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*UK water related fatalities 2009  
WAID database report*

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*January 2011  
1st Issue*



national  
water safety  
forum

This report is the first release of WAID fatality information for 2009 and it has been compiled by members of the National Water Safety Forum. Grateful acknowledgment is extended to those organisations that have contributed data. Some of these are listed, thanks is also extended to the contributing Police, Fire and Rescue Services.

The report was produced from WAID data as of January 21, 2011.

## Contributors



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## WAID (WAter Incident Database): Overview

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### Purpose

To provide a comprehensive and reliable evidence-base for risks to the public from water-related activities which will inform decisions on risk acceptability, prevention and the appropriateness of risk controls and regulation.

### Application

Activities span sports (under and on water), leisure boating (all forms) and all waterside activities. Locations include domestic, private and public waters throughout the UK and the UK search and rescue area.

### Development

Commenced in 2008 and carried out by members of the National Water Safety Forum (NWSF), supported by the Department for Transport. Future work will increase the number of data contributors and improve the quality of data. Annual reports, commencing this year, will present results expressed in terms of activity risk, enabling informed decisions to be taken on the adequacy of risk-control measures and the appropriateness of regulation.

### How it works

WAID is web-based and collects incident data from a wide range of sources including the emergency services, sports governing bodies, coastguard, rescue services, coroners' courts, press releases etc.

Collected data is merged into a single "Incident Record" for each incident to produce a comprehensive account - from basic date/location/casualty information, root causes and emergency responses, to investigation outcomes. Incident Records are continuously updated as further information becomes available, for example from investigation reports or new data sources.

The Incident Record data can be extensively interrogated and a wide variety of reports produced, of which this report shows a small sample. Further reports will include data on non-fatal outcomes together with available data on the extent of activity participation. This will enable WAID to produce activity risk information which can be used as a measure of risk acceptability.

**Data:** Data used in the preparation of this first release has been obtained from a number of sources. The NWSF is progressively extending the number of contributors, improving the quality of data already provided and incorporating new information as it becomes available from sources such as coroners' reports.

For further information on WAID, see the NWSF's report *Launching the WAID Service*.  
[www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/member/projects/info/wg1210\\_waid5.pdf](http://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/member/projects/info/wg1210_waid5.pdf)

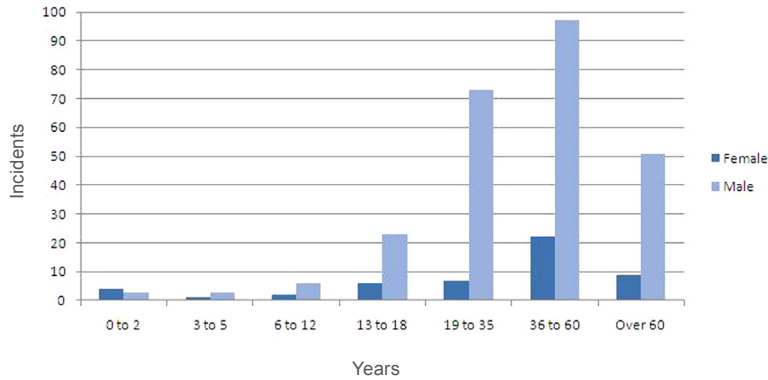
## All activities and locations

	At Sea	Coast/shore/ Beach	Harbour/Dock/Marina/Port	Drain/Well/Pit	River	Canal/Aqueduct	Lake/Loch/ Lough	Dry Ground	Pond	Pool (swimming)	Quarry	Reservoir	Bath (includes jacuzzis, hot-tubs)	Stream/Ditch/Burn	Water Container	Total	<i>Suicide Suspected</i>
Angling	7	6	2		5		5					2				27	
Bath													19			19	
Climbing/cliff		4						1	1		1					7	2
Commercial	11	2	2		1											16	
Flooding								5								5	
Jumping/diving in		3	2		5	1	2									13	65
Manually powered boats	2	2	1		7		3									15	2
Motor vehicle		4	1	2	4	1		1	3					1		17	2
Motorboating	2	1	2			4	3									12	
Person on ice												1				1	
Person/object in water, person of uncertain status	4	11	4	1	39	14	11	2	3			1		4		94	82
Person water craft					2											2	
Sailing	4	1	2		1		1									9	
Sub aqua diver	14	2					3				1					20	
Surfing	1	3														4	
Swimming	8	8	1		15		3	2	5	3	3					48	1
Walking/running	2	21	4	2	24	8	1	2	5		2	4		2	1	78	1
Waterside activity / in water play	1	3	3		3			2								12	
Windsurfing/ Kitesurfing	1	4			1											6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>405</b>	
<i>Suicide suspected</i>	5	59	7		63	5	5	5	2	1		2		1			155

### Notes to table 1

- A** Count includes deaths by accidental and natural causes totalling 405 cases.
- B** In addition there are 155 cases where suicide is suspected or confirmed. These are shown in italics in the last column, and have been excluded from subsequent analysis.
- C** Excludes 132 incidents where information is currently too unclear to form an opinion on the intent of the deceased, their activity when the incident occurred, or whether there was criminal intent involved.
- D** The 11 cases categorised under dry ground referred to locations which are not normally watercourses such as flooded areas.

