
How to prevent drowning

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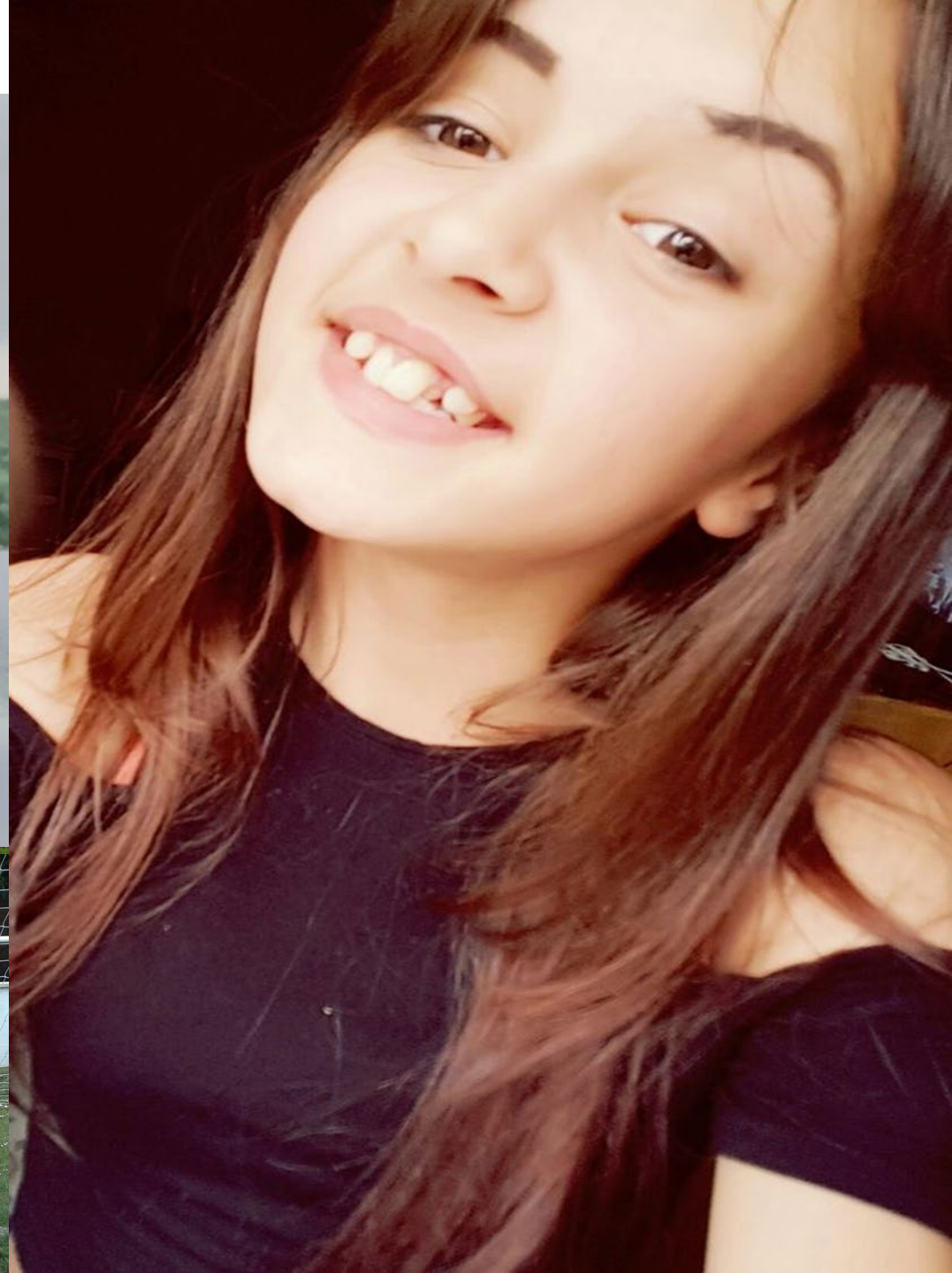
European Region





.....15,000 people drown in EURO (2021)

