



# Analysis of Drownings 2009

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## **Irish Water Safety - providing data on which to base drowning prevention efforts...**

Please find a graphical analysis below with comparisons to previous years, including data since 1968 and comparisons to Europe and the World.

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

1. Poor or inadequate equipment (e.g. boats or lifejackets);
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;
8. Easy unauthorized access to waterways;
9. Cold;
10. Current (including rip currents, river currents, and tidal currents);
11. Offshore winds (including flotation devices);
12. Pre-existing diseases (e.g. heart attacks);
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.

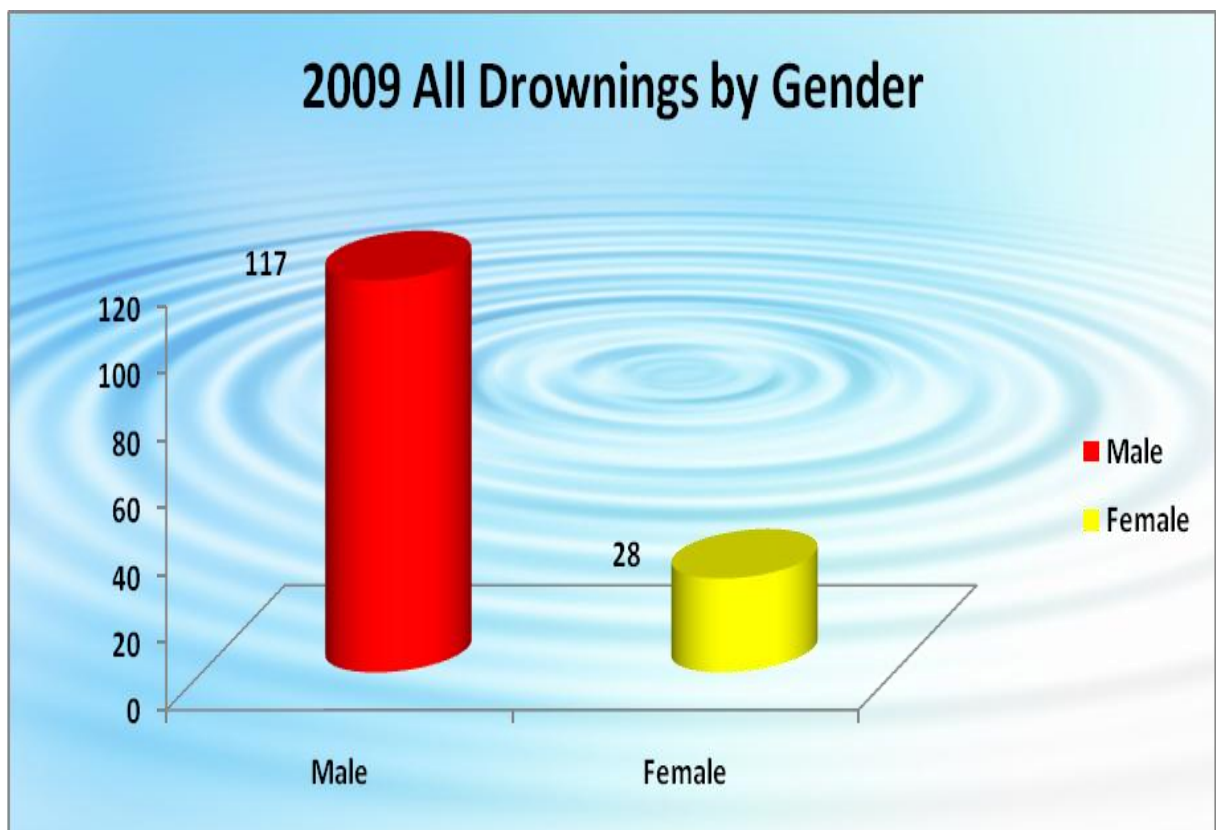
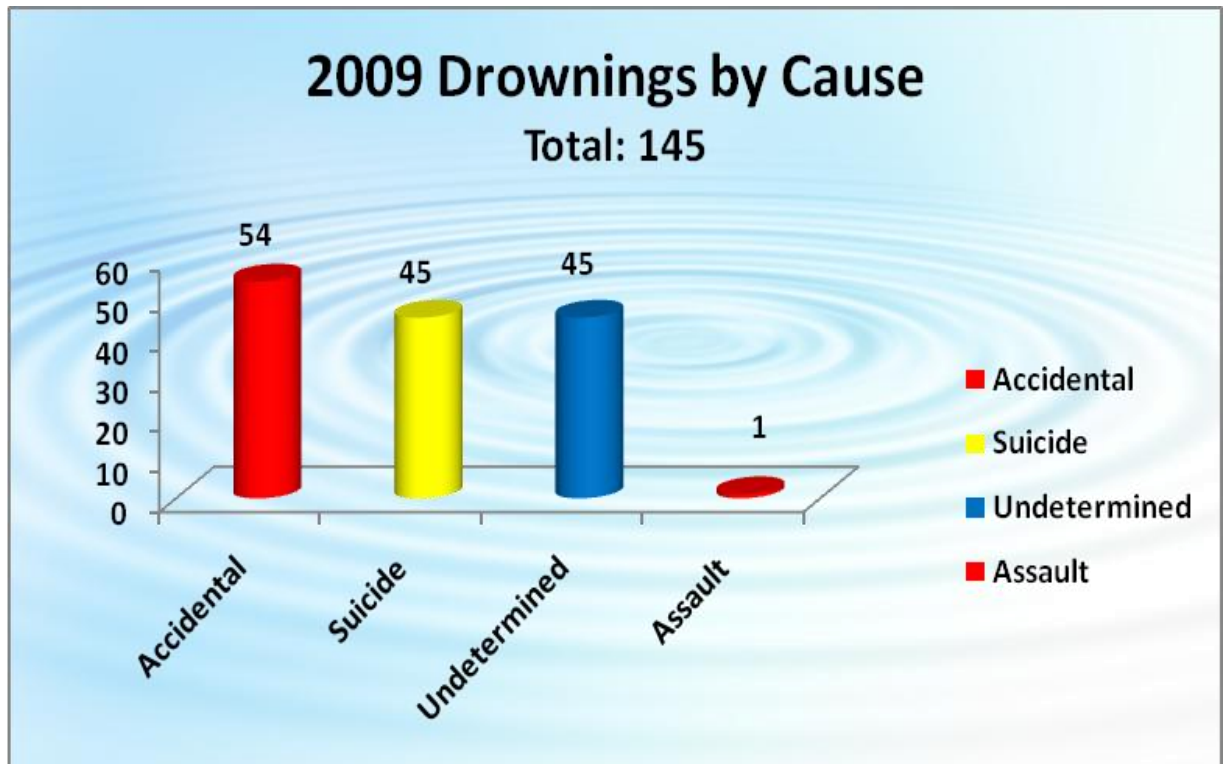
### **A synopsis of some general preventive and management actions**