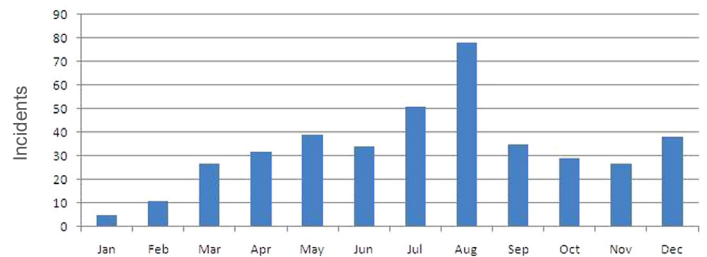
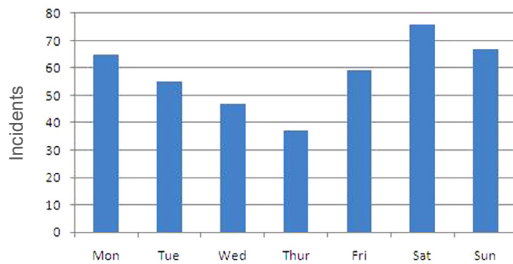
## Age & Gender – accidental deaths



### Notes

- A** Excludes 99 records where there was insufficient age or gender information. This totals to 405 records.
- B** Analysis of previous reports suggest that a male to female ratio of 3:1 is the normal distribution. Therefore we expect the female incidents count to rise as we receive further information.