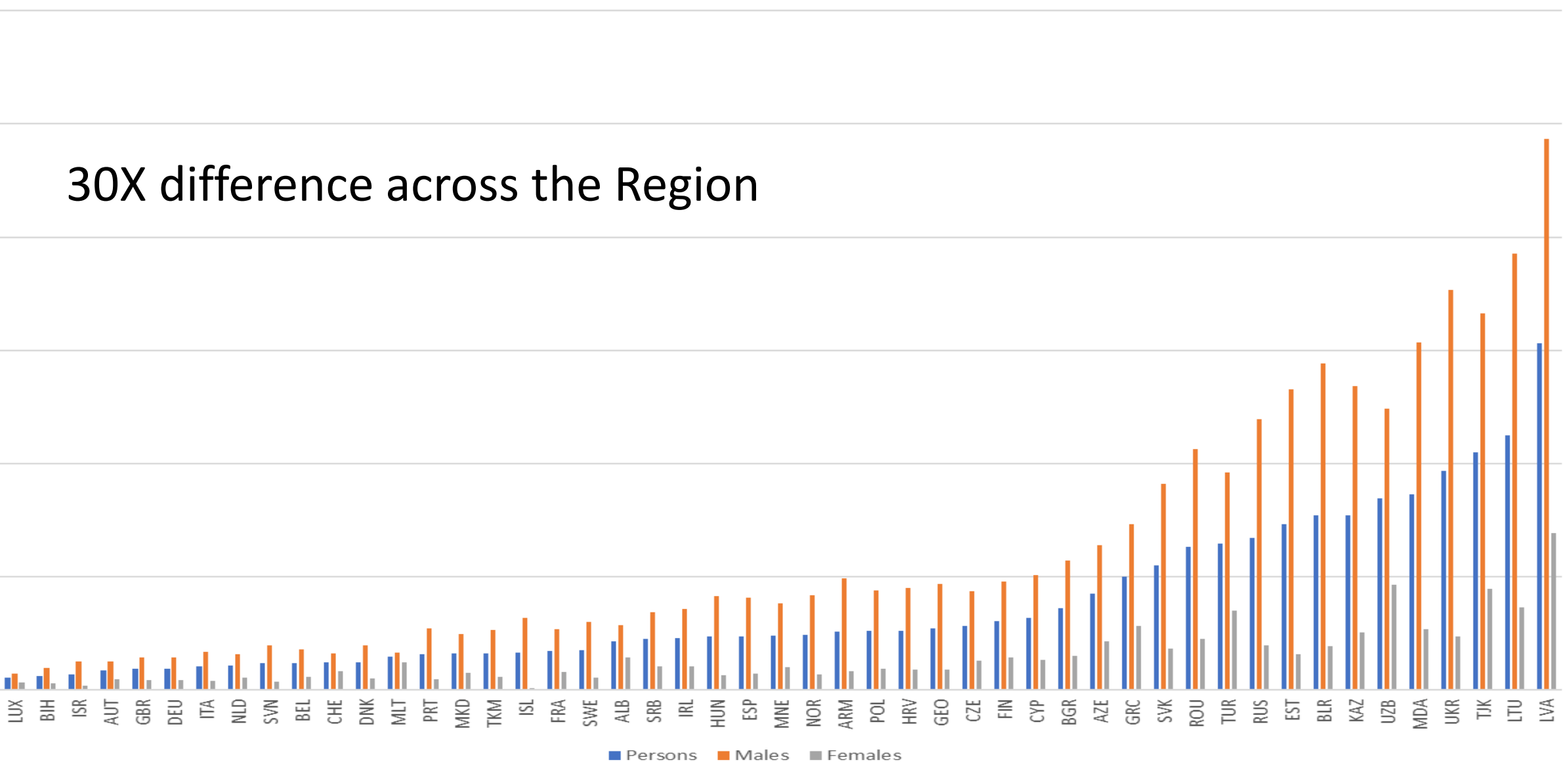
Every 35 minutes



Where are people fatally drowning in EURO?

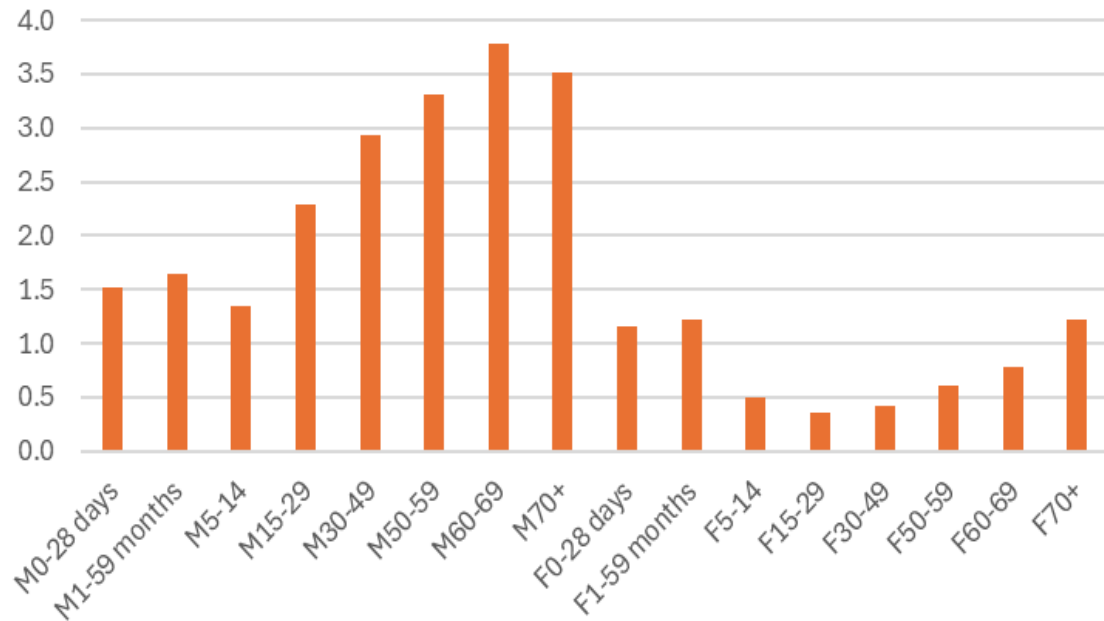
Age standardised drowning mortality rate, 2021

