

The figures within this table represent the occurrence of fatalities as a result of drowning and other water related incidents within the geographic limits of the UK search and rescue sector. The figures are a result of collaboration between NWSF members and represent our best efforts at outlining the level of water related fatalities occurring in the UK. These figures are intended to inform debate on matters of water safety.

Activity	Residential	Pool	Inland	Coastal	Sea	Total
<i>Commercial</i>						
Transport				2	3	5
Fishing				3		3
Other Occupational Activity			3	5	5	13
<i>Leisure</i>						
Swimming	1	6	31	13	1	52
Sub Aqua			3	8	7	18
Angling			1	8		9
Sailing			8	6	7	21
Powered Boating			6	1		7
Rowing			1			1
Canoeing			2	1		3
Other Watersports				5		5
Driving		1	17	12		30
Non Intentional Immersion	19		83	17	2	121
Other Intentional Immersion	17		24	15		56
Total accidental fatalities	37	7	179	96	25	344
<i>Other causes</i>						
Natural causes			5	8	2	15
Deliberate fatality	4		50	59	2	115
Subject to further enquiry	3		118	82	4	207
Total other fatalities	7	0	173	149	8	337
Total water related fatalities	44	7	352	245	33	681

Notes: The figures presented in the above table relate to events that have occurred on, in or near to water. Of the 681 cases, in 435 cases we suspect accidental drowning, 155 cases are suspected suicides, while 64 cases are crime suspected. In 27 cases, natural causes are the primary suspected cause of the fatality (with 15 of these cases are confirmed as such).

Due to the fact that the majority of drowning events are not witnessed, and the reporting and quality assurance differences in the datasets used, we cannot guarantee that these figures are free from double entries. There are 16 cases within this set where we strongly suspect a matching event, however at this time we currently have insufficient evidence to confidently merge the cases. Water related fatalities involving UK citizens abroad, have been excluded from this dataset. A copy of the terms and definitions applied to this table is available from the NWSF website to download.

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