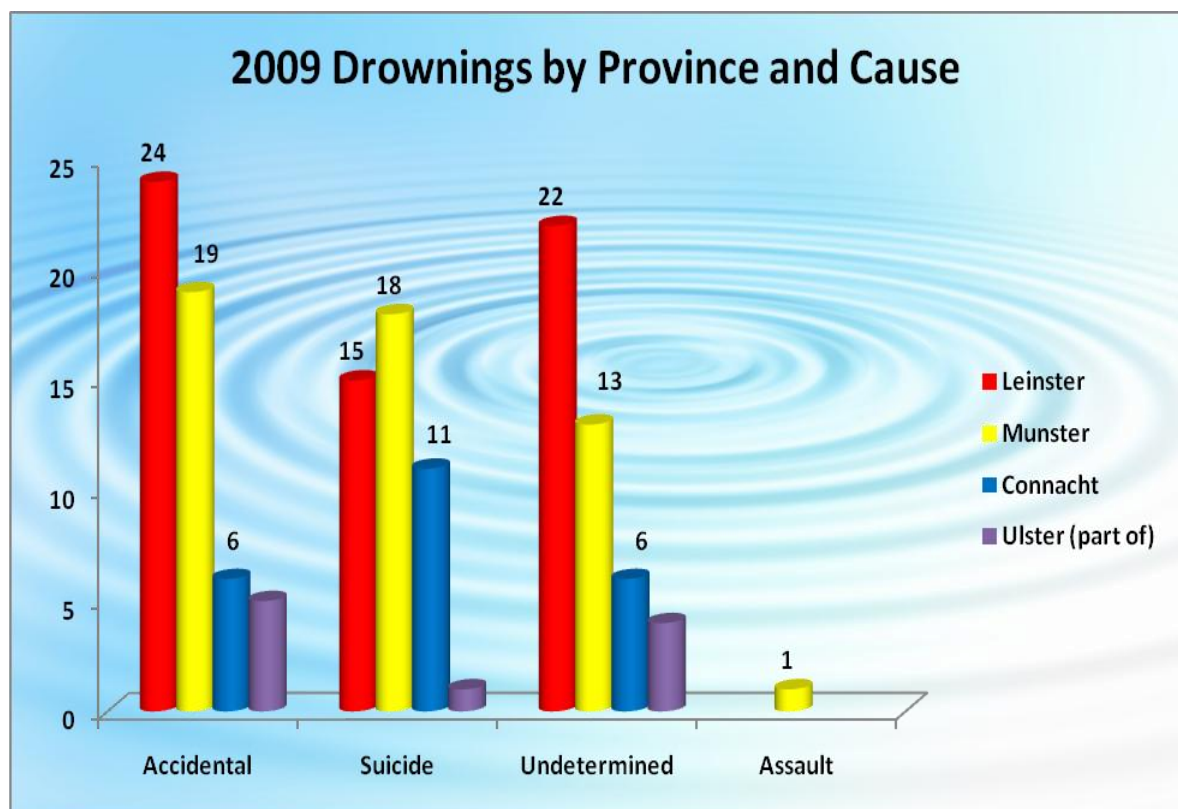
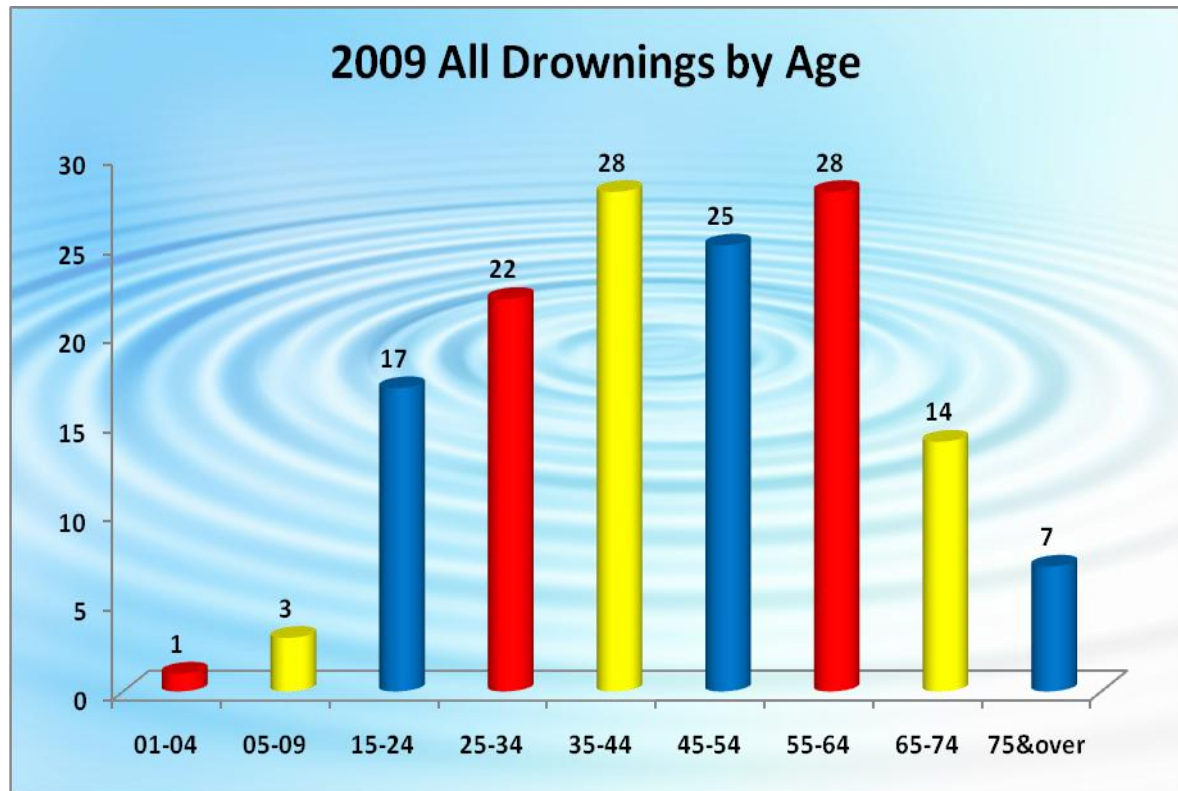
1. Public education by Irish Water Safety regarding hazards and safe behaviours;
2. Teaching children to stay away from water when unsupervised through the IWS PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) programme;
3. Continual adult supervision of children;
4. IWS media campaigns that drowning can happen quickly and quietly;
5. Promote in IWS press announcements, the restriction of alcohol provision before or during aquatic activities;
6. Provision by Irish Water Safety of properly trained and equipped lifeguards;
7. Provision of rescue services;
8. Irish Water Safety Risk Assessments that include assessments of local hazard warning notices, access to emergency response and availability of resuscitation skills/facilities and other factors;
9. Development by Irish Water Safety of rescue and resuscitation skills among general public and user groups;
10. Coordination by Irish Water Safety with user group associations concerning hazard awareness and safe behaviours;
11. Wearing of adequate lifejackets and Personal Flotation Devices when boating;
12. Fencing and doors to isolate outdoor pools and other water features.