30X difference across the Region



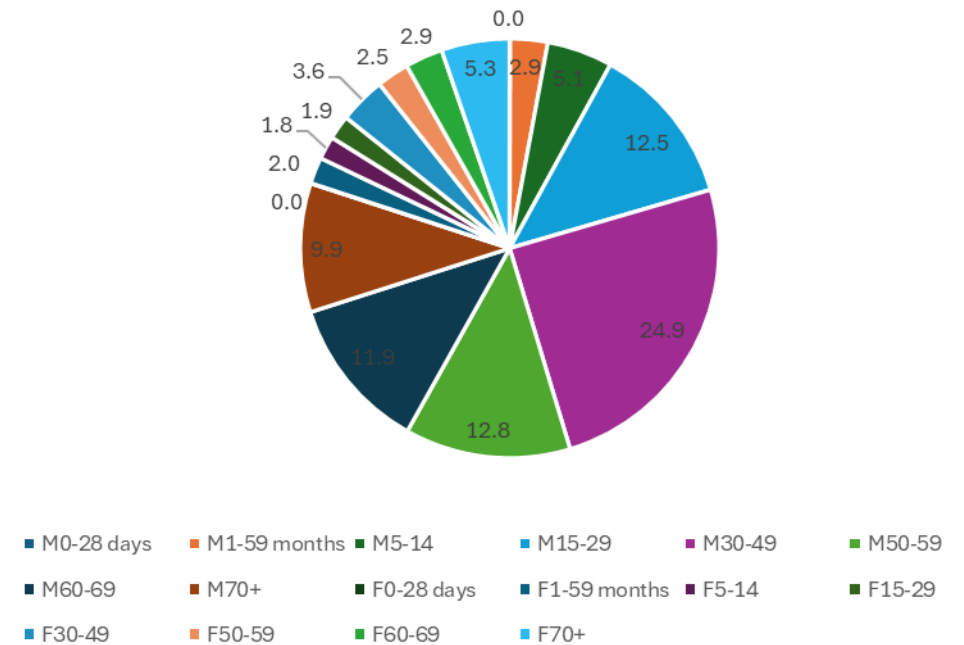
Who is fatally drowning in EURO?

