

WAID 2021 Summary for Northern Ireland

Overall water-related fatalities

In 2021, there were 20 water-related fatalities in Northern Ireland. This is generally lower with when compared to the years 2019 and 2020 (see figure 1).

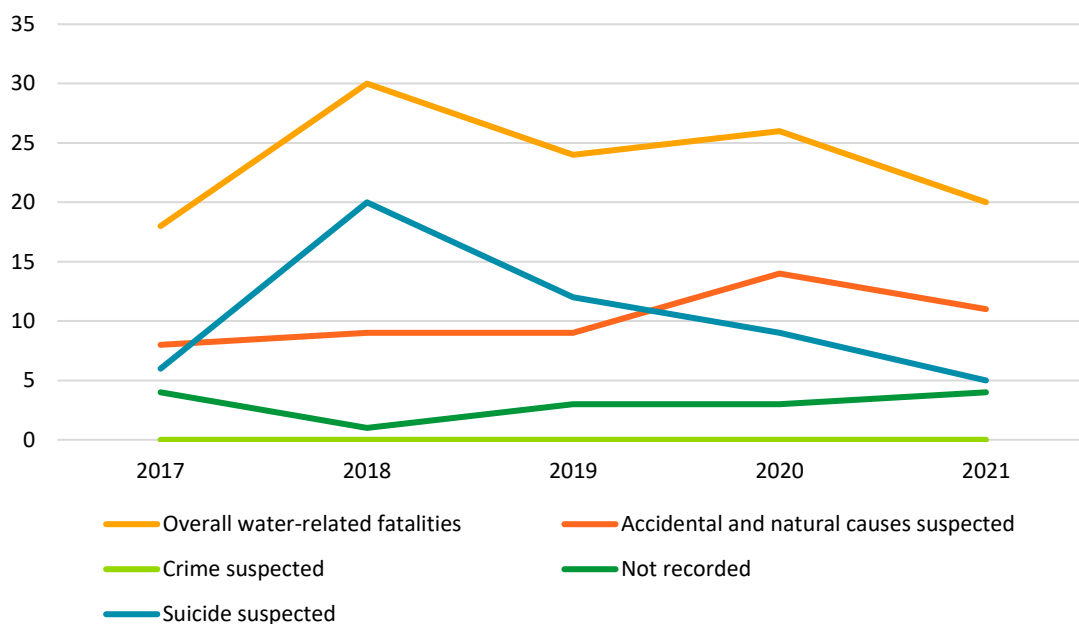


Figure 1: Overall water-related fatalities by year, 2017-2021

Using a three-year average (years 2013 – 2015), prior to the implementation of the [UK Drowning Prevention Strategy](#) (years 2013 – 2015), there were 20 water-related fatalities each year in Northern Ireland. **The 2021 figures show that overall water-related fatalities are the same as the baseline level (see Figure 2).**

Year	Overall water-related fatalities
Three year average (2013-2015)	20
2017	18
2018	30
2019	24
2020	26
2021	20

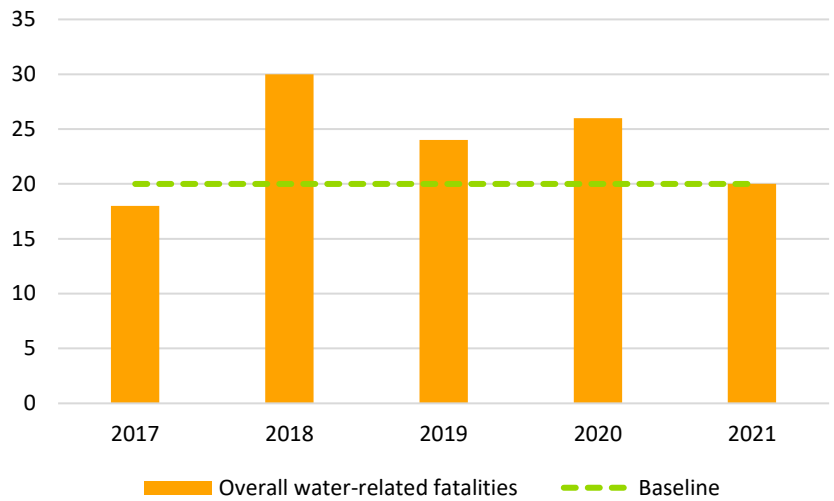


Figure 2: Overall water-related fatalities by year

2017-2021 vs Three year average baseline, Northern Ireland

Suicide suspected fatalities

In 2021, there were 5 suicide suspected fatalities at or near water in Northern Ireland. This is a decrease from previous years and the average baseline.

