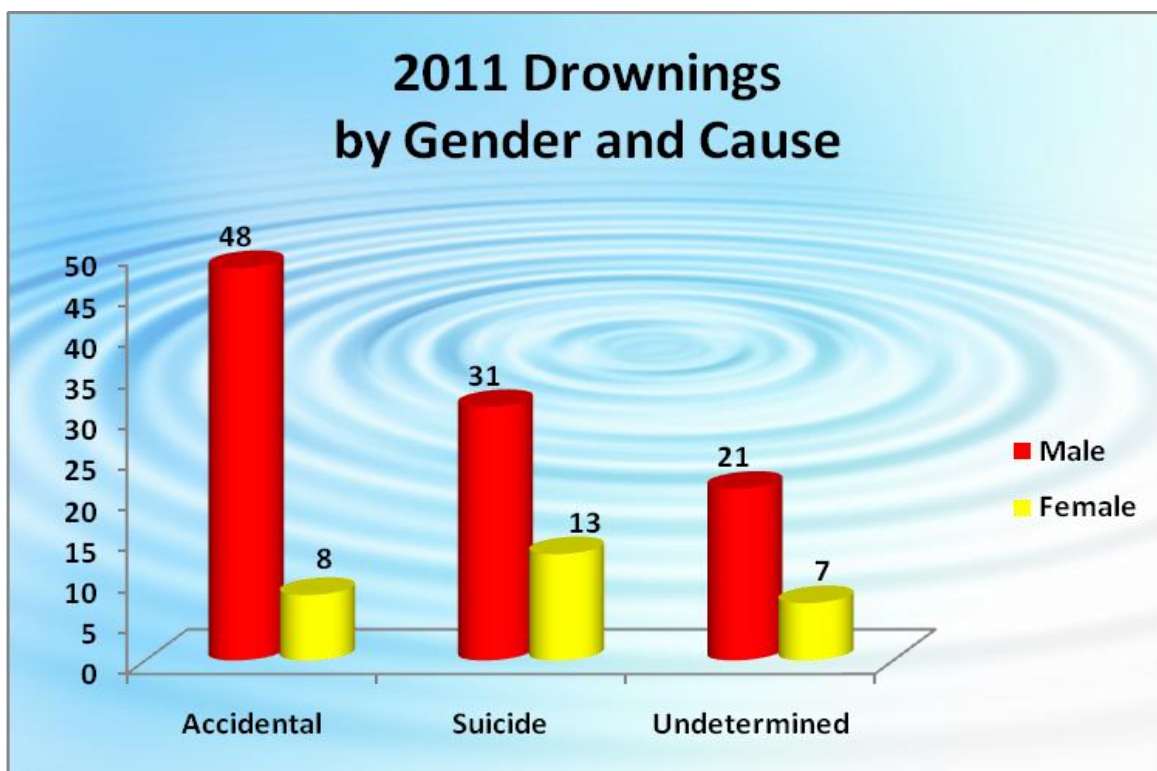


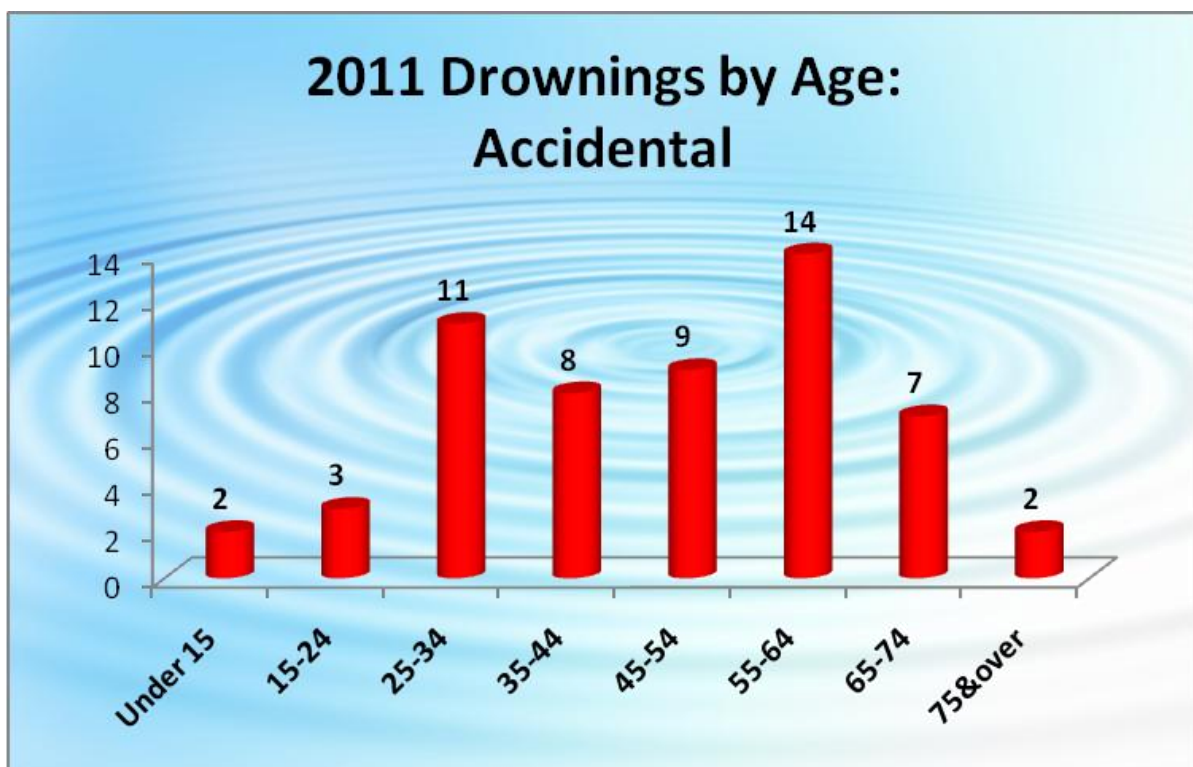