Drowning mortality rates by age and sex, 2021

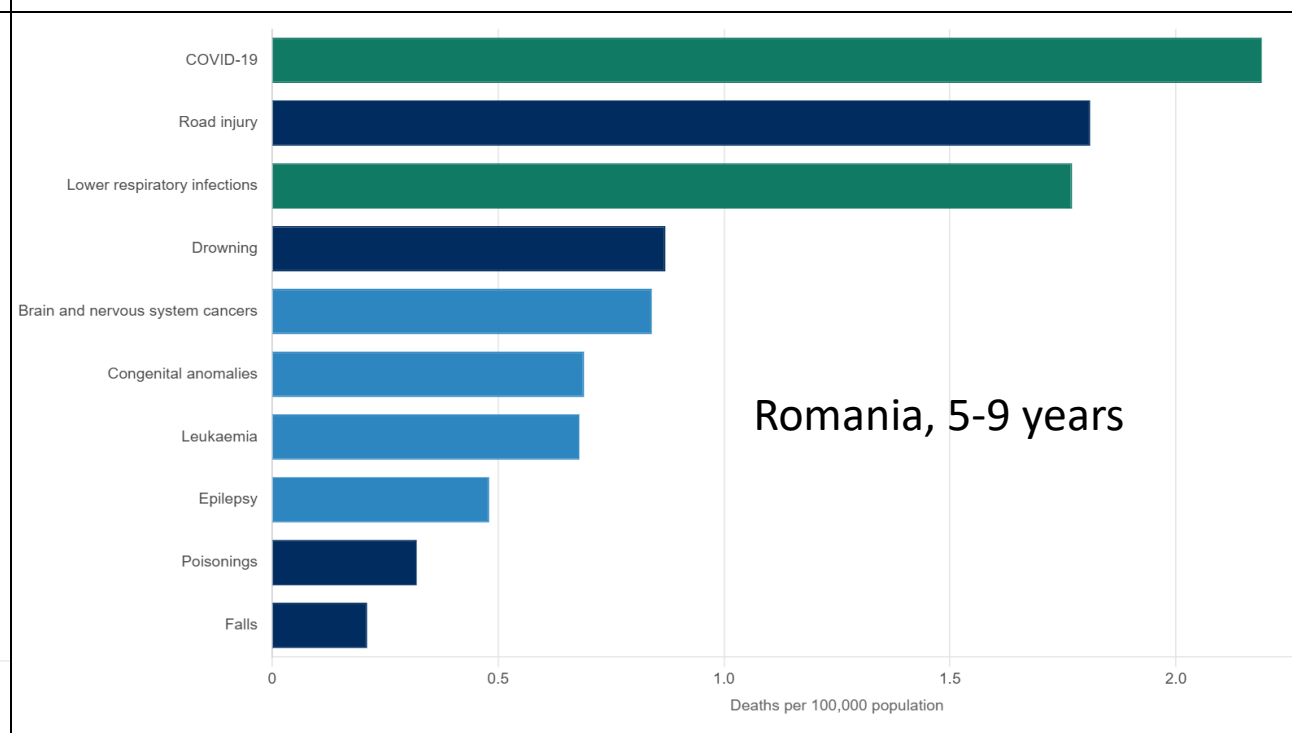
