

Accidental Drowning in Vermont

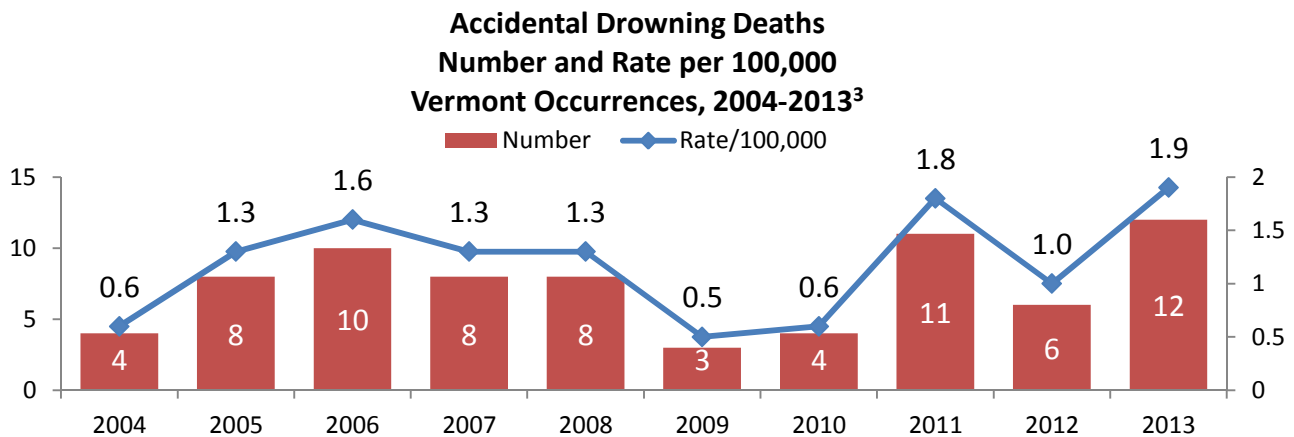
Vermont Injury Prevention Program

Background

In the United States, accidental drowning (also referred to as unintentional drowning) is the 5th leading cause of death from injury. The demographic groups at highest risk for accidental drowning are men, children and minorities.¹ Nationally, it is estimated that there are five times as many Emergency Room visits as there are deaths for drowning among children.² This data brief provides Vermont specific data on accidental drowning deaths, ED visits and hospitalizations.

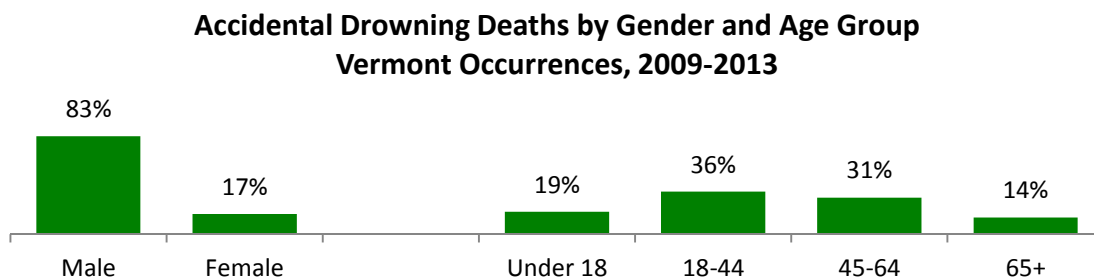
Drowning Deaths

In Vermont, an average of seven accidental drowning deaths occur each year (2004-2013). The rate of accidental drownings since 2004 has ranged from 0.6 per 100,000 in 2009 to 1.9 per 100,000 in 2013. The rate of drowning deaths in Vermont is consistently similar to that for the U.S.



Over the five-year period from 2009-2013, most drowning deaths occurring in Vermont happened in natural bodies of water, such as lakes, streams, or ponds. Few occurred in artificial bodies of water such as bathtubs and pools.

During this time period, more than eight in ten drowning deaths were among males. Most deaths occurred among adults 18-44 (36%), followed by those 45-64 (31%), and under 18 (19%). Fourteen percent of drowning deaths were among those 65 and older.