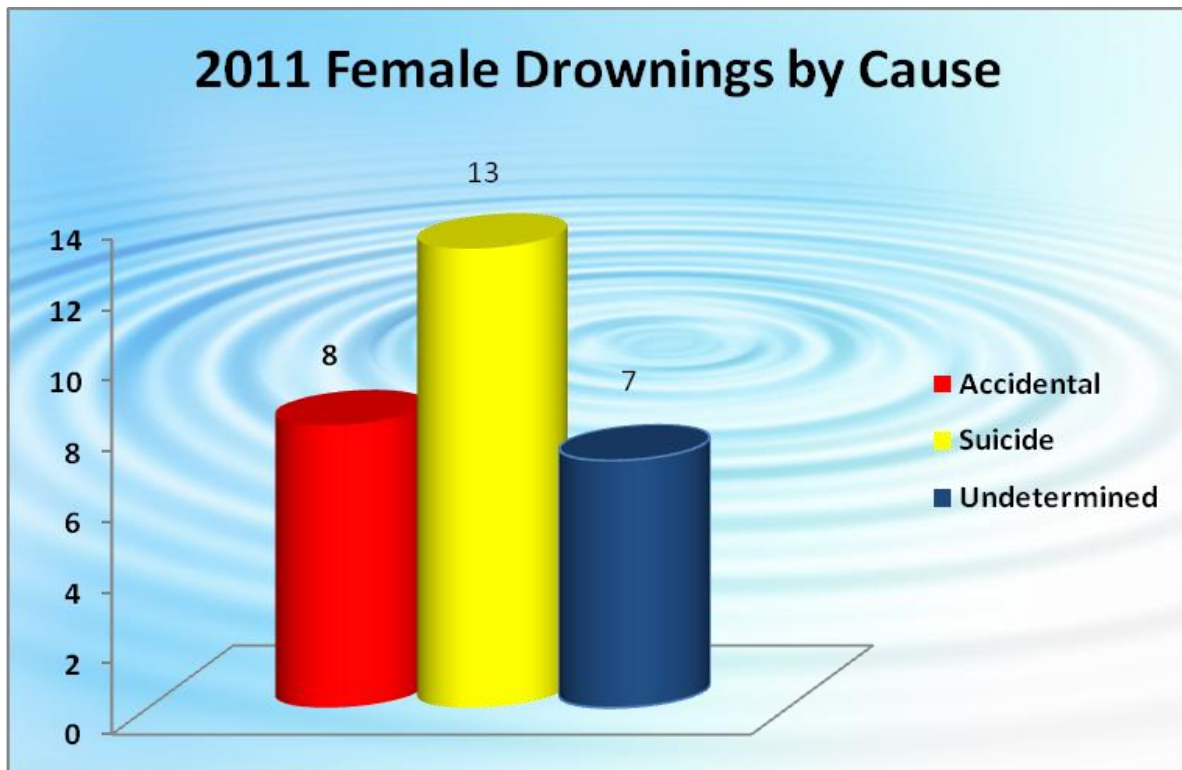
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