

# 10-Year Water-Related Boating Fatalities

Boating accounts for 30% of Manitoba's water-related fatalities in the last 10 years. Since the launch of the Canadian Coast Guard accredited boat safety training in 1999, there has been a 64% decrease in the number of water-related boating fatalities.

In order to keep Manitobans safe on our waterways, the Lifesaving Society recommends to:

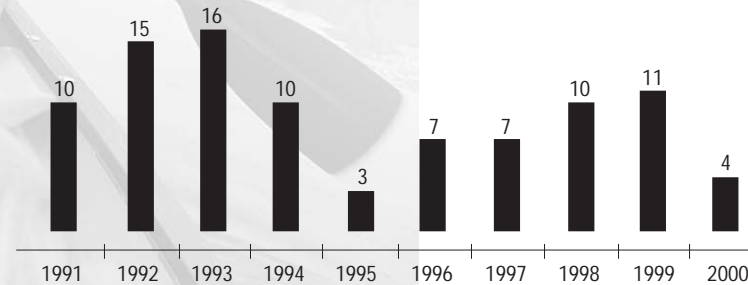
- Drive your powerboat or personal watercraft responsibly.
- Know before you go! Check the weather forecast.
- Boating and booze don't mix.
- Always wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD).

- Get trained in boating safety. Contact the Lifesaving Society to find out which safe boating course is running nearest you!

A reminder to all boaters that operate a motorized watercraft under 4 metres in length, you are required to obtain your pleasure craft operator card by September 15, 2002. All other operators are required to obtain their card by September 2009.

Why wait? Beat the rush and register now for a boating safety course! Safe Boating is Enjoyable Boating!

Water-related boating fatalities



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The Lifesaving Society is a national volunteer based charitable organization which works to prevent drownings and water-related incidents through its training programs, public education, research and consultation. Business number for charitable donations: 11912 9047 RR0001

The Lifesaving Society acknowledges assistance in preparing the Manitoba Drowning Report from the Offices of the Chief Medical Examiner and the Canadian Red Cross Society.



# Manitoba Drowning Report 2002

## A review of Manitoba's water-related fatalities in 2000

### It Only Takes An Instant For The Unthinkable To Happen!

Unfortunately the number of water-related fatalities is up 67% from 1999 for children aged 12 and under. Of the children 12 and under that drowned in 2000, 50% occurred during a momentary absence in adult supervision.

Parents and childcare providers, the best place for you to be when your kids are in, on or near the water is with them. WITHIN ARMS' REACH. Nothing replaces direct adult supervision.

The Lifesaving Society-Manitoba Branch has developed a Water Smart™ program, Within Arms' Reach, which provides parents and childcare providers with water safety tips for supervising children in, on or around the water. For more information, contact the Society at 956-2124.

The following statistics were compiled from aquatic fatalities in 2000. This information is provided to emphasize high risk aquatic behaviour and to encourage safe behaviour.

### Quick Stats on Water-Related Fatalities in 2000

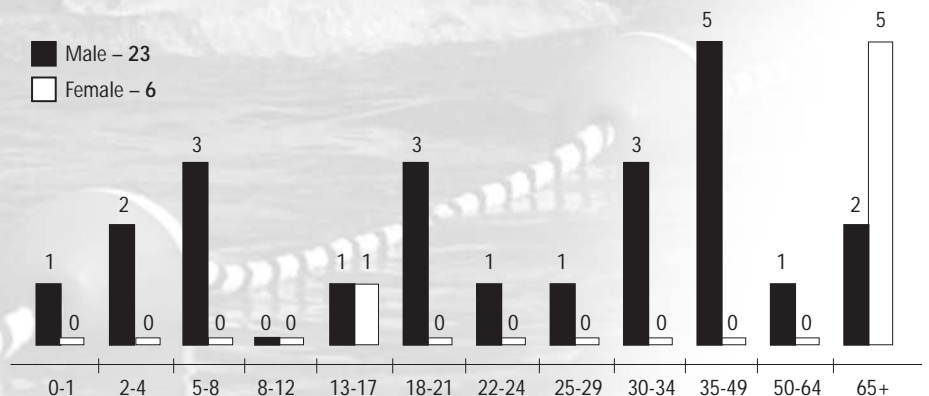
- A total of 29 water-related fatalities occurred in 2000:**
- 23 male, 6 female
  - 11 of the fatalities involved alcohol
  - 17 occurred during the summer months (June – September)

### Use of Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

- Not present – 3
- Not worn or uncertain if present – 1
- Unknown – 1
- Not a situation where one is expected to wear one – 24

### Total Water-Related Fatalities by Age & Gender

- Adult Supervision**
- None – 1
  - Momentary Absence – 3
  - Other – 3
  - Irrelevant – 22



