

WAID 2021 Summary for England

Overall water-related fatalities

In 2021, there were 442 water-related fatalities in England. This is generally consistent with previous years when compared to the years 2019 and 2020 (see figure 1).

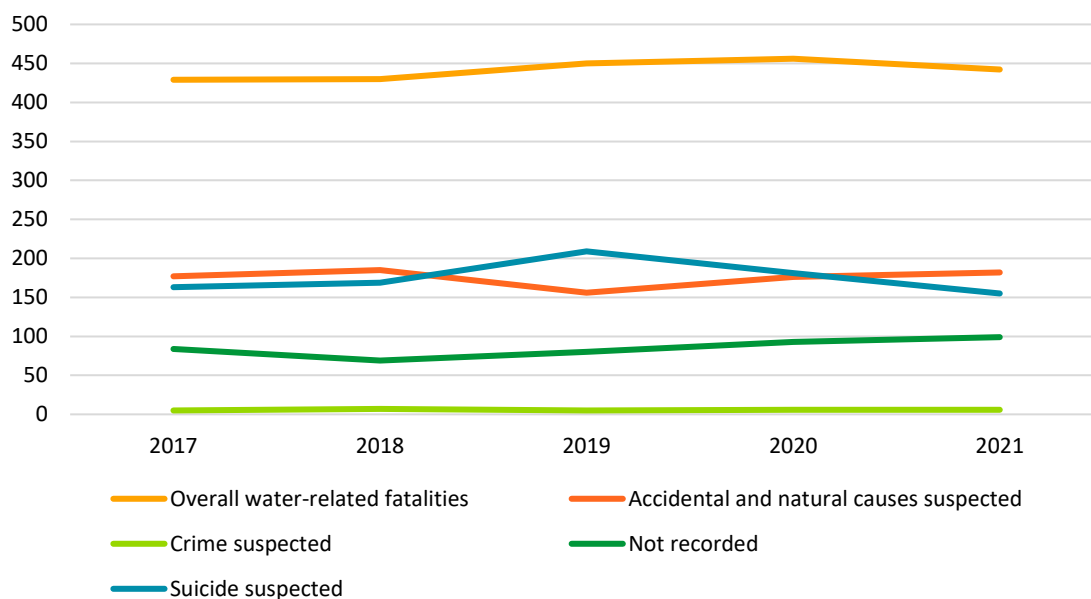


Figure 1: Overall water-related fatalities by year, 2017-2021

Using a three-year average (years 2013 – 2015), prior to the implementation of the [UK Drowning Prevention Strategy](#), there were 476 water-related fatalities each year in England. **The 2021 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
2017	429
2018	430
2019	450
2020	456
2021	442

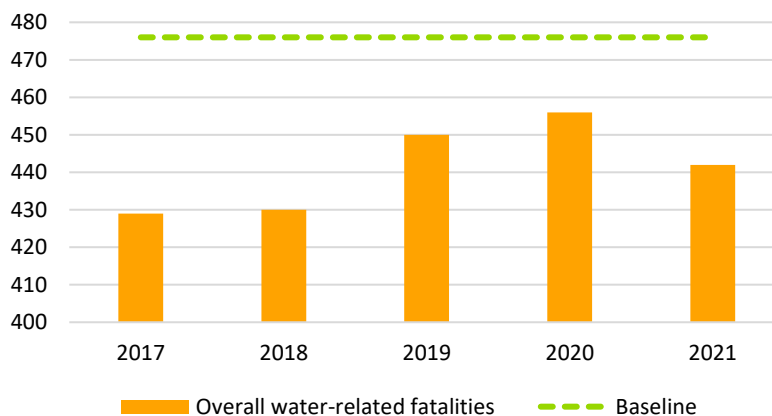


Figure 2: Overall water-related fatalities by year 2017-2021 vs Three year average baseline, England

Suicide suspected fatalities

In 2021, there were 155 suicide suspected fatalities at or near water in England. This is a decrease from previous years and the average baseline.