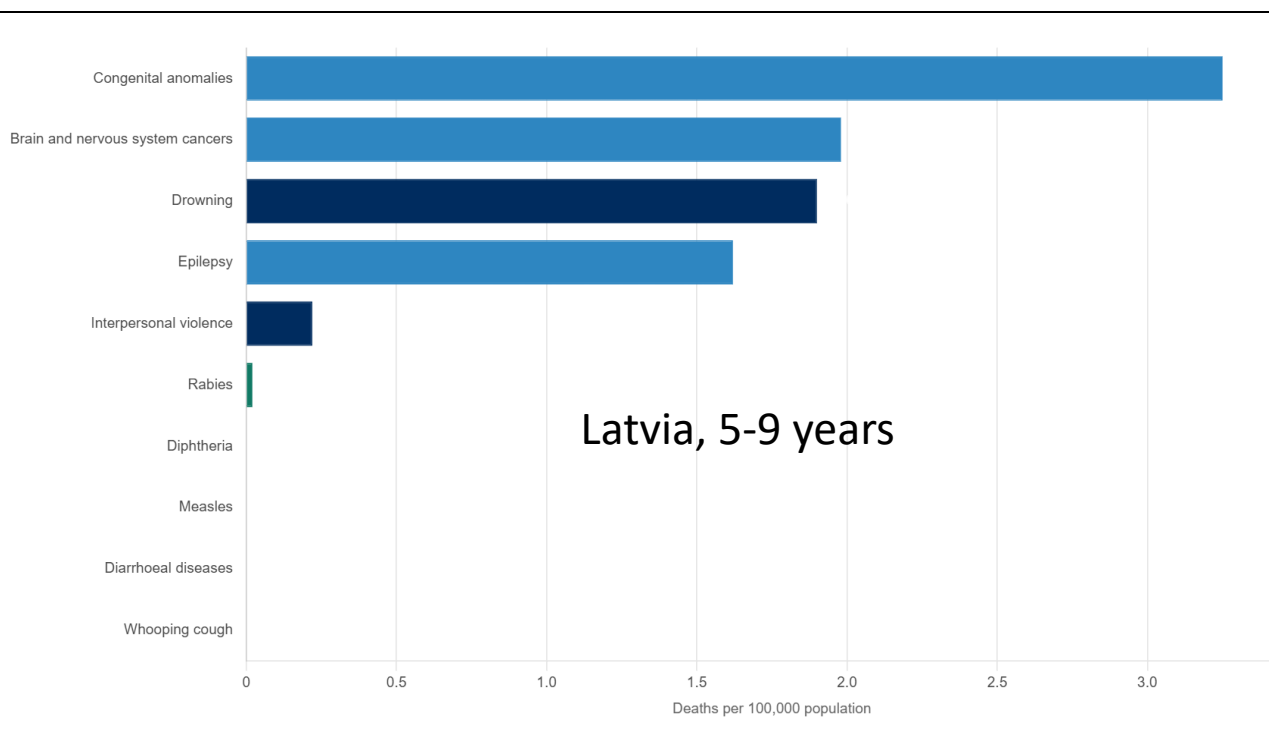
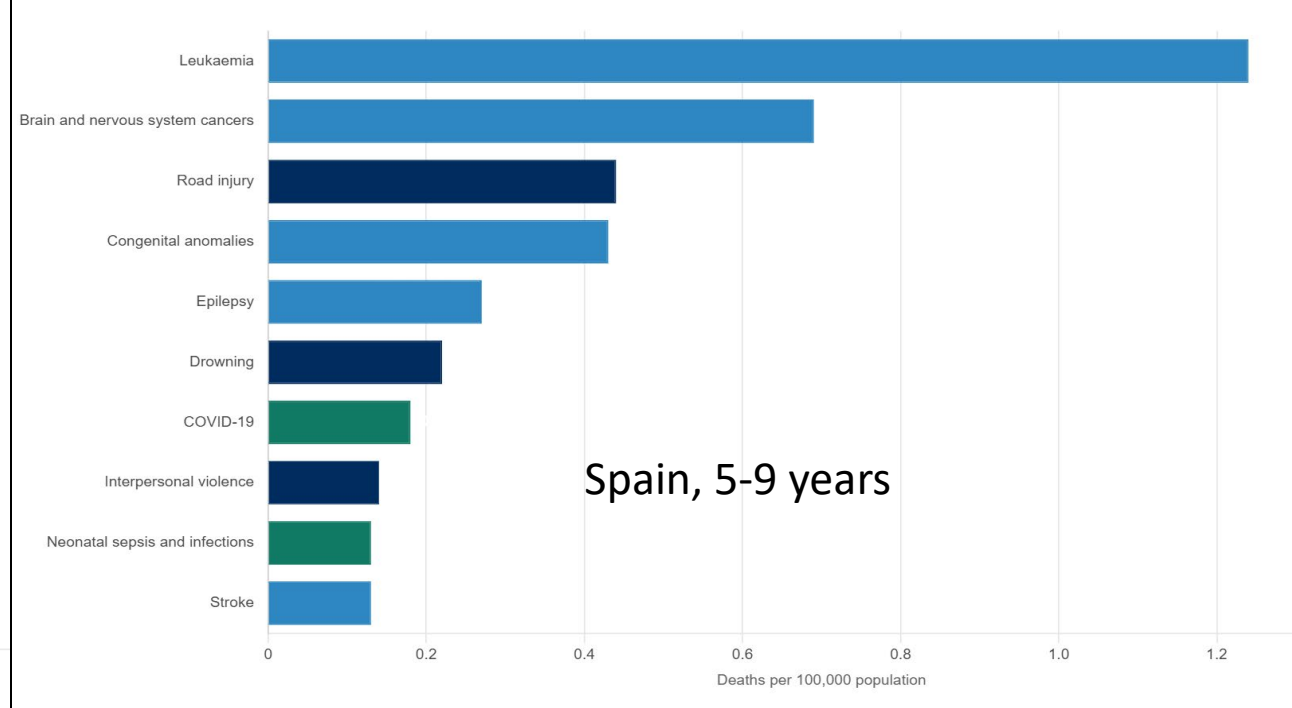
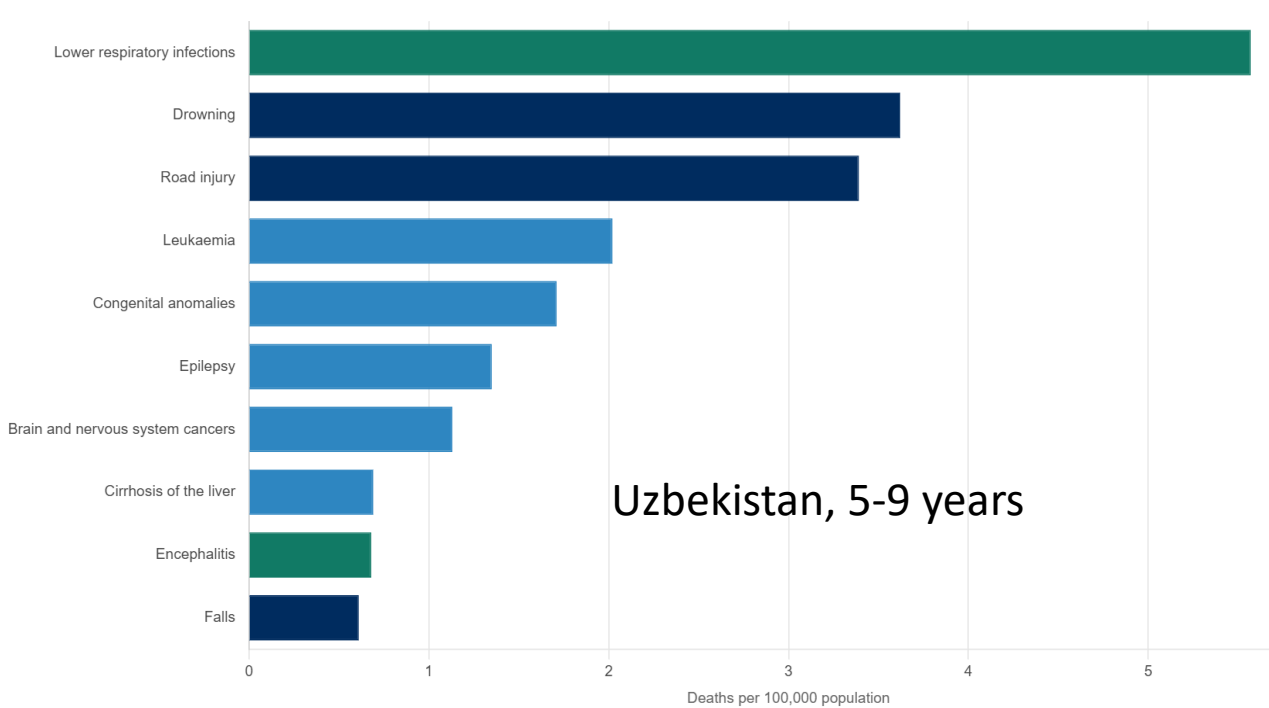


