



WATER SAFETY IRELAND PRESS RELEASE

4 July 2019

103 people drowned in 2018 Swim at Lifeguarded waterways this weekend.

Water Safety Ireland is asking people to swim at lifeguarded waterways this weekend. The appeal comes as figures show that 103 people drowned in Ireland last year, six fewer than in 2017 when 109 drowned and the lowest overall figure in eighty years.

A further 11 Irish citizens drowned abroad in 2018.

As the weekend approaches, there are several ways to help protect you and your family:

1. Swim at lifeguarded waterways - listed at <http://www.iws.ie/bathing-areas/map.372.html>
2. Swim within your depth, stay within your depth.
3. Escape a rip current by swimming parallel to shore instead of swimming against it: <http://www.iws.ie/beach/rip-current-safety.328.html>
4. Never use inflatable toys in open water.
5. Wear a lifejacket when boating or fishing from shore.
6. Supervise children at all times near water.
7. If you see someone in difficulty:
 - **Shout** to the casualty and encourage them to shore.
 - **Reach** out with a long object such a branch or a piece of clothing but do not enter the water yourself.
 - **Throw** a ringbuoy or any floating object and call 112 for the coast guard.

The average number of drownings each year is 124, based on a ten year average to give due consideration to varying weather-related consumer behaviour.

2018 drownings by **cause**:

Drownings	2018	2017
Accidental	68	62
Intentional	24	37
Undetermined	11	10
Total	103	109

2018 drownings by **gender**:

Total Males	79
Total Females	24

2018 drownings by **age**:

Age0-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-75	>75
3	3	7	8	7	8	13	8	13	12	7	7	7

2018 drownings by **province**:

Connacht	24
Leinster	43
Munster	29
Ulster (Donegal)	7

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