**Total Drownings 2009: 145**

**Total Drownings 2008: 158**

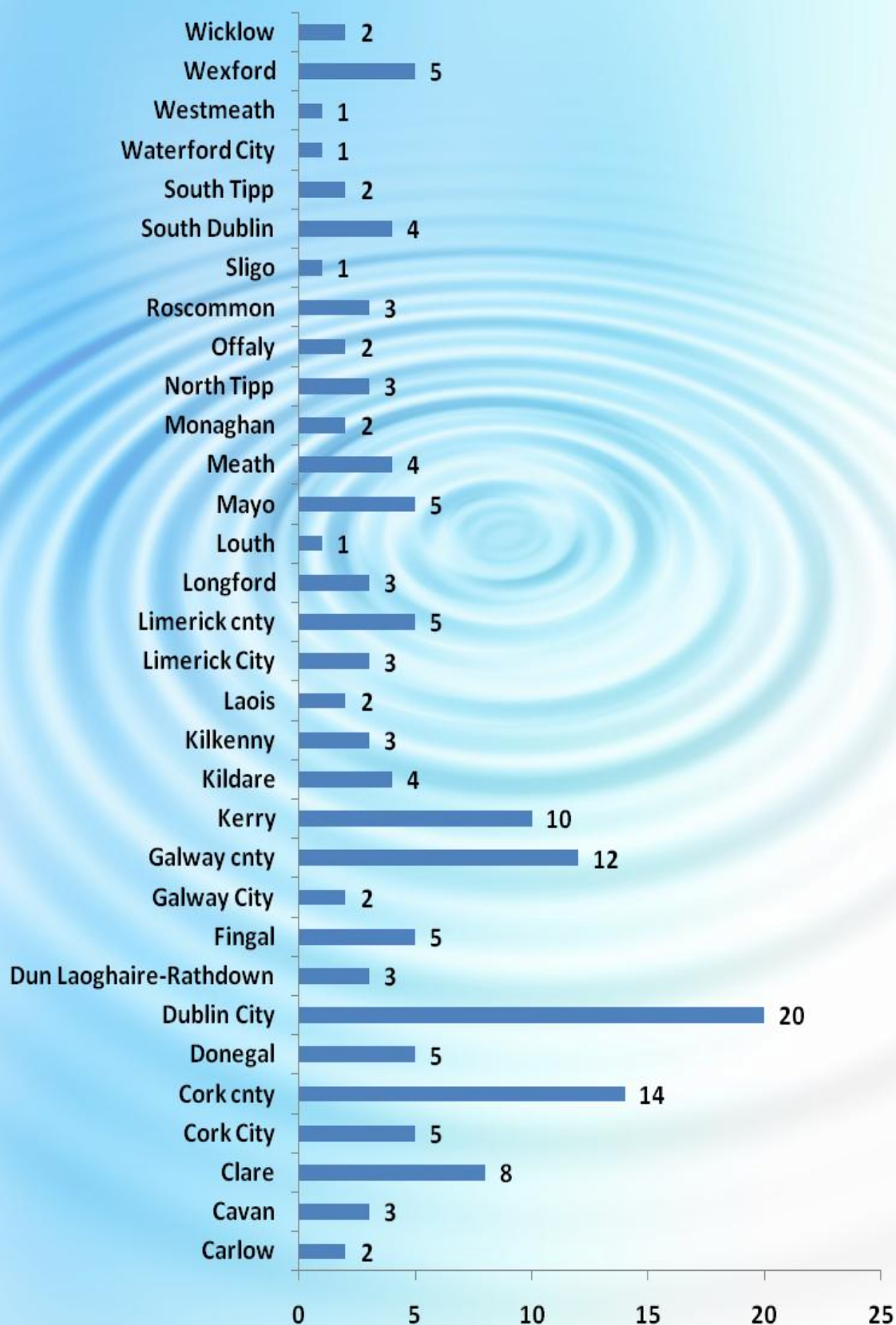
**Total Drownings 2007: 156**



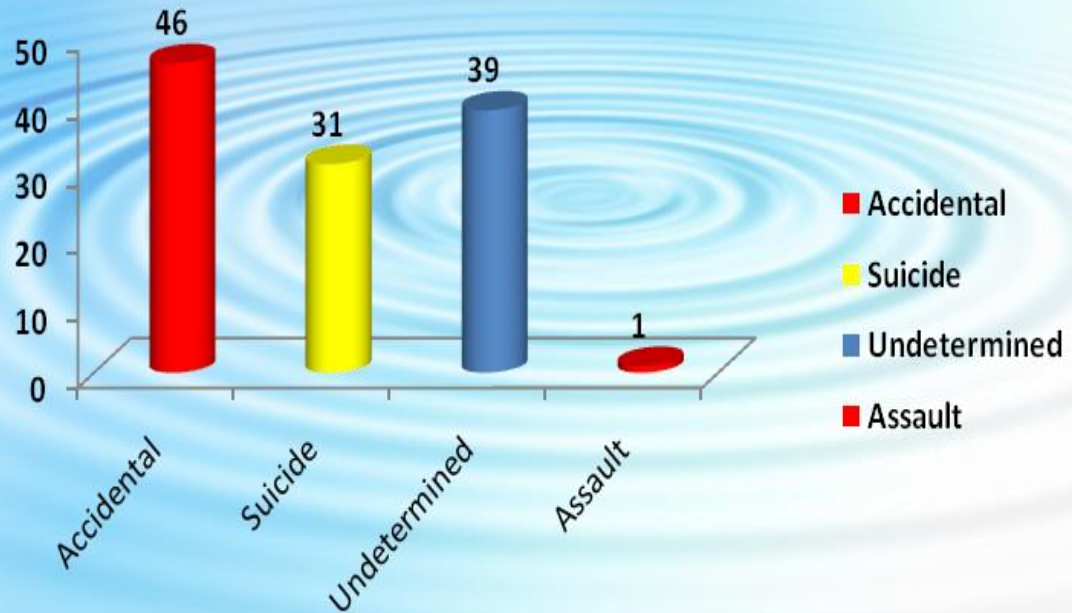