Highest rates males 60-69 yr
 Risk of drowning 4x higher in males cf females
 Risk of drowning 3X higher in 60-69 males cf 5-14 males

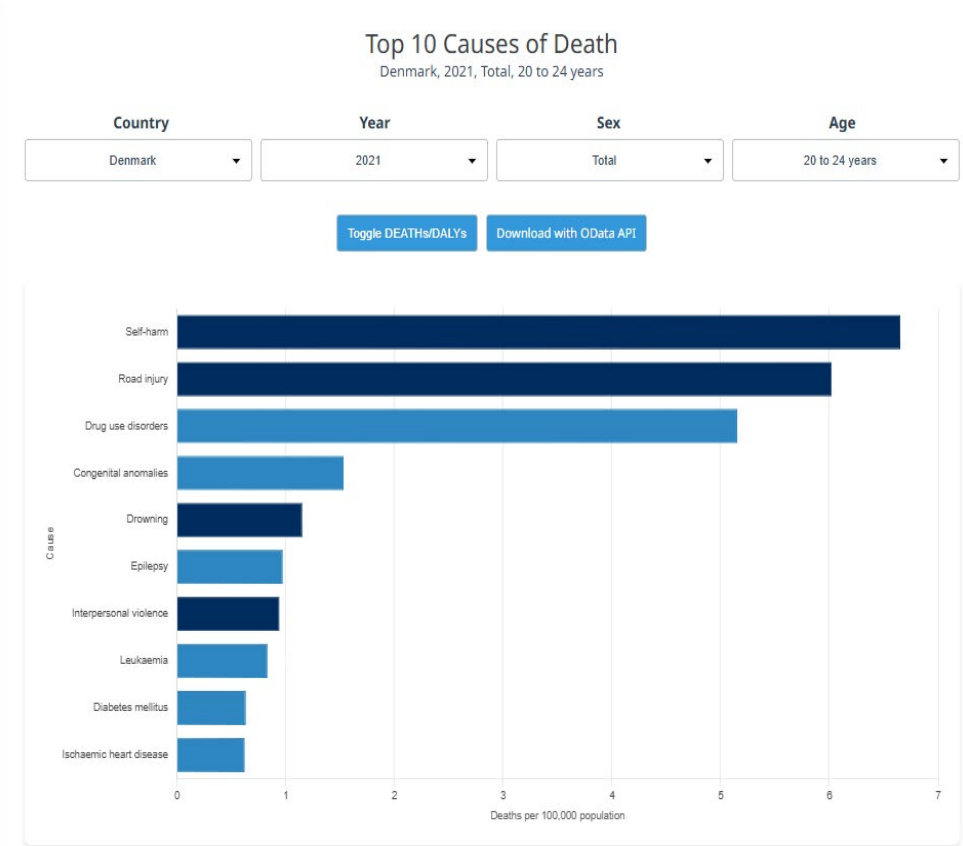
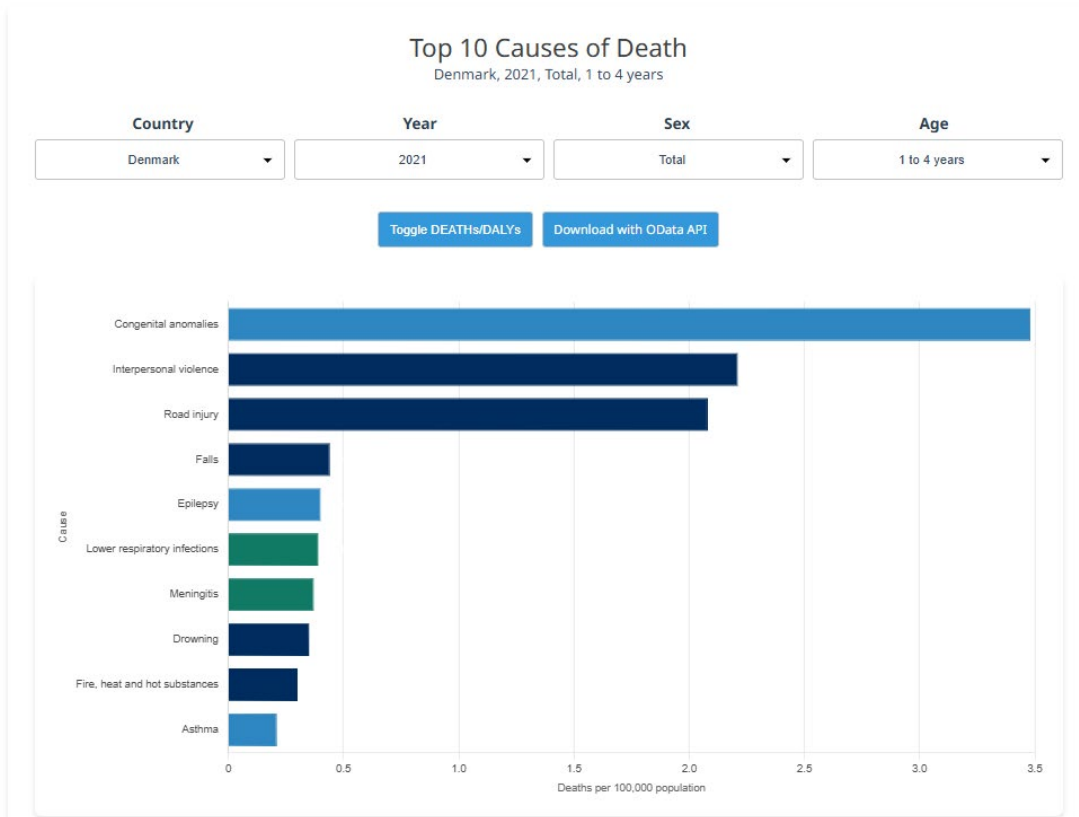
Proportion (%) of drowning by age and sex, 2021



Highest proportion (25%) Males 30-49 yrs

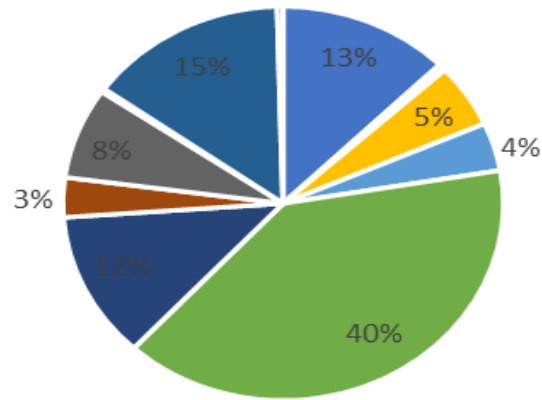


Drowning in Denmark



How are people fatally drowning in EURO?

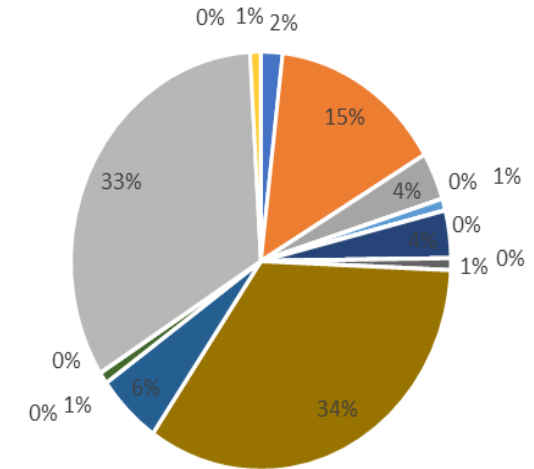
Drowning deaths by ICD10, Spain, 2021



■ V90 ■ W65 ■ W66 ■ W67 ■ W68 ■ W69 ■ W70 ■ W73 ■ W74 ■ X37 ■ X71 ■ Y21

12% water transport (V90)
 72% unintentional (W65-74)
 15% intentional (X71)
 <1% environmental (X36)
 1% undetermined (Y21)