# Quick Stats on Water-Related Fatalities in 2000

## Depth of Water in Water-Related Fatalities

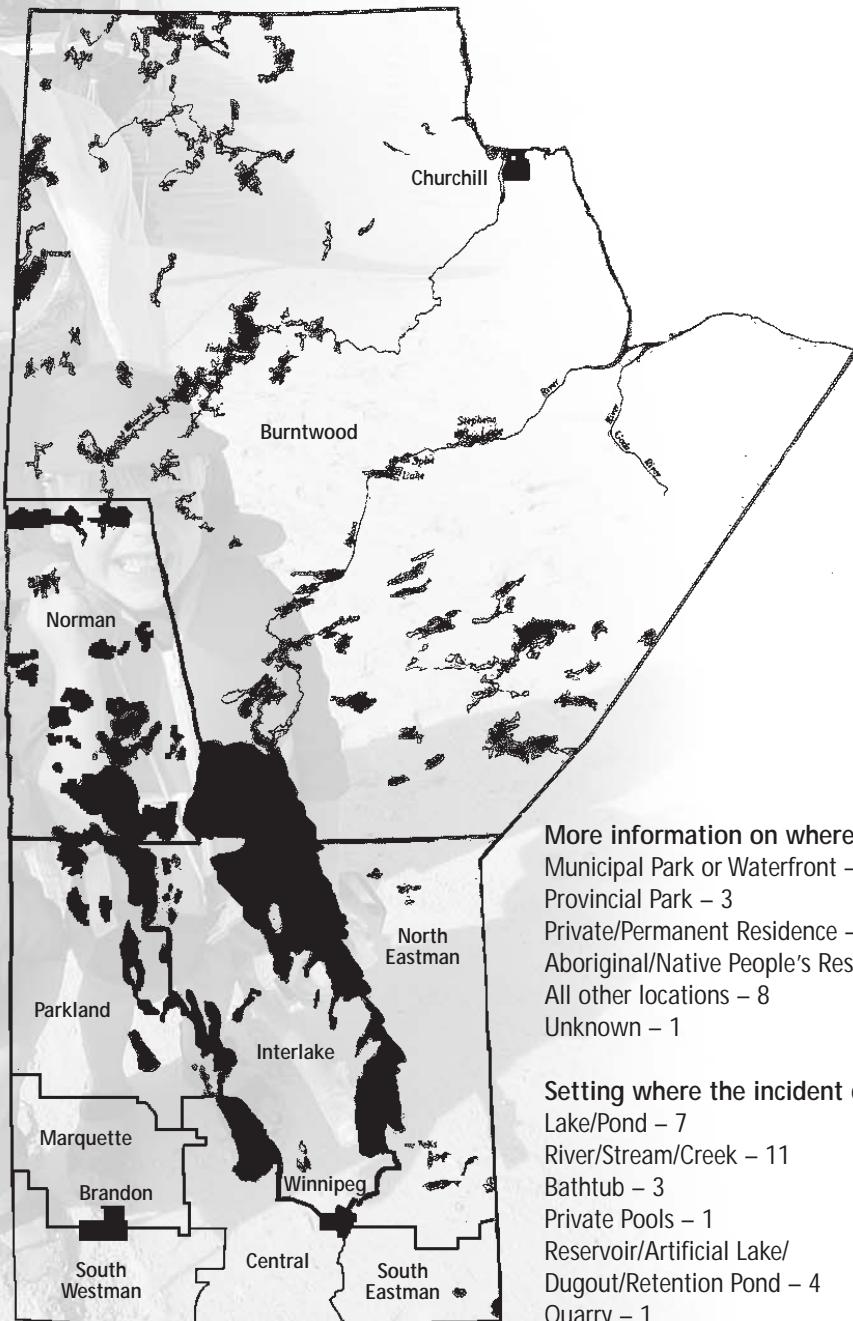
- 0-1 m. – 5
- 1.1-2.5 m. – 6
- More than 2.5 m. – 5
- Unknown – 13

A note of caution, water is not required to be above the victim's head for the drowning process to occur.

## Type of Swimmer

- Swimmer – 7
- Non-swimmer – 4
- Unknown – 14
- Irrelevant – 4

24% of victims were swimmers. Swimming is an important skill but improve your life skills further and register for a first aid and lifesaving course.