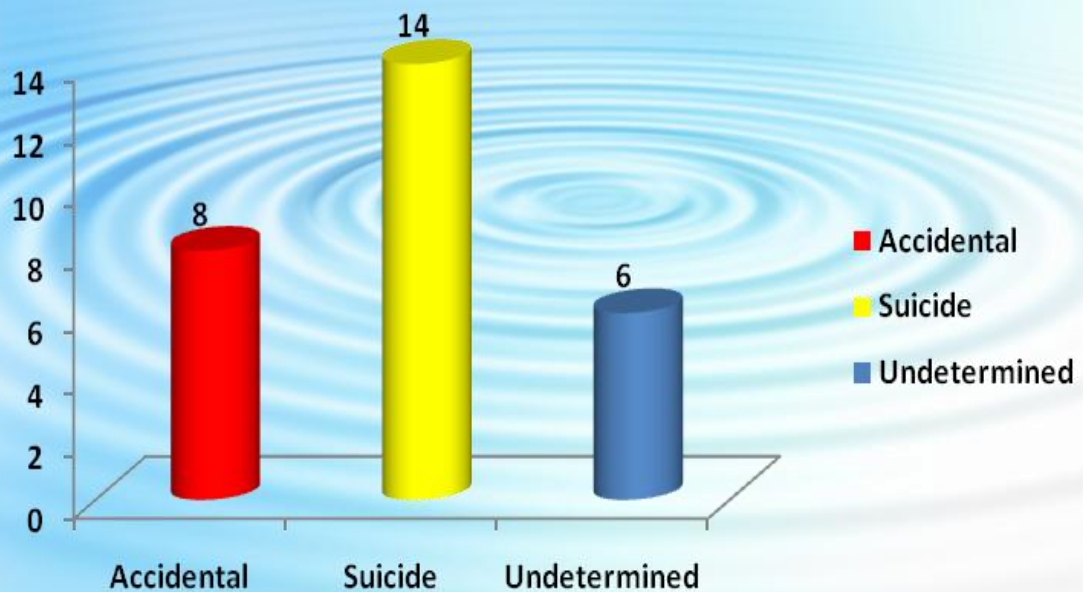
## 2009 All Drownings by County

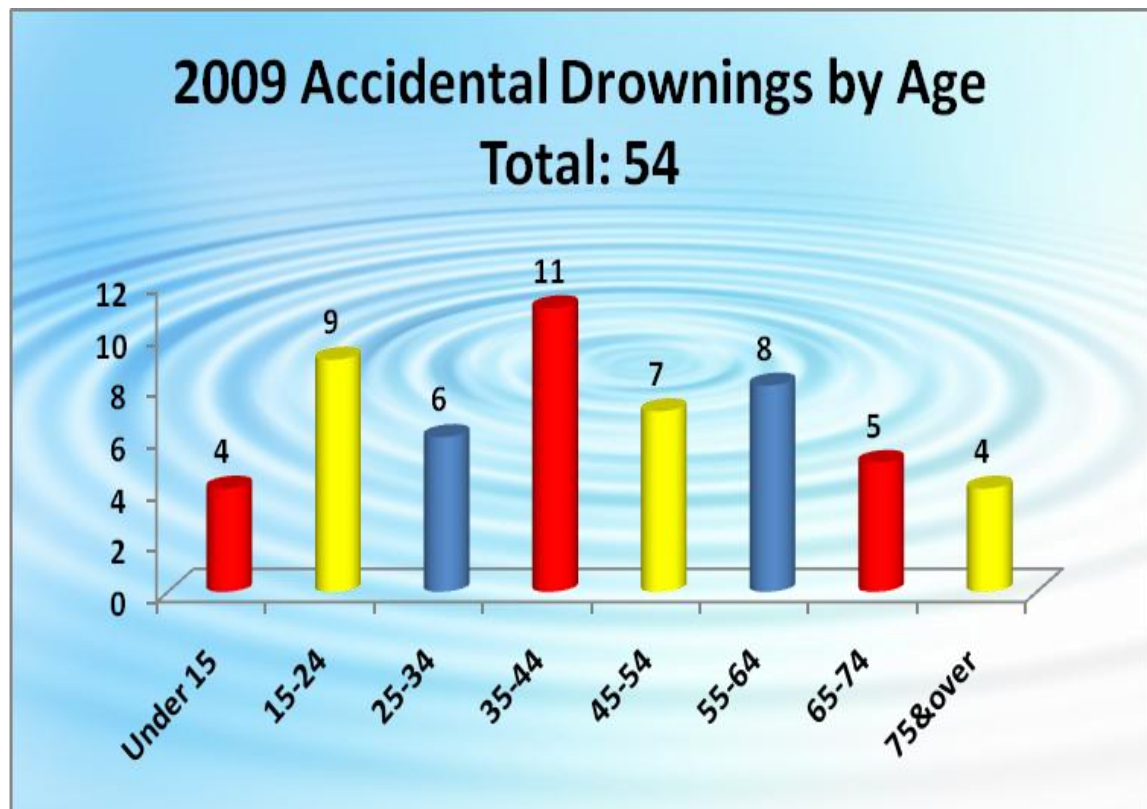
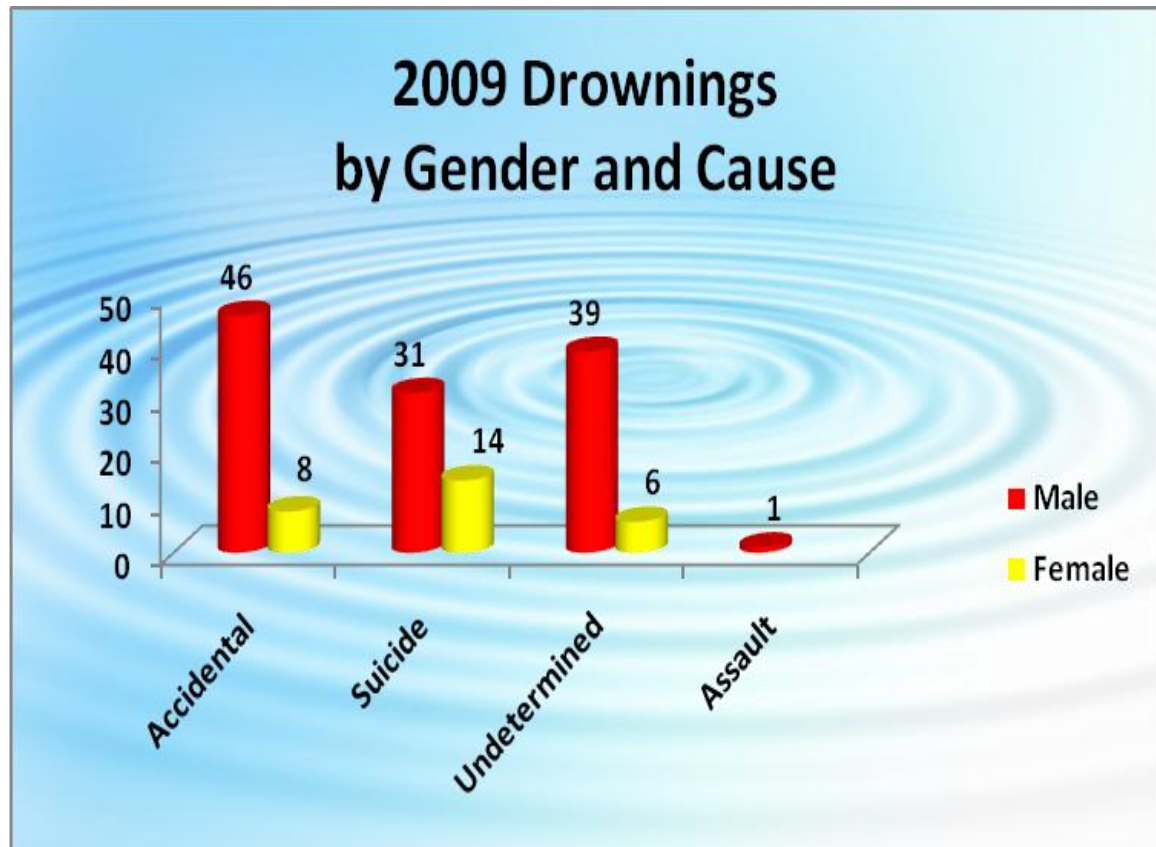