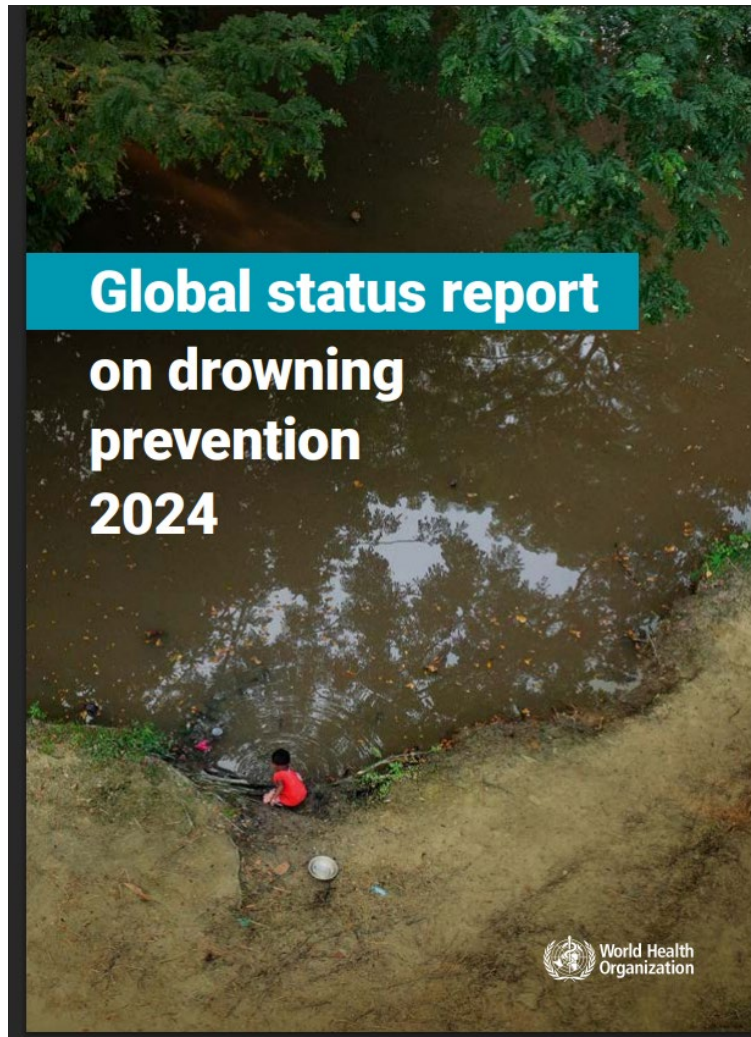
Drowning deaths by ICD10, Norway 2015



■ V90 ■ V92 ■ W65 ■ W66 ■ W67 ■ W68 ■ W69 ■ W70 ■ W73 ■ W74 ■ X36 ■ X37 ■ X38 ■ X39 ■ X71 ■ X92 ■ Y21

16.5% water transport (V90, V92)
 43% unintentional (W65-74)
 33.9% intentional (X71, X92)
 6.4% environmental (X36, X37)

1st Global Status Report on Drowning Prevention



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DENMARK

POPULATION* 5 948 136 | INCOME GROUP* High income | GROSS NATIONAL INCOME PER CAPITA 73 360

* UN World Population Prospects (2023)
* World Bank Income Groups

REPORTED FATALITIES (YEAR): 86 (2022)

WHO ESTIMATED DROWNING FATALITIES (YEAR): 36 (2021)

WHO ESTIMATED DEATH RATE PER 100 000 POPULATION (YEAR): 0.6 (2021)

* Data from Danish Water Safety Council.
* Data from WHO Global Health Estimates. Numbers of deaths have been rounded according to the following scheme: < 100 rounded to nearest 1, 100-999 rounded to nearest 10, 1000-9999 rounded to nearest 100, and > 10 000 rounded to nearest 1000.

DATA

DROWNING DEATHS CAPTURED IN VITAL REGISTRY SYSTEM ✓

MOST DETAILED NATIONAL DATA SOURCE CAPTURES:

Age of victim	✓	Sex of victim	✓
Type of water body	✓	Activity at time of drowning	✓

INTERVENTIONS

Daycare services provided for pre-school children	■
Swimming and water safety included in school curriculum	■
Barriers installed to limit access to water	■
Lifeguards present at public swimming venues	■
Rescue and resuscitation training programmes available	■
Operational search and rescue service present	■
Free weather alerts available	■
Operational disaster warning systems	■
Community resilience for managing flood risk exists	■
Community disaster resilience programs exist which specify drowning	■

GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR DROWNING PREVENTION ✓

NATIONAL DROWNING PREVENTION STRATEGY ✓

NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR DROWNING PREVENTION ✓

GOVERNMENT SECTORS CONTRIBUTING TO DROWNING PREVENTION: Health | Police | Maritime Safety | Military / Coastguard

NON-GOVERNMENT SECTORS CONTRIBUTING TO DROWNING PREVENTION: Water safety organizations

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Policy for disaster risk management which specifies drowning	■
Legislation for fencing around private swimming pools	■
Legislation for fencing around public swimming pools	■
Legislation to ensure safety of domestic passenger water transport	■
Legislation mandating lifejacket use when boating	■
Regulations preventing alcohol consumption and/or sales near public waterbodies	■

AWARENESS RAISING

Drowning prevention mass media campaigns	■
Campaigns on child safety	■
Campaigns highlighting the dangers of consuming alcohol before or during aquatic activities	■

Legend:
 ■ National coverage
 ■ Sub-national with extensive coverage
 ■ Sub-national levels with limited coverage
 ■ Not implemented
 ■ Don't know / did not provide

RATE OF DROWNING DEATHS OVER TIME

Legend: Rates (male) - Rates (female) - Rates* (total)