## More information on where incident occurred

- Municipal Park or Waterfront – 1
- Provincial Park – 3
- Private/Permanent Residence – 8
- Aboriginal/Native People's Reserve – 8
- All other locations – 8
- Unknown – 1

## Setting where the incident occurred

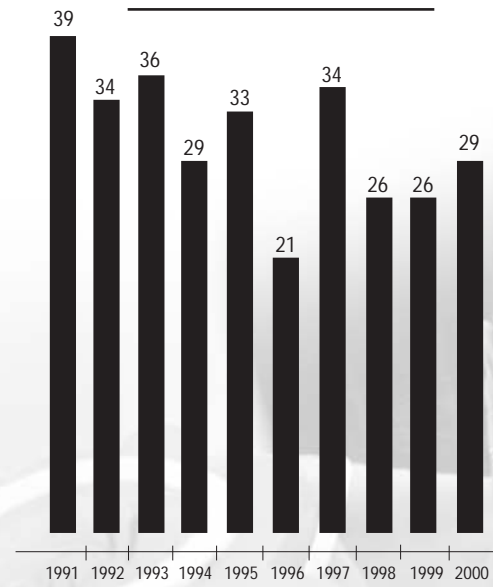
- Lake/Pond – 7
- River/Stream/Creek – 11
- Bathtub – 3
- Private Pools – 1
- Reservoir/Artificial Lake/Dugout/Retention Pond – 4
- Quarry – 1
- Not indicated – 2

## Where incident occurred

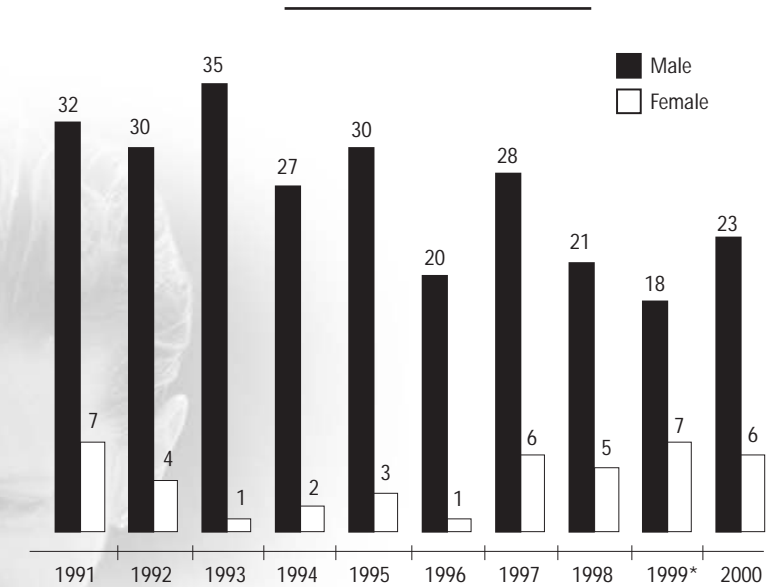
- Norman – 3
- Burntwood – 7
- Central – 1
- Interlake – 3
- North Eastman – 5
- Winnipeg – 4
- South Eastman – 2
- Parkland – 1
- Marquette – 1
- Brandon – 2
- South Westman – 0
- Churchill – 0

# A 10-Year Glance at Water-Related Fatalities

Manitoba water-related fatalities since 1991



Manitoba water-related fatalities by gender



\* 1 unknown/missing

## Profile of Some Typical Drowning Victims

### Unattended Toddlers

Children under 5 who are playing near the water or bathing can fall into water or submerge and drown if left unattended, even for a short time.

### Young Explorers

These are children between 5 and 12 who are playing near lakes, rivers, streams, and private pools, often without adult supervision.

### Risk Takers

These are males aged 18 to 34 who powerboat,

fish, swim, and walk near water. They often drink during these activities, especially on open water.

### Older, Not Wiser

These are males 35 to 64 who powerboat, fish, swim and walk near water. They often drink during these activities, especially on open water.

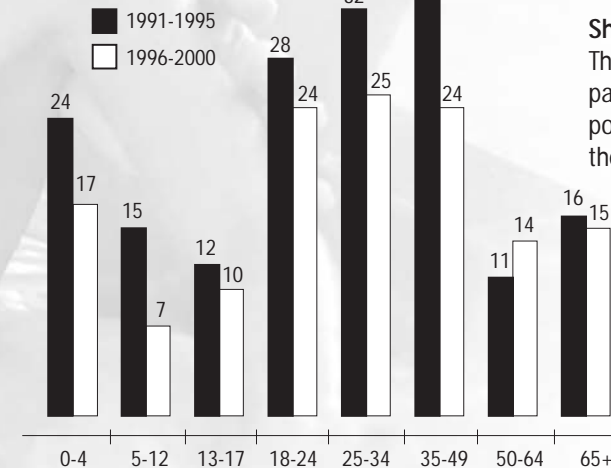
### Unsuspecting Seniors

These include males and females over 65. They are often alone when they drown, and they are at risk while walking near water or taking baths because they cannot rescue themselves.

### Shallow-Water Divers

These are usually male teenagers, often drinking or partying, who dive into shallow water in backyard pools or at unsupervised waterfronts. They break their neck when they hit the bottom.

Number of Water-Related Fatalities/Year: by Age Group – Manitoba 1991-2000



Water safety education is important for people of all ages!