## 2009 Male Drownings by Cause



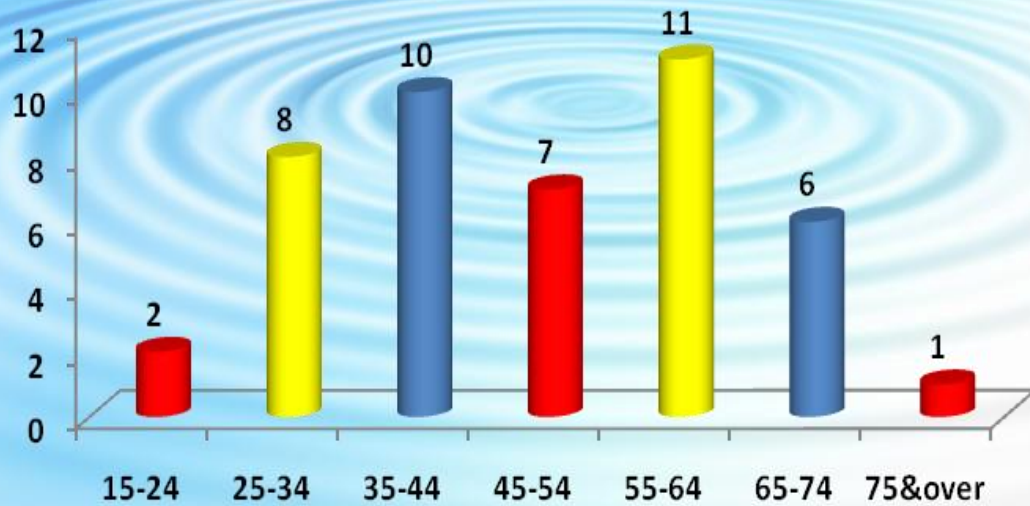
## 2009 Female Drownings by Cause



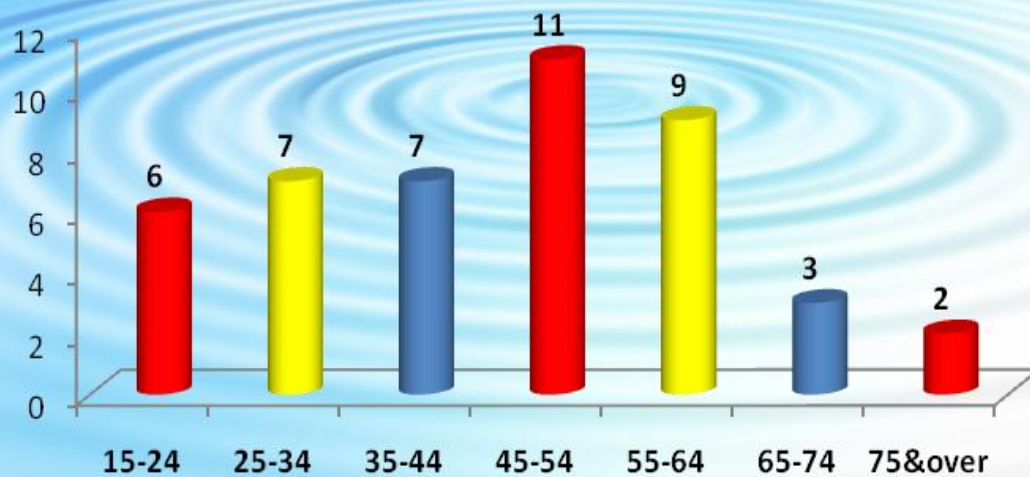




## 2009 Suicide Drownings by Age Total: 45

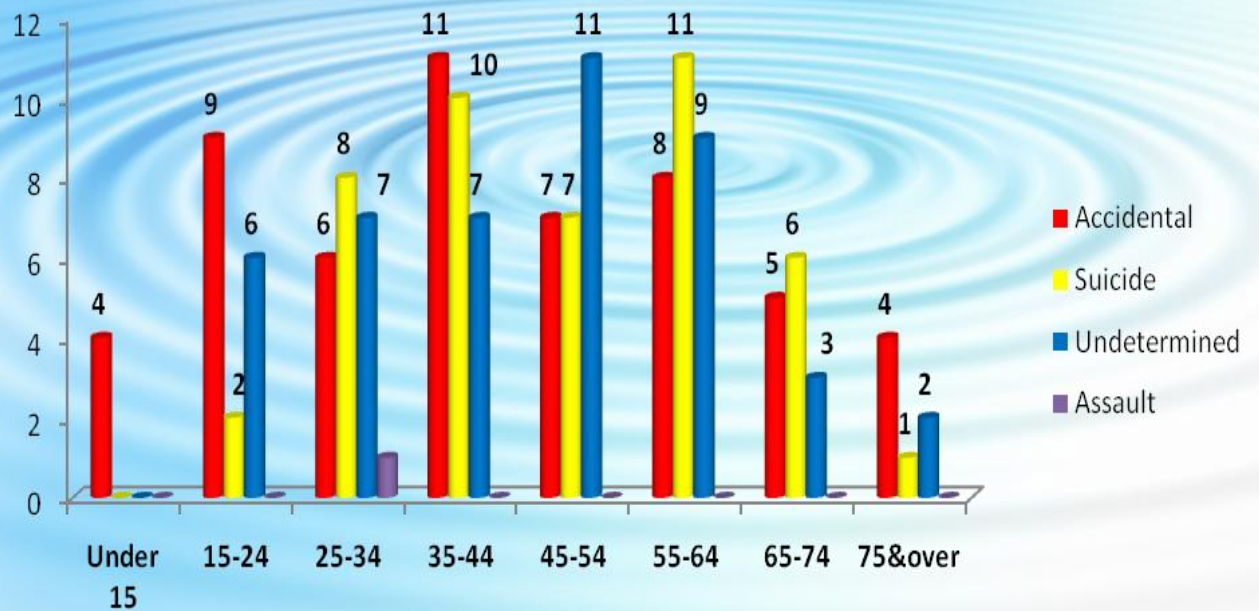


