

WAID 2022 Summary for England

This report details the 2022 release of water-related fatality data. An interactive version of this report can be found online [here](#).

Overall water-related fatalities

In 2022, there were 597 water-related fatalities in the United Kingdom from all recorded causes. There were fewer fatalities, overall, compared to the years 2019 – 2021.

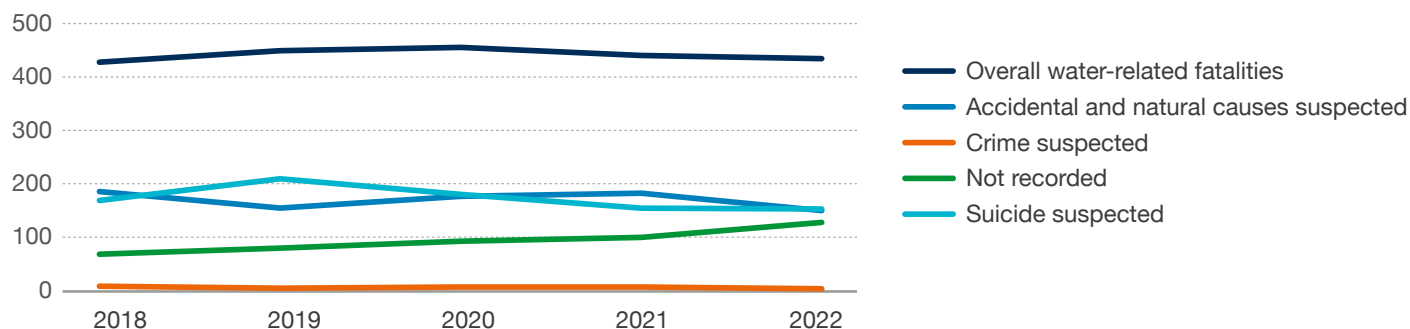


Figure 1: Overall water-related fatalities by year, 2018-2022

Using a three-year average (years 2013 – 2015), prior to the implementation of the **UK Drowning Prevention Strategy**, there were 476 water-related fatalities each year in England. **The 2022 figures show that overall water-related fatalities are below the baseline level (see Figure 2).**

Year	Overall water-related fatalities
Three-year average (2013-2015)	476
2018	430
2019	450
2020	456
2021	442
2022	436

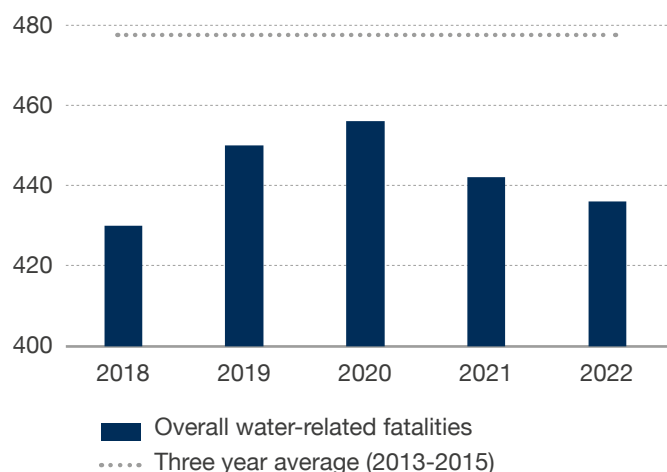


Figure 2: Overall water-related fatalities by year 2018-2022 vs Three-year average baseline, UK

Accidental fatalities

In 2022, there were 151 accidental fatalities¹ in England. **This is a 39 per cent decrease when compared to the baseline.**

Year	Accidental fatalities
Three-year average (2013 – 2015)	246
2018	185
2019	156
2020	176
2021	182
2022	151

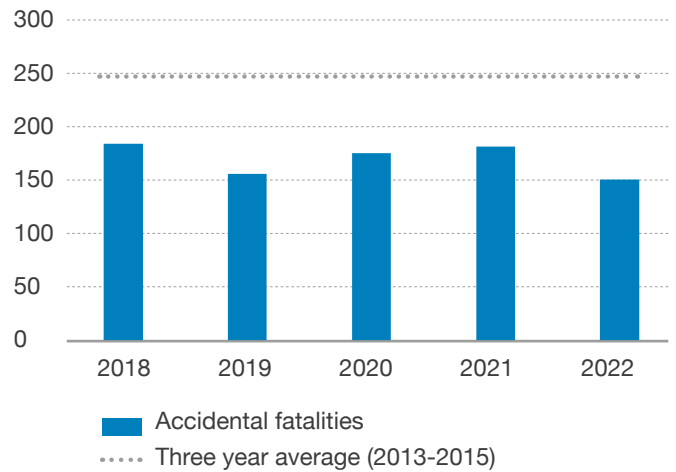


Figure 3: Accidental fatalities by year 2018-2022 vs Three-year average baseline, England

¹ Accidental fatality refers to accidental and natural causes suspected.