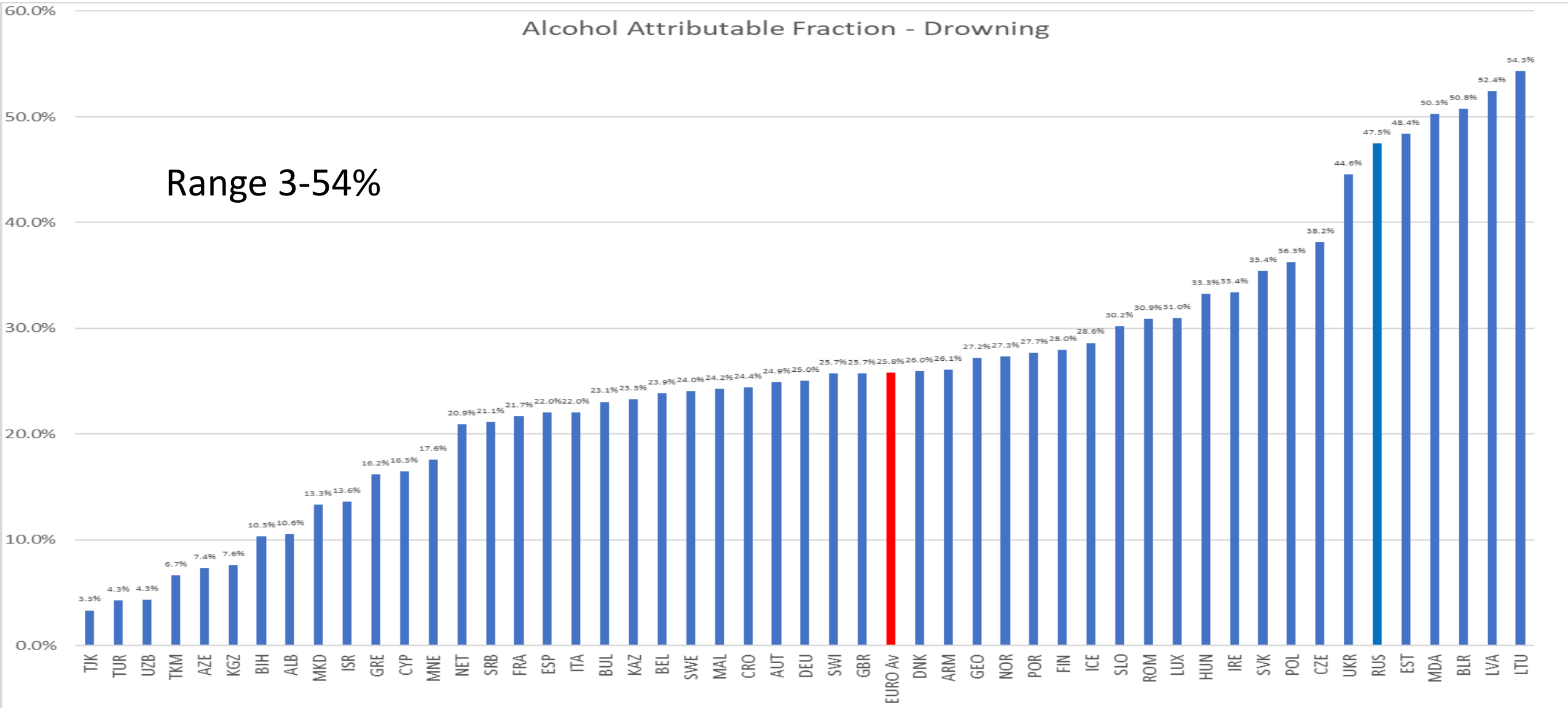
SHARE OF DROWNING DEATHS BY AGE GROUP AND SEX

Legend: 5-14 years (3%), 15-29 years (13%), 30-49 years (9%), 50-69 years (40%), 70+ years (35%)

* Rate = age standardized death rate
Source: Global Health Estimates Data, 2000-2021

Source: Danish Water Safety Council (2022)

Alcohol “causes” 25% of all drowning



Climate related drowning



European Floods



SECTION 2

TEN ACTIONS TO PREVENT DROWNING

The 10 actions outlined in this section are based on available evidence and are deemed to be effective, feasible and scalable. Complementary measures such as drawing on best-practice models, using social media and communication to raise public awareness, and adapting interventions to suit local contexts (for example, making barriers from locally sourced materials) are important in ensuring these strategies are effectively implemented.

In addition, in resource-poor settings where educational levels are low, it is important to understand how people perceive drowning before introducing interventions, including what local people see as the cause of drowning and appropriate ways to treat and prevent it. Findings should guide how actions are implemented.

Our 10 actions fall into three categories:

COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION



1

Install barriers controlling access to water



2

Provide safe places (for example, a crèche) away from water for pre-school children, with capable child care



3

Teach school-age children basic swimming, water safety and safe rescue skills



4

Train bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation



5

Strengthen public awareness and highlight the vulnerability of children

EFFECTIVE POLICIES AND LEGISLATION



6

Set and enforce safe boating, shipping and ferry regulations



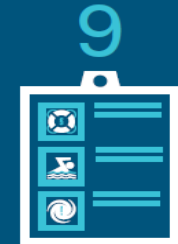
7

Build resilience and manage flood risks and other hazards locally and nationally



8

Coordinate drowning prevention efforts with those of other sectors and agendas



9

Develop a national water safety plan

FURTHER RESEARCH



10

Address priority research questions with well-designed studies

**World
Drowning**

**Prevention
Day** 25 July

**Anyone
can drown.
No one
should.**

Thank you

For more information, please contact:

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European Region