## 2009 Undetermined Drownings by Age (Total: 45)



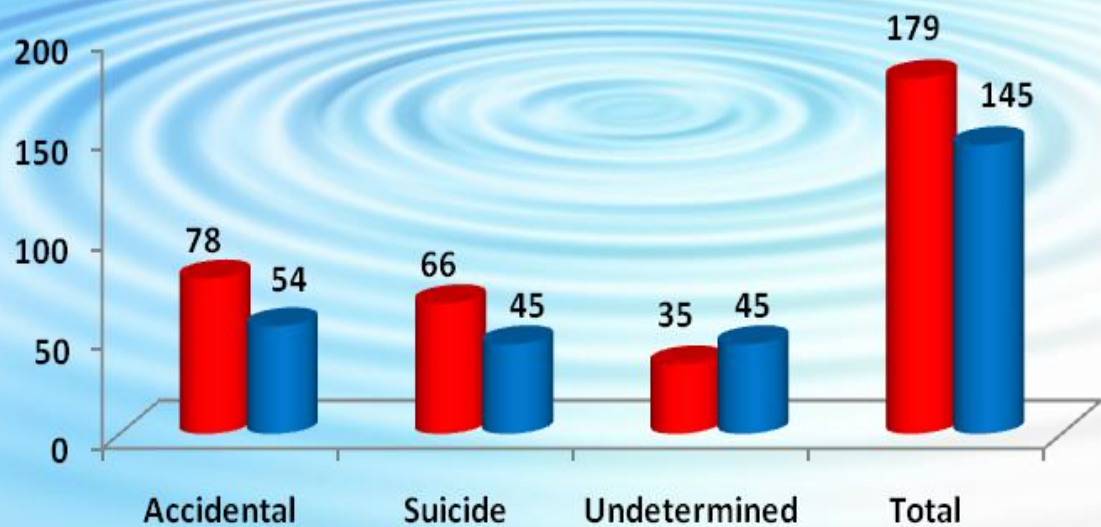
## 2009 Drownings by Age and Cause

Total: 145

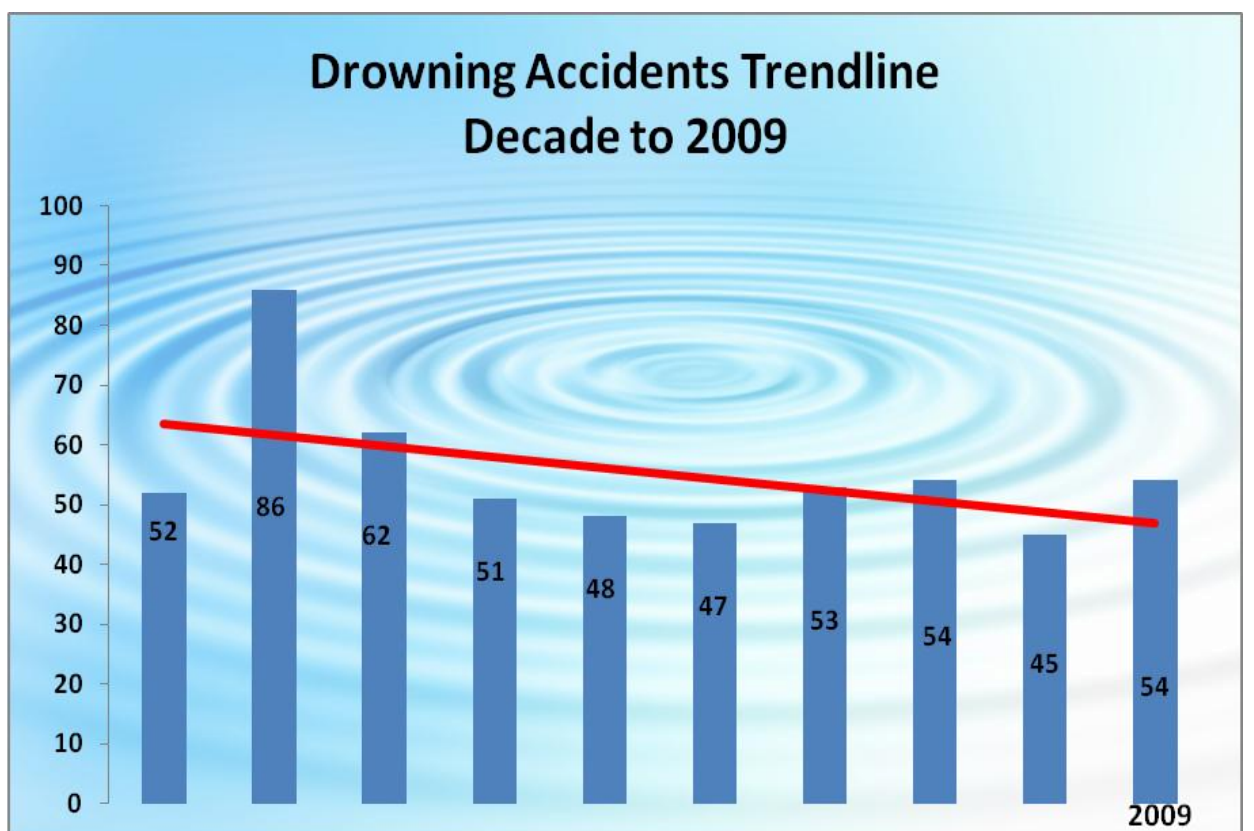
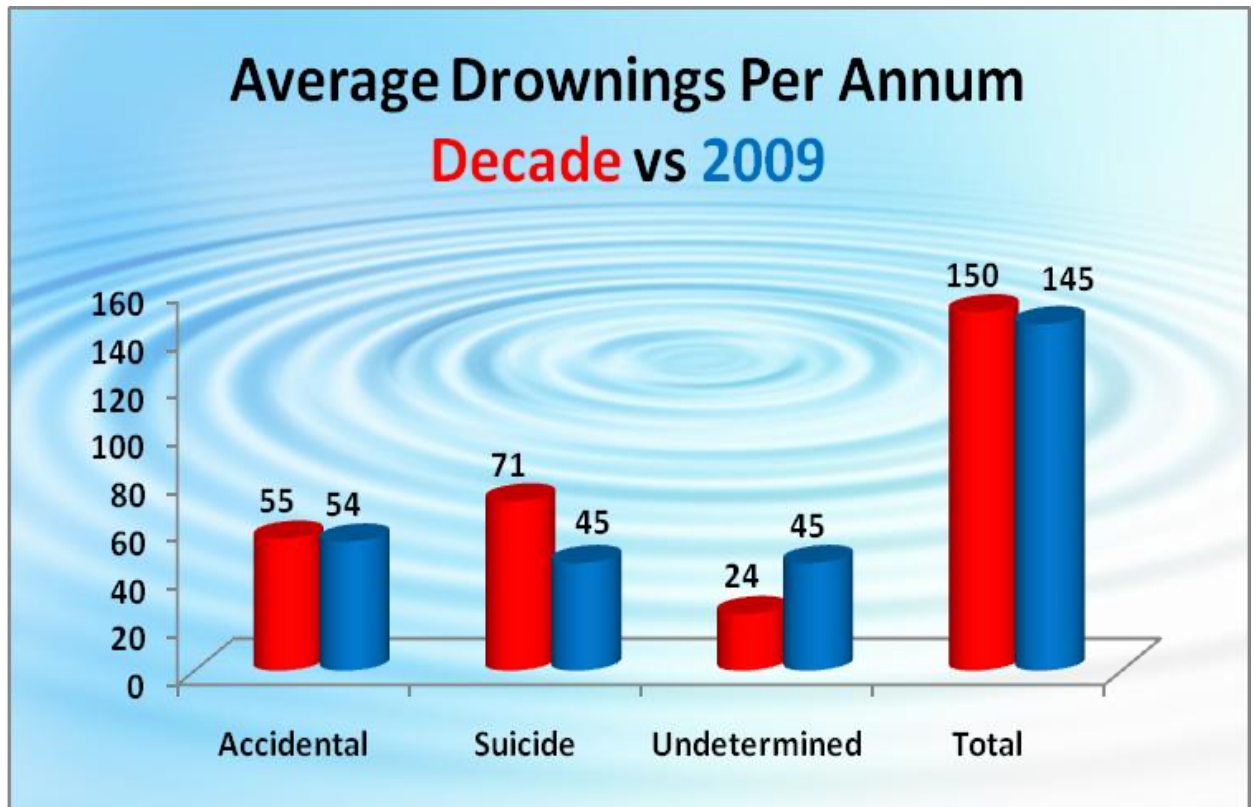


