Drowning Statistics in Canada

Water-related fatality statistics and trends from 2008–2012

Between 2008 and 2012...
A staggering 82 per cent of drowning victims over this time-span — 1,968 out of 2,392 — were men.

Water fatalities by gender

- Men (82%)
- Women (18%)

Average deaths per year

Although Ontario has the highest average annual deaths, it is one of the lowest provinces in deaths per capita. Proportionally, the largest death rates belong to Yukon (11.6 per cent), Nunavut (11.4 per cent) and the Northwest Territories (7.8 per cent).

What can be done?

- Wear a PFD
- If you’re boating, don’t drink
- Avoid rough waters when possible
- Keep an eye on people near the water

Personal floatation devices can help mitigate the majority of water-related fatalities. Avoid drunk boating and rough waters, and ensure adequate supervision whenever you can — especially around young children.

Sources:
- Canadian Drowning Report, 2015 Edition
- Lifesaving Society Canada
- Drowning Prevention Research Centre Canada