Key points

In 2022:

- There were 151 accidental fatalities
- 78% of accidental fatalities were male
- Males 20-29 were the highest group for accidental fatalities (see *Figure 4*)
- 61% of accidental fatalities happened at **inland waters** (see *Figure 5*)
- Recreational activities accounted for 59% of accidental fatalities (see *Figure 6*)
- 44 accidental fatality reports noted the presence of drugs or alcohol
- The rate of accidental drowning is going down (0.26 per 100,000 in 2022) compared to 0.45 in baseline (see *Figure 7*)

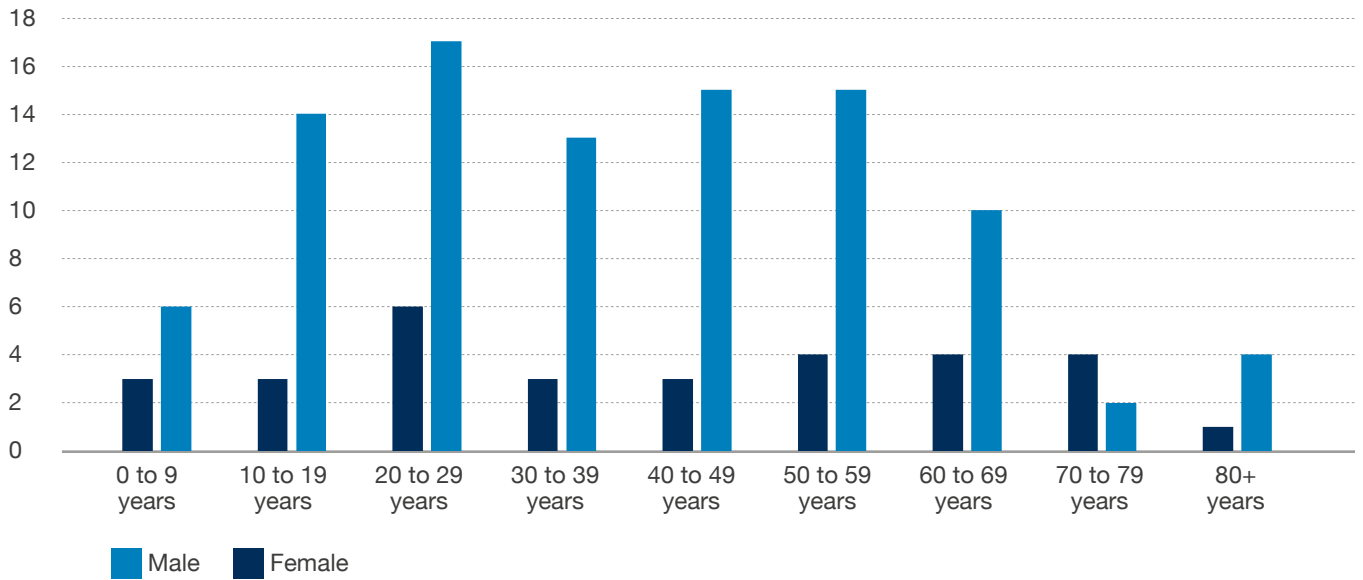


Figure 4: Accidental fatalities by age, N=127, 24 not recorded

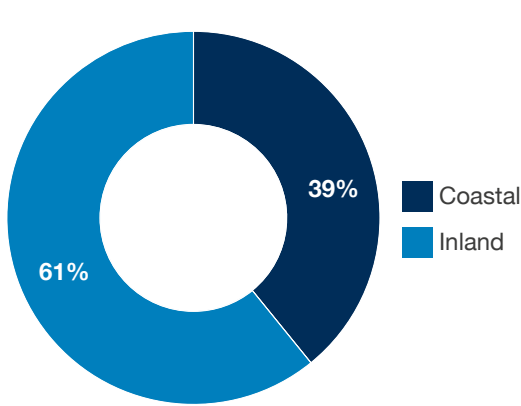


Figure 5: Accidental fatalities by location. N=143, 8 excluded

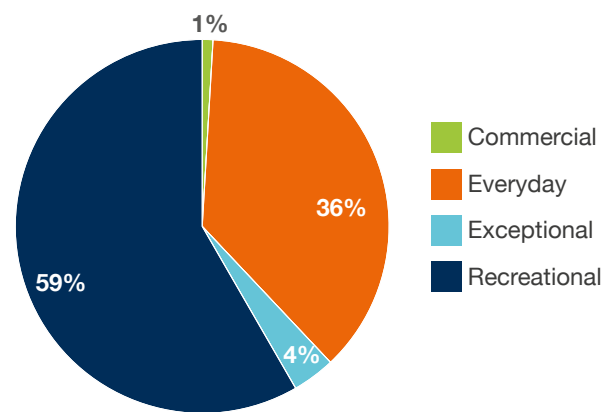


Figure 6: Accidental fatalities by activity. N=143, 8 excluded

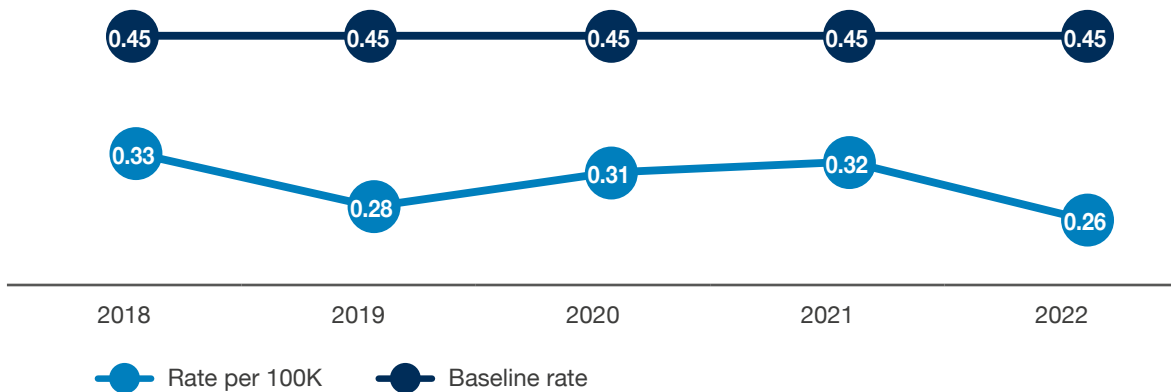


Figure 7: Accidental fatalities by year and rate 2018-2022 and Three year average baseline, England per 100,000 (Population Source: ONS)