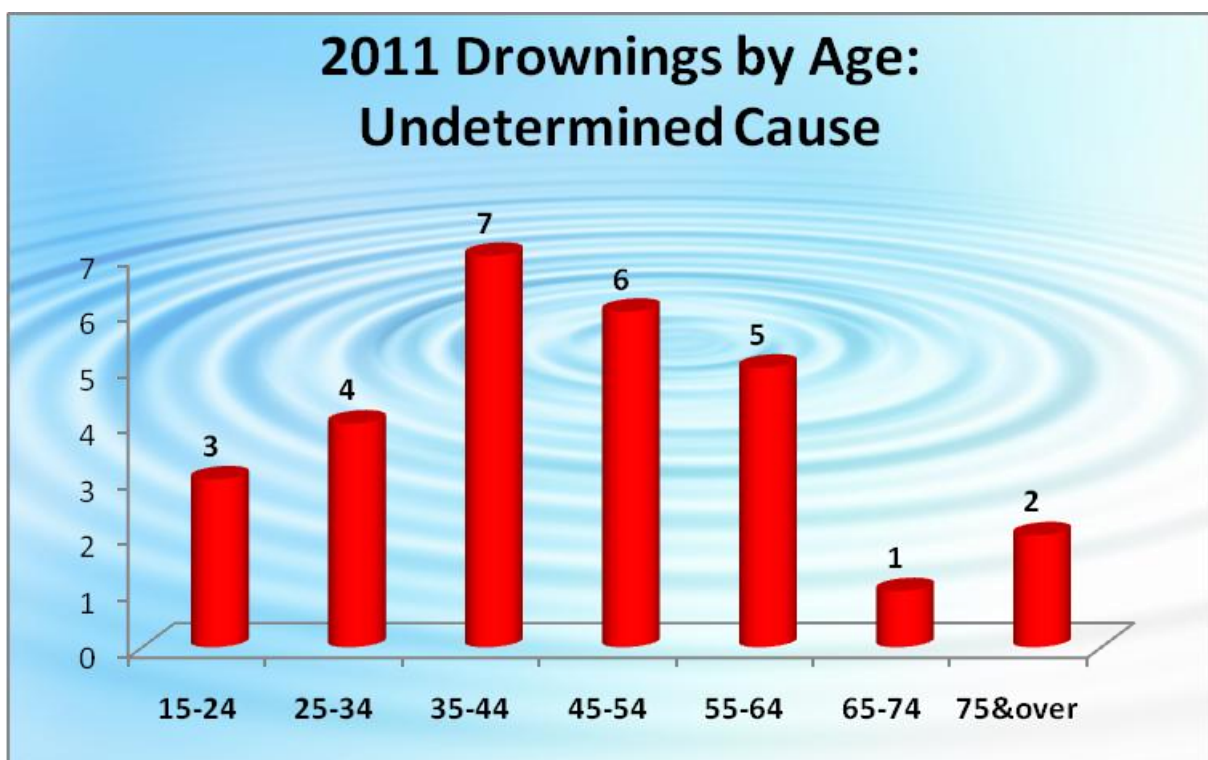
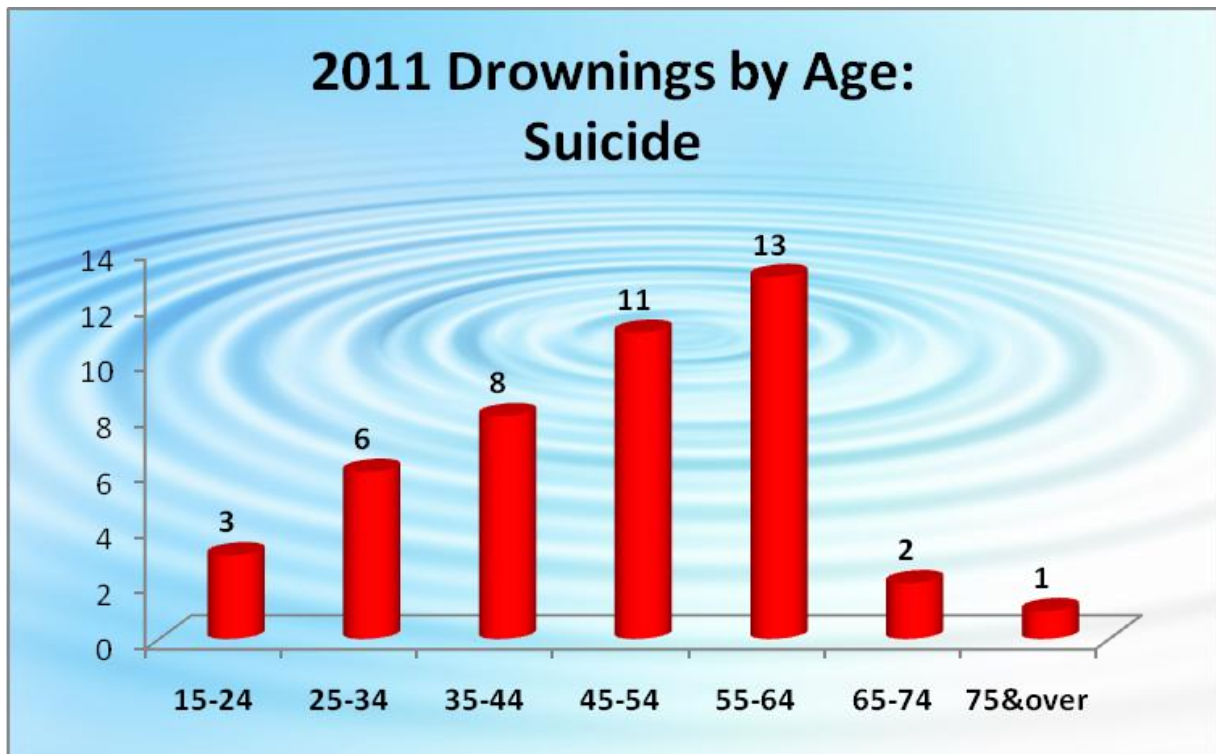