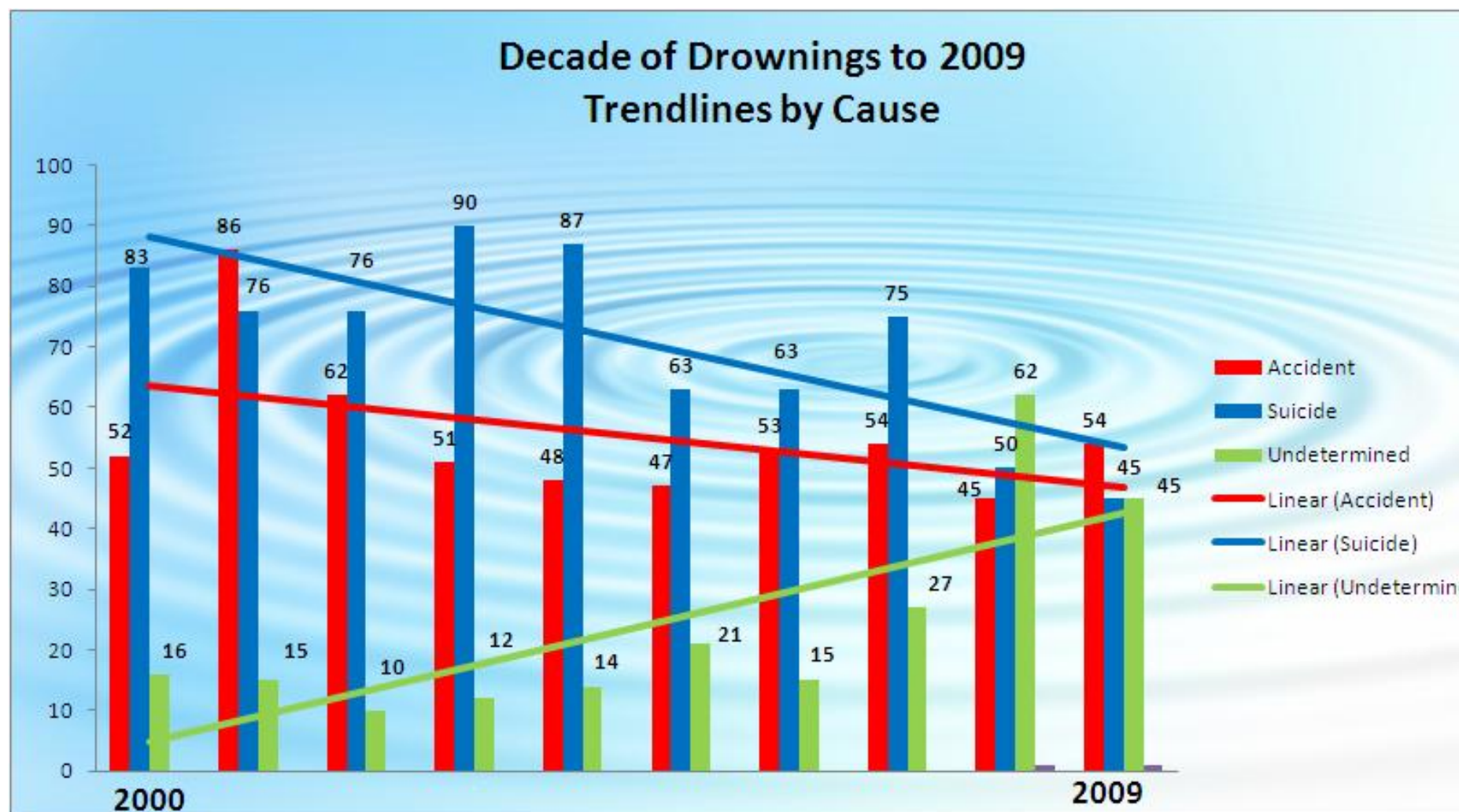
## Average Drownings Per Annum

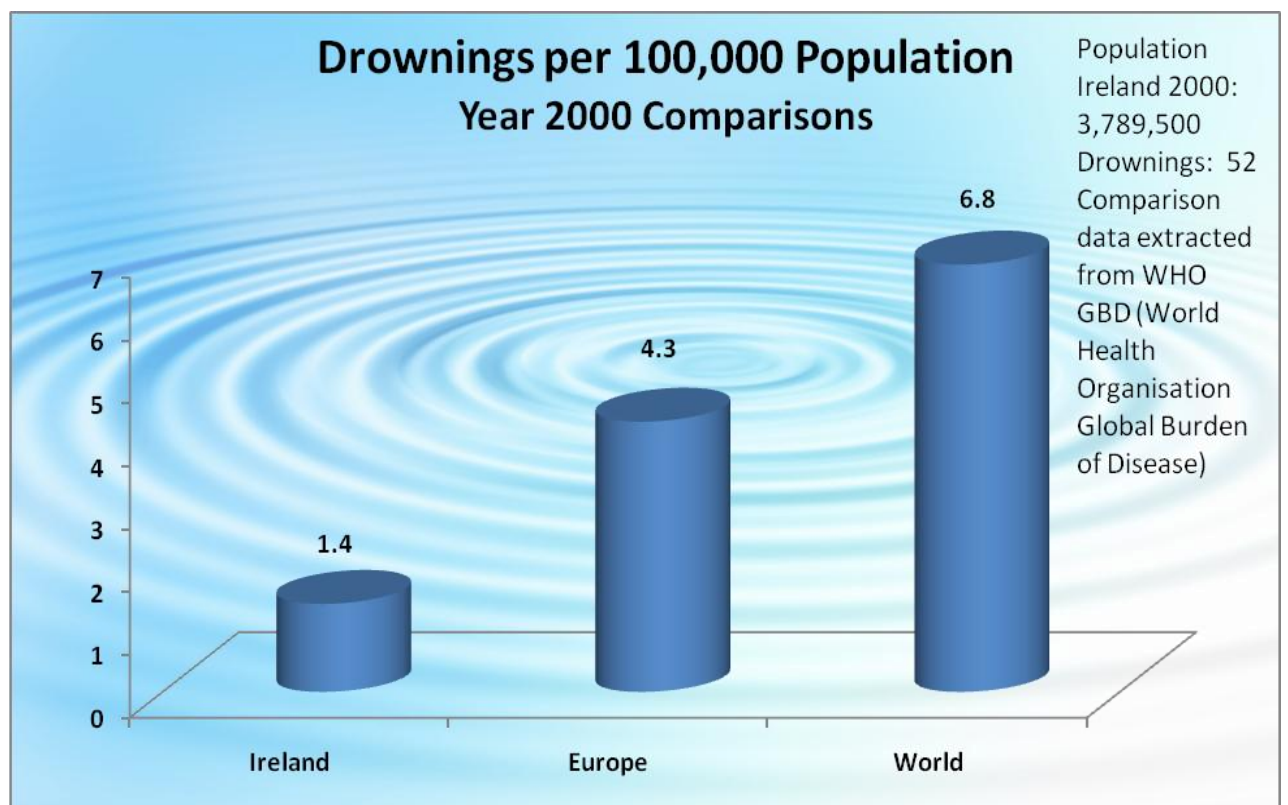
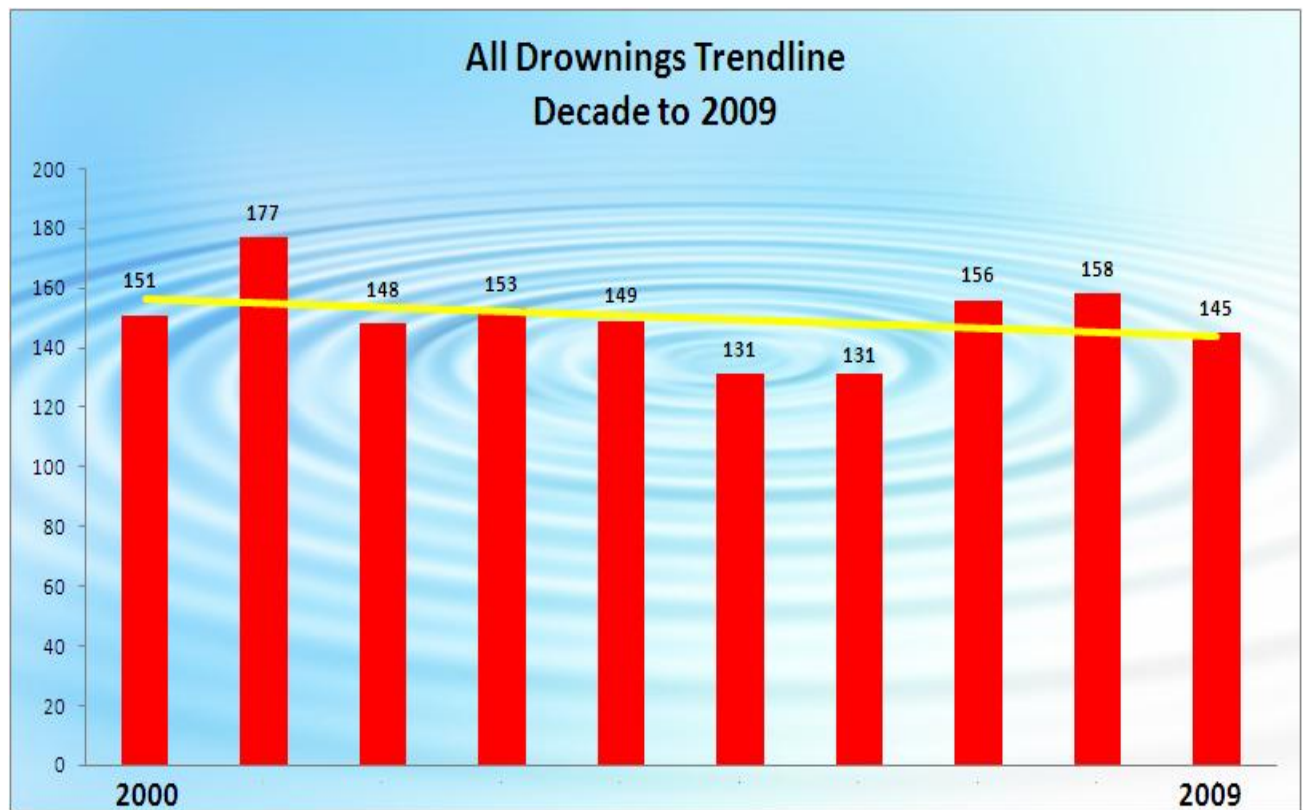
1968 - 2009 vs 2009