Year	Suicide suspected fatalities
Three year average (2013-2015)	6
2017	6
2018	20
2019	12
2020	9
2021	5

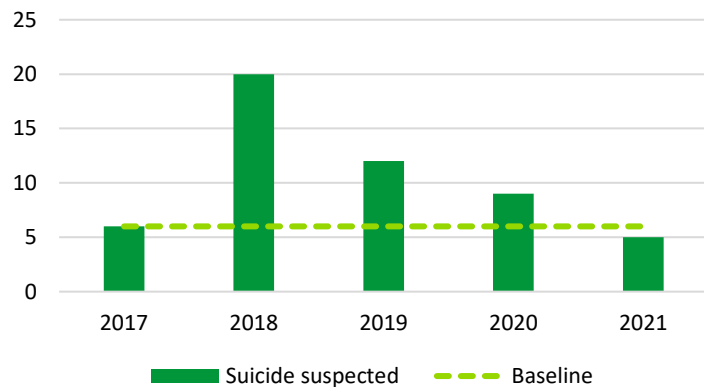
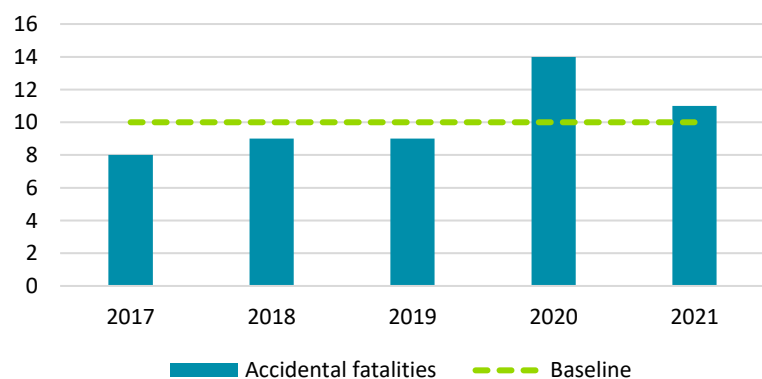


Figure 3: Suicide suspected fatalities by year 2017-2021 vs Three year average baseline, Northern Ireland

Accidental fatalities

In 2021, there were 11 accidental fatalities¹ in Northern Ireland. **This is a 9 per cent decrease when compared to the baseline.**

Year	Accidental fatalities
Three year average (2013 – 2015)	10



2017	8
2018	9
2019	9
2020	14
2021	11

Figure 4: Accidental fatalities by year
2017-2021 vs Three year average baseline, Northern Ireland

Key points

In 2021:

- There were 11 accidental fatalities
- 82% of accidental fatalities were male
- Ages 60 - 69 were the highest group for accidental fatalities (see Figure 5)
- 55% of accidental fatalities happened at **inland waters** (see Figure 6)
- Recreational activities accounted for 50% of accidental fatalities (see Figure 7)
- 1 accidental fatality reports noted the presence of drugs or alcohol
- The rate of accidental drowning is going down (0.54 per 100,000 in 2021) compared to 0.58 in baseline (see Figure 8)
- When considering rates, those aged 60 – 69 were the highest group (see Figure 9)