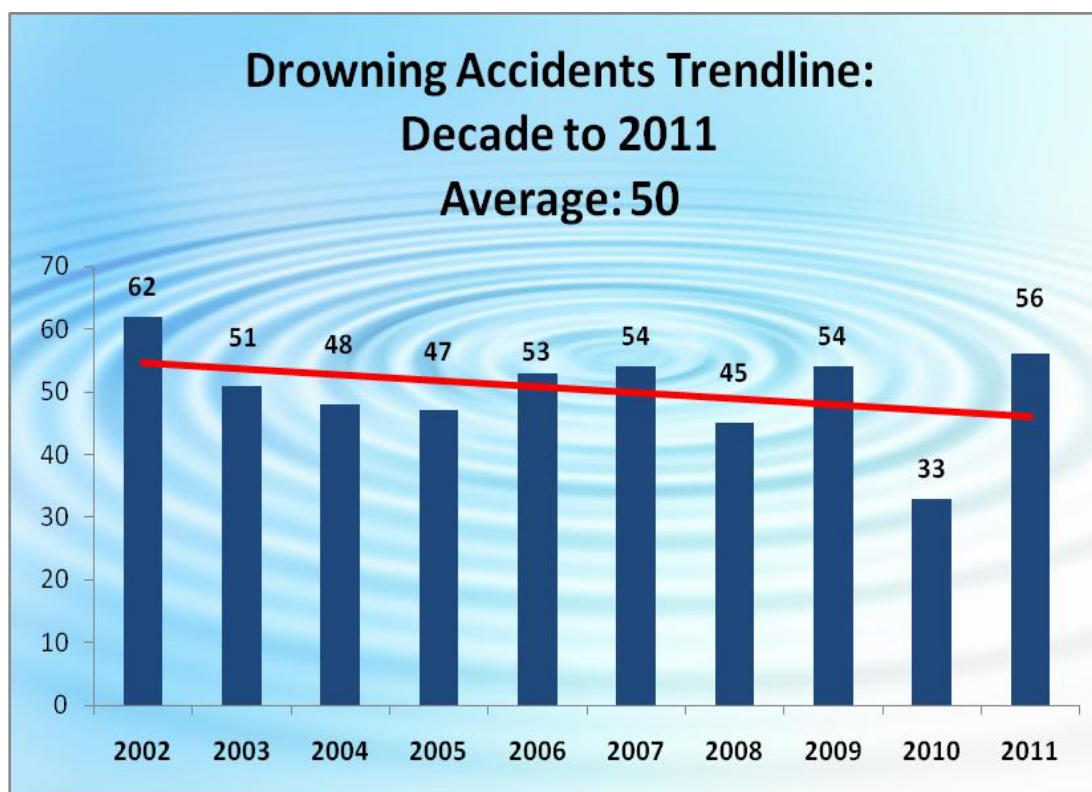
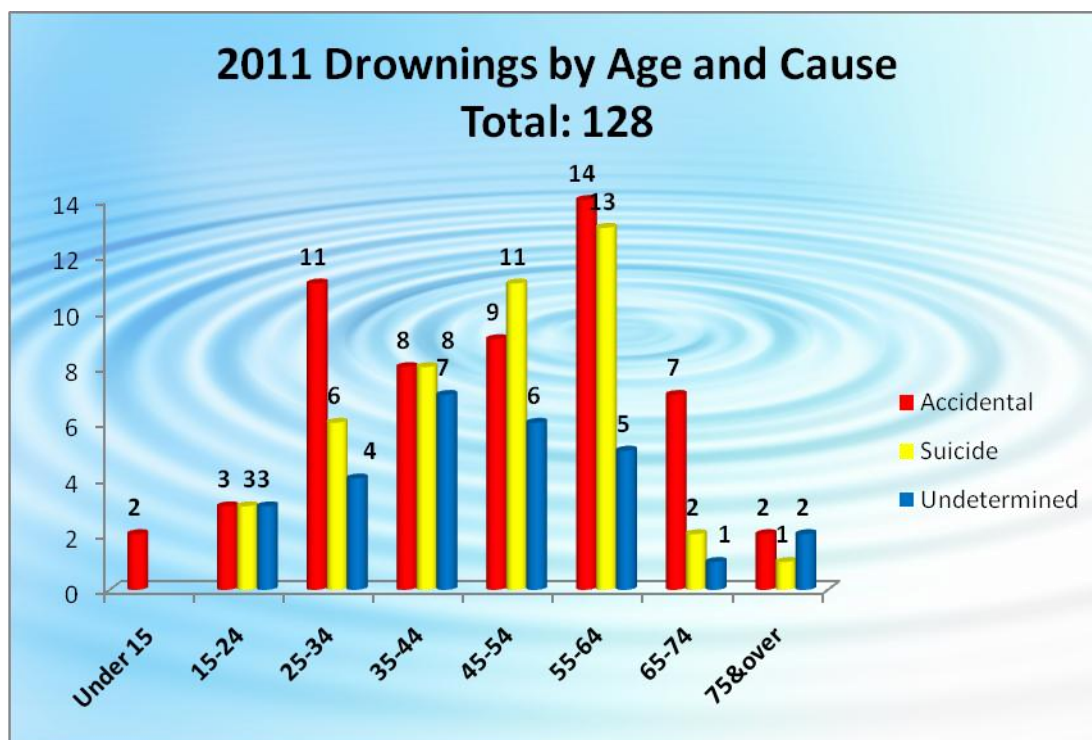












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