Year	Suicide suspected fatalities
Three year average (2013-2015)	163
2017	163
2018	169
2019	209
2020	181
2021	155

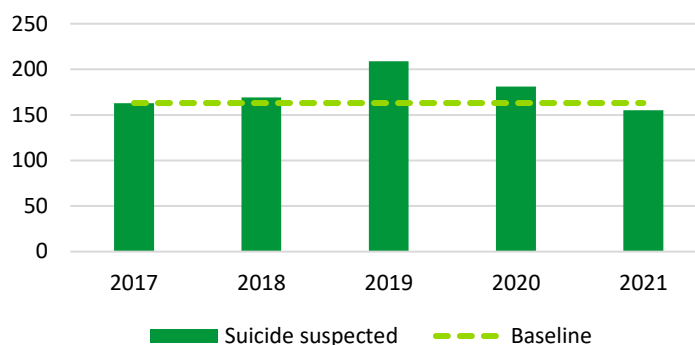


Figure 3: Suicide suspected fatalities by year 2017-2021 vs Three year average baseline, England

Accidental fatalities

In 2021, there were 182 accidental fatalities¹ in England. **This is a 26 per cent decrease when compared to the baseline.**

Year	Accidental fatalities
Three year average (2013 – 2015)	246
2017	177
2018	185
2019	156
2020	176
2021	182

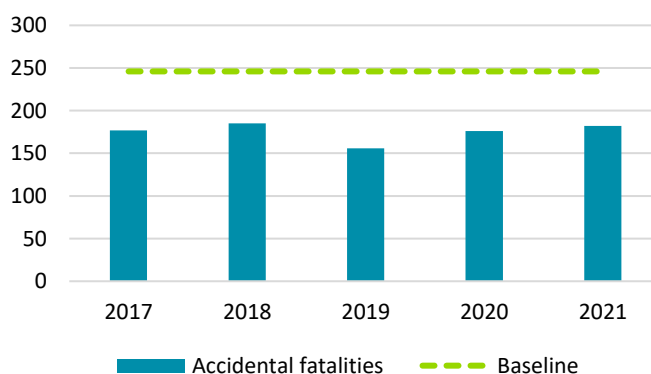


Figure 4: Accidental fatalities by year 2017-2021 vs Three year average baseline, England

Key points

In 2021:

- There were 182 accidental fatalities
- 86% of accidental fatalities were male
- Males 30 – 39 and 50 - 59 were the highest group for accidental fatalities (see Figure 5)
- 65% of accidental fatalities happened at **inland waters** (see Figure 6)
- Recreational activities accounted for 56% of accidental fatalities (see Figure 7)
- 49 accidental fatality reports noted the presence of drugs or alcohol
- The rate of accidental drowning is going down (0.32 per 100,000 in 2021) compared to 0.45 in baseline (see Figure 8)
- When considering rates, several age groups of males are in the highest groups (see Figure 9)