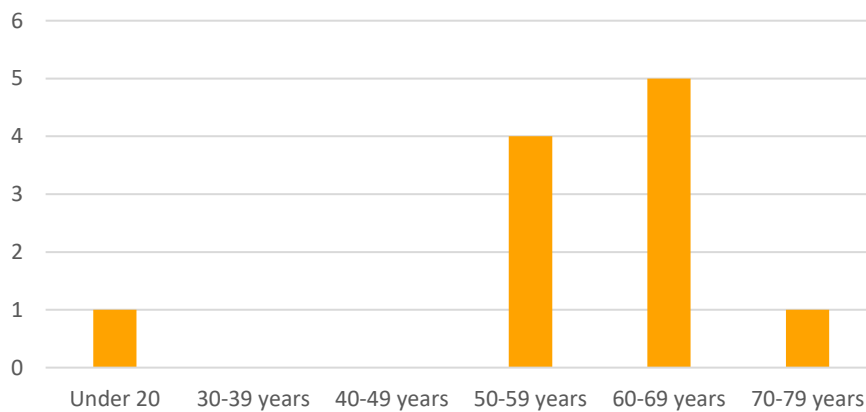


Figure 5: Accidental fatalities by age, N=11

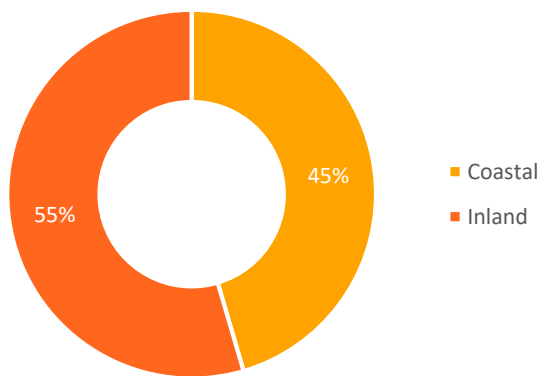


Figure 6: Accidental fatalities by location. N=11

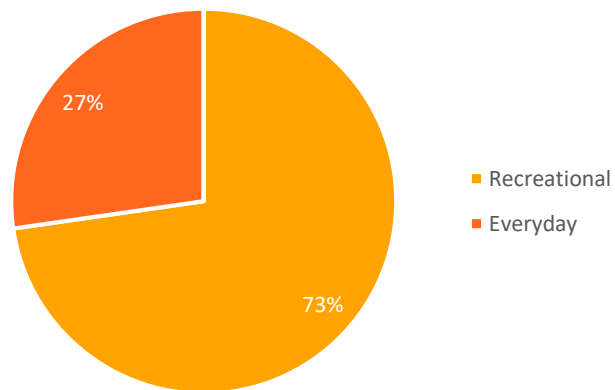


Figure 7: Accidental fatalities by activity. N=11

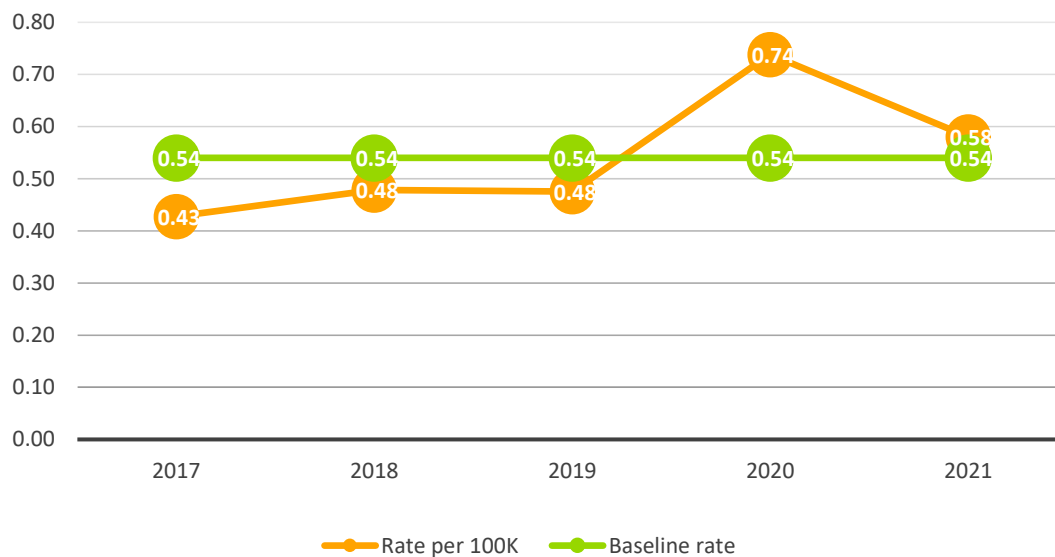


Figure 8: Accidental fatalities by year and rate 2017-2021 and Three year average baseline, Northern Ireland per 100,000 (Population Source: ONS)

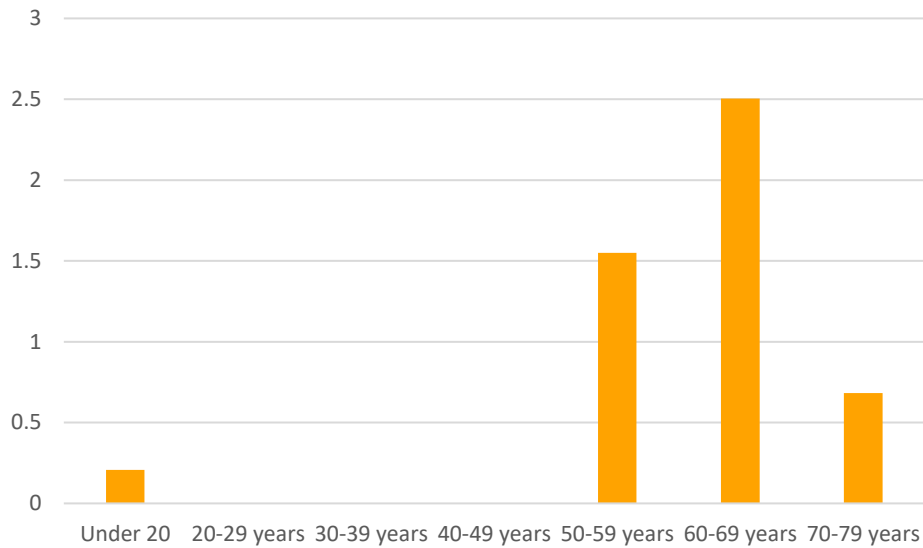


Figure 9: Accidental fatalities by age and rate per 100,000 (Population Source: ONS)

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

<https://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:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland> Baseline rates are based on mid-year 2015 data.