

# Drowning Related Hospitalizations

## Why Is This Important?

Drownings may lead not only to deaths, but also disability and long-term impairment. Drownings can occur in bathtubs, swimming pools, lakes and rivers. Drownings include those related to boating collisions.

Drownings are a leading cause of death for children nine and under in Saskatchewan. Almost a third of deaths in children under 10 years old are attributed to drowning. Drownings cost \$11 million in Saskatchewan annually.

Although most drownings occur in lakes and rivers, for young children the most common place for drownings to occur is in private swimming pools.

## What Is Being Done?

Lifesaving Society of Canada has water safety tips for parents of children under [5](#) and up to [12](#) years old.

Canadian Red Cross has water safety [tips](#).

## To Learn More:

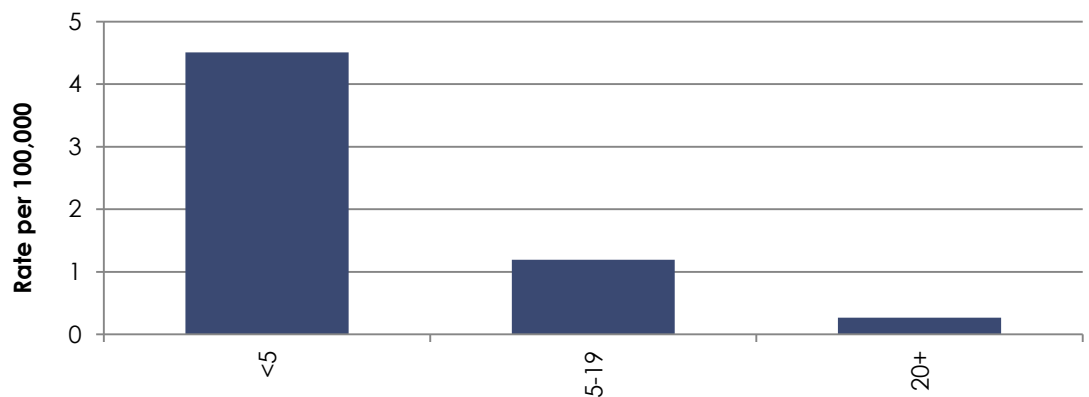
Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

## Highlights

### Drowning related hospitalizations mostly affect young children.

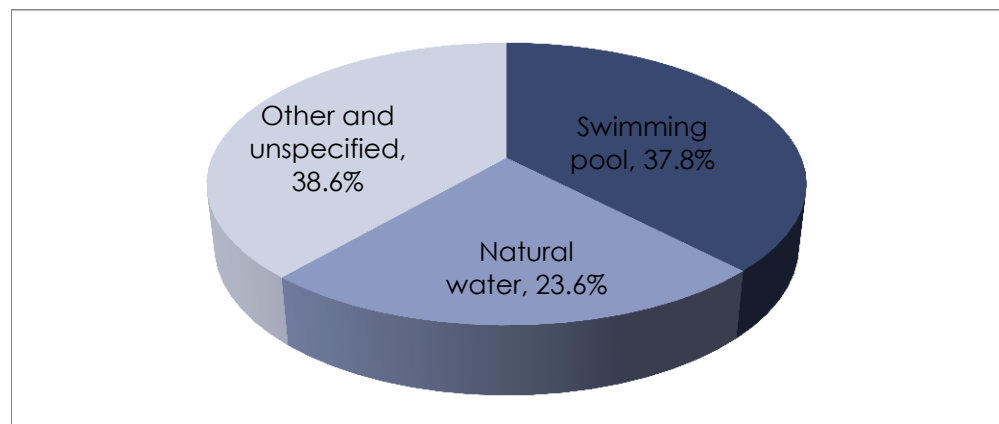
- Drowning related hospitalizations are relatively rare in Saskatoon Health Region.
- Most years there are one or two hospitalizations due to drowning.
- Children under 5 years old had the highest hospitalization rate for drowning compared to other ages (*Figure 1*).
- The most common location of drowning related hospitalizations were swimming pools (38%) followed by natural bodies of water (24%; *Figure 2*).

**Figure 1: Drowning Related Hospitalization Crude Rates, Saskatoon Health Region, 2003/04 to 2012/13 Combined**



Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

**Figure 2: Location of Drowning Related Hospitalizations, Saskatoon Health Region, 2003/04 to 2012/13 Combined**



Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Health