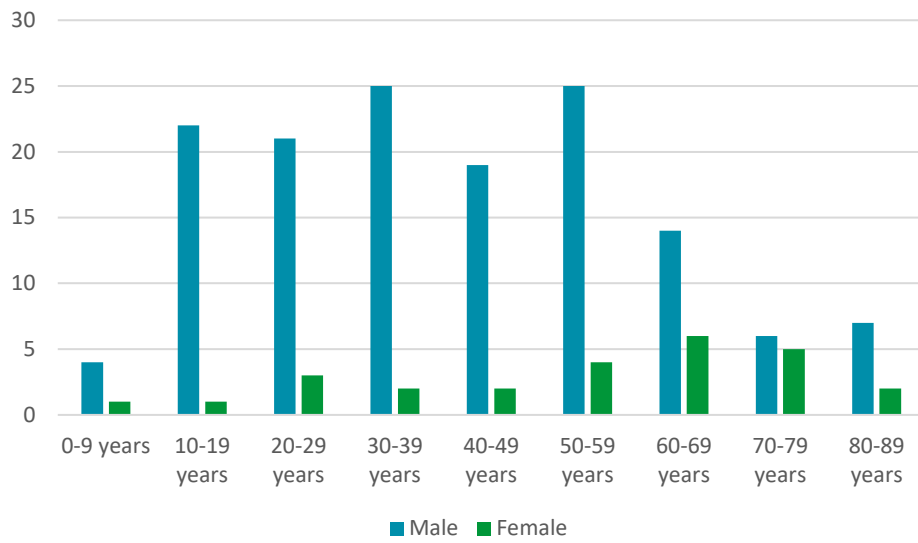


Figure 5: Accidental fatalities by age, N=169, 13 not recorded

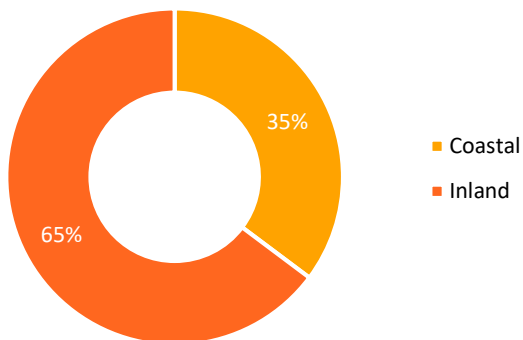


Figure 6: Accidental fatalities by location. N=176, 6 excluded

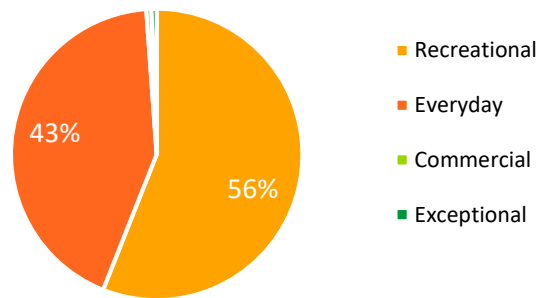


Figure 7: Accidental fatalities by activity. N=175, 7 excluded

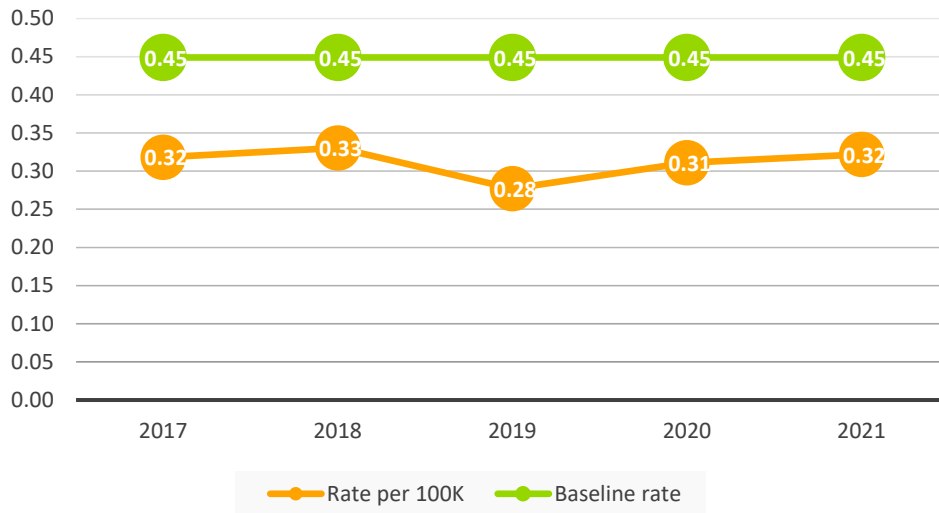


Figure 8: Accidental fatalities by year and rate 2017-2021 and Three year average baseline, England per 100,000 (Population Source: ONS)

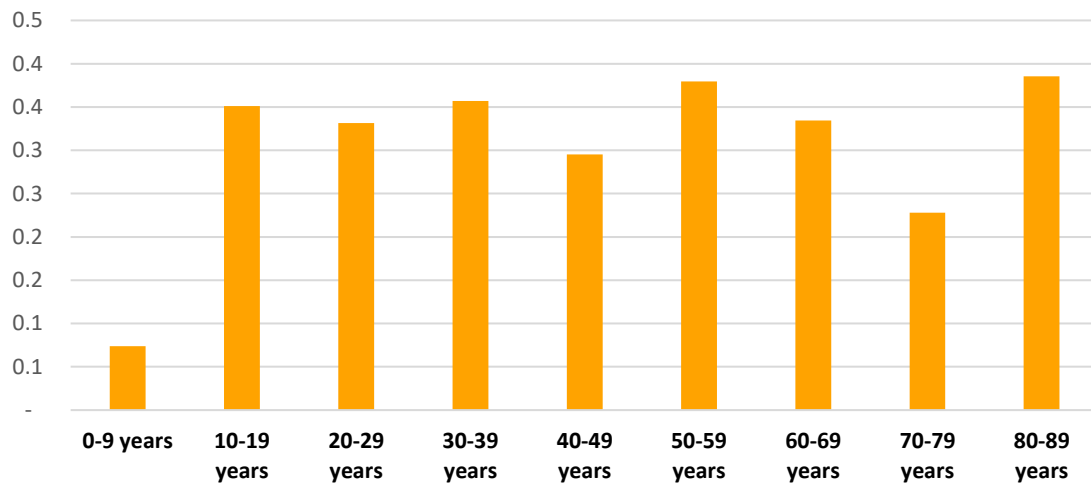


Figure 9: Accidental fatalities by age and rate per 100,000 (Population Source: ONS)

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.