Seventeen percent of drowning deaths in Vermont were of racial/ethnic minorities. More than eight in ten (83%) of the drowning deaths occurring in Vermont during this time were among Vermont residents.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online] [cited 2012 May 3]. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars>.

² <http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html>

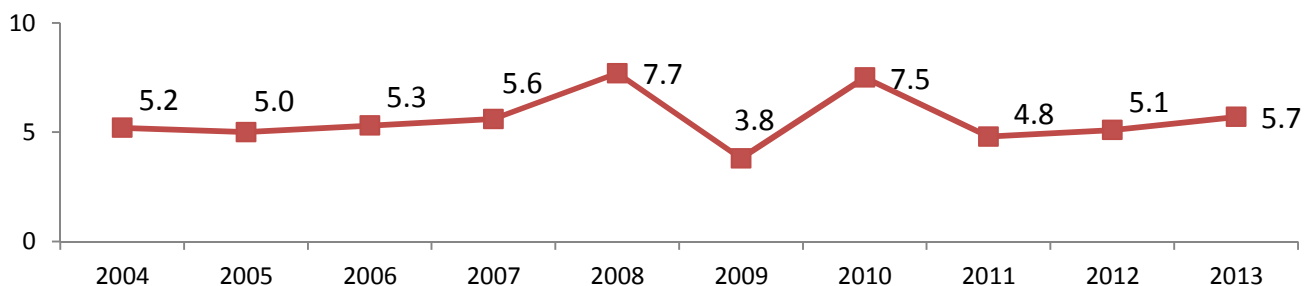
³ Vermont Vital Statistics data from 2013 is preliminary.

Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalization for Accidental Drowning

During the 10 year period of 2004 through 2013, at Vermont hospitals the rates of accidental drowning remained similar for both emergency department visits and hospitalization. In 2013, there were 5.7 emergency department visits per 100,000 people for accidental drowning at Vermont hospitals. This represents 36 emergency department visits due to drowning injuries. Four of the emergency department visits resulted in hospitalization. There were three additional drowning related hospitalizations that did not originate in the emergency department. On average, from 2004-2013, there were 35 emergency department visits per year. During this time frame, there was also an average of four hospitalizations per year, including those that initiated in the emergency department. Three emergency department visits/hospitalizations per year resulted in death.

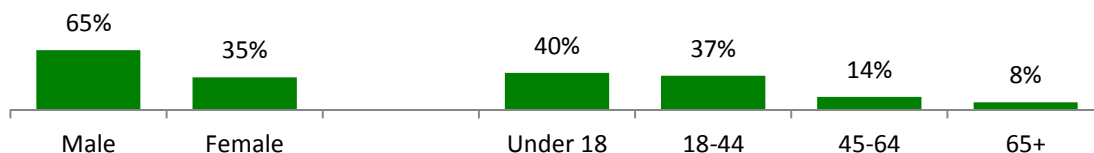
Due to the relatively small number of hospitalizations due to drowning injuries, the remainder of this section discusses only Emergency Department Visits.

**Emergency Department Visits⁴ for Accidental Drowning
Rate per 100,000
Vermont Occurrences, 2004-2013**



From 2009 to 2013, two-thirds of Vermont hospital emergency department visits related to drowning injuries were among males (65%) and one-third were among females (35%). People under the age of 45 account for more than three-quarters of emergency department visits for accidental drowning (78%). Of those under the age of 45, it is almost evenly split between those under the age of 18 (41%) and those ages 18-44 (37%). Only a very small number of emergency department visits for accidental drowning are age 65 or older (8%).

**Emergency Department Visits⁴ for Accidental Drowning
by Gender and Age Group
Vermont Occurrences, 2009-2013**



Six percent of emergency department visits for drowning were among racial and ethnic minorities. Nine in ten (89%) were White non-Hispanic and five percent had an unknown race. Three quarters (77%) of ED visits were for Vermont residents and the remaining 23% were out of state residents.

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⁴ Note: Emergency Department data includes patients who entered the hospital through the emergency department and were later hospitalized.