Suicide suspected fatalities

In 2022, there were 154 suicide suspected fatalities at or near water in England. This is a decrease from the average baseline.

Year	Suicide suspected fatalities
Three-year average (2013-2015)	163
2018	169
2019	209
2020	181
2021	155
2022	154

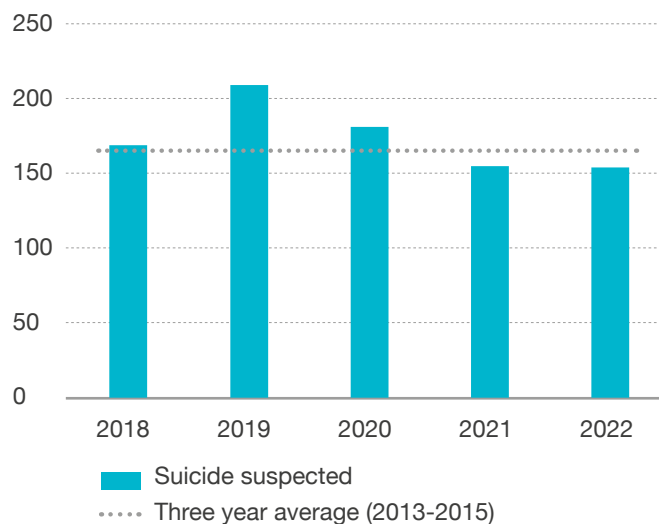


Figure 8: Suicide suspected fatalities by year 2018-2022 vs Three-year average baseline, England

Notes

“Accidental fatalities” refers to accidental causes and natural water related causes.

This data analysis is based on the official releases of WAID data as found online nationalwatersafety.org.uk/waid/annual-reports-and-data. It should be noted that the core data providers continue to improve verification and completeness of records starting in 2012 which results in an improved record set.

All rates for population figures are based on ONS figures for the previous mid-year, published online: ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland. Baseline rates are based on mid-year 2015 data.

Figures 5 and 6 exclude domestic fatalities.