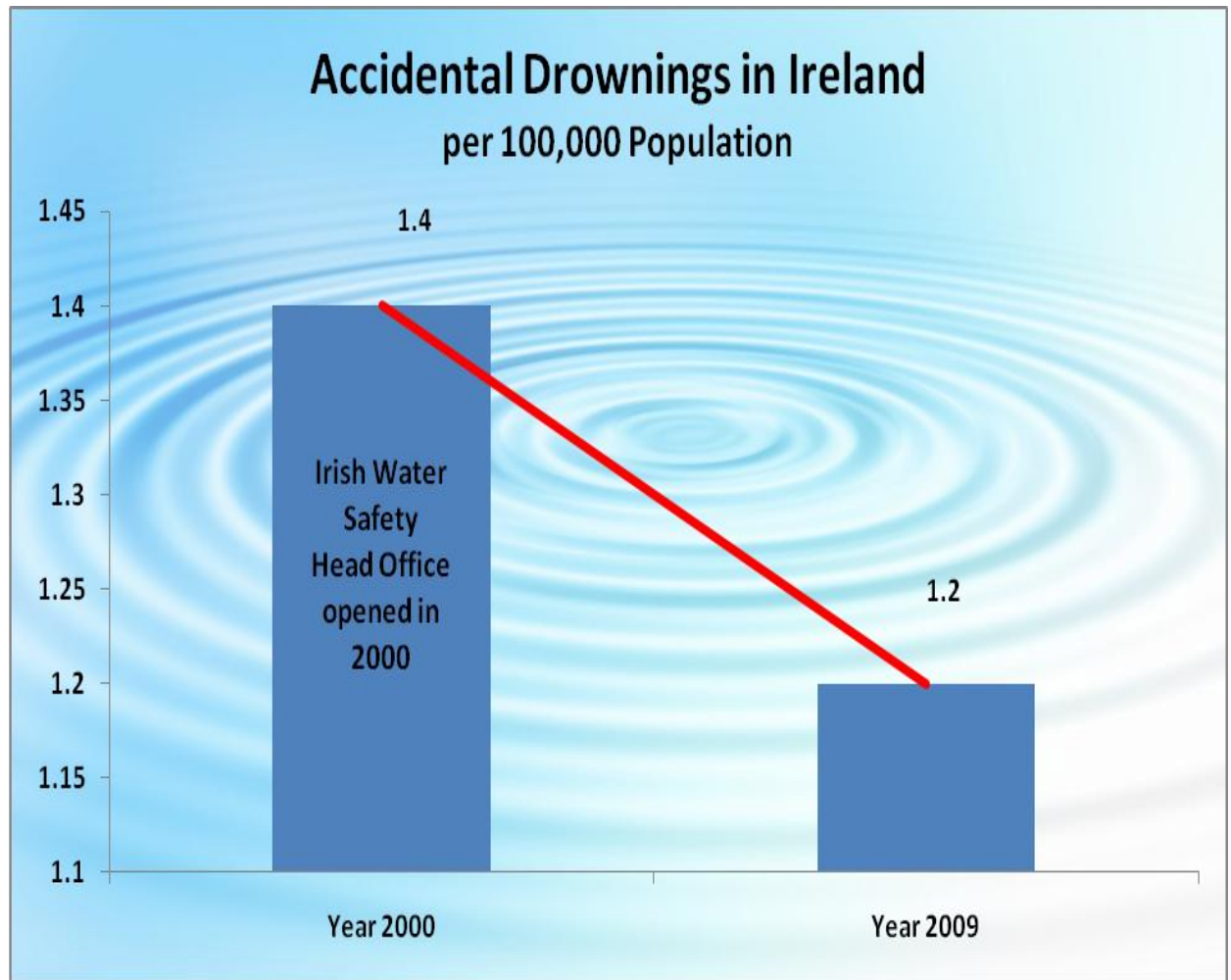












WHEN CONSIDERING THE ABOVE GRAPHICAL ANALYSIS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE NOTE OF THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN RECENT YEARS OF THE NUMBER OF DROWNINGS IN WHICH THE CAUSE (ACCIDENT / SUICIDE / ASSAULT) REMAINS UNDETERMINED. NOTE THE LINEAR TRENDLINE ON PAGE 11.