



**10 Drownings every month – most were not swimming
Make water safety a family priority this summer.
Water Safety Ireland commences National Water Safety Awareness Week**

Water Safety Ireland has commenced National Water Safety Awareness Week, running from June 17th to June 23rd to highlight the urgent need for people to give water safety as much attention as they do road safety, particularly over the summer months. Ireland averaged 10 drownings every month over five years, with males accounting for 70% of these tragedies. More than half of accidental drownings (57 per cent) were preceded by land-based activities such as walking and angling from shore. People often drown due to unexpected falls or when overestimating their ability and underestimating the risk.

Key Statistics:

- **Drownings by year:** 2023: 78 (provisional), 2022: 94 (provisional), 2021: 102
- **5-Year Average Drownings:** 118 (2017-2021)
- **Gender Breakdown:** 70% Male
- **Age Group Most Affected:** 40-64 years (51%)
- **Drownings by Suicide:** 38% of all drownings
- **Accidental Drownings:** 57% were preceded by land-based activities, not by swimming (e.g. falling in while walking, hiking, angling from shore);
- **More statistics:** <https://watersafety.ie/statistics/>

Top Ten Water Safety Tips for Summer:

1. **Show children Water Safety Ireland's summer online class** – these 7 minutes could save a life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQrV9rM5oV0>.
2. **Swim at Lifeguarded Waterways:** Always choose beaches with lifeguards and adhere to their advice. Find them at <https://watersafety.ie/lifeguards/>.
3. **Stay Within Your Depth:** Ensure everyone in your family stays within their depth.
4. **Supervise Children:** Never leave children unattended near water.
5. **Wear Lifejackets:** Use lifejackets when boating or participating in water sports.
6. **Avoid Alcohol:** Do not swim or operate watercraft under the influence of alcohol.
7. **Know the Water:** Ask locally about water conditions and check weather forecast.
8. **Swim with a Friend:** Never swim alone; always have a companion.
9. **Follow Safety Signs:** Pay attention to and obey all water safety signs and warnings.
10. **Don't Overestimate Your Ability:** Only swim in areas where you are comfortable and within your ability.

Throughout National Water Safety Awareness Week, WSI is hosting numerous events to educate the public on water safety. Highlights include interactive sessions with the National Ambulance Service, children's water safety classes with the Galway Hooker Association, and fun, educational activities for schoolchildren (<https://watersafety.ie/national-water-safety-awareness-week/>).

ENDS

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