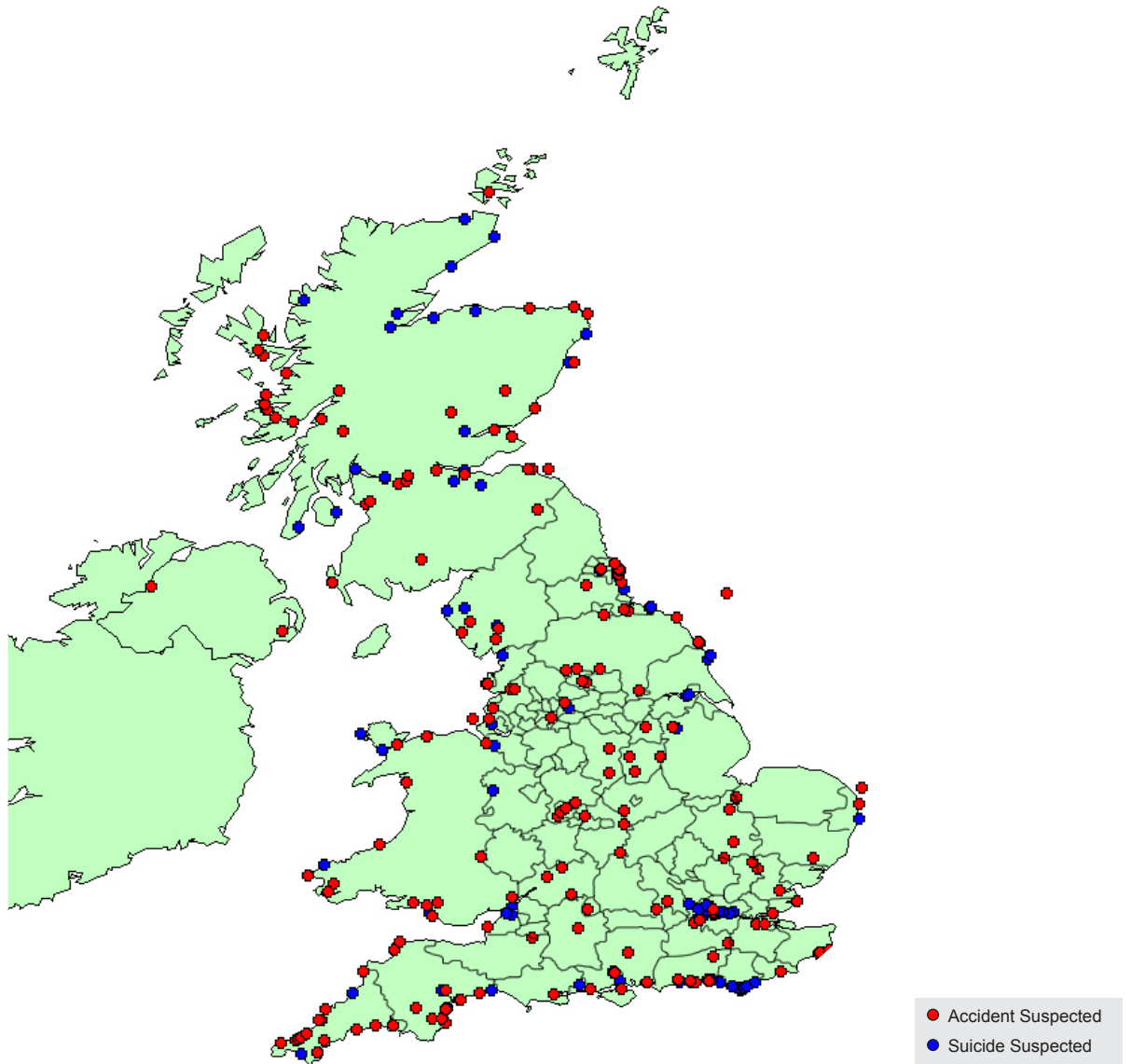
## When – accidental death



2009

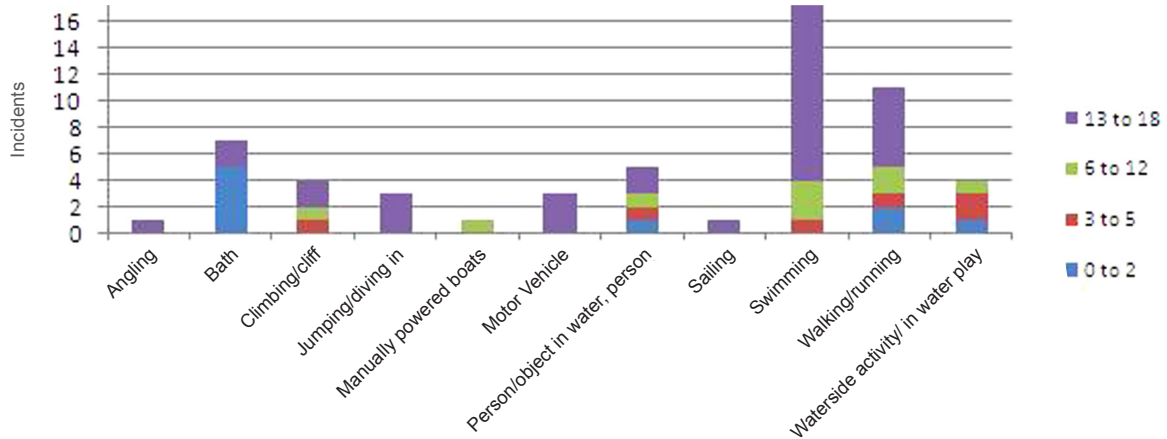
Total 405 casualties

## Where the incidents occurred - UK

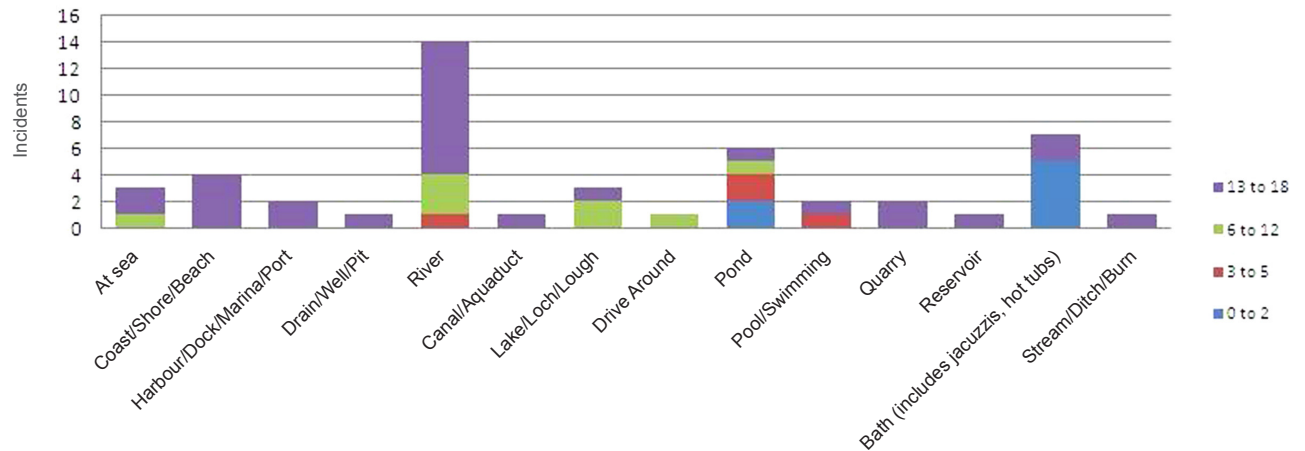


## Incidents involving under 19's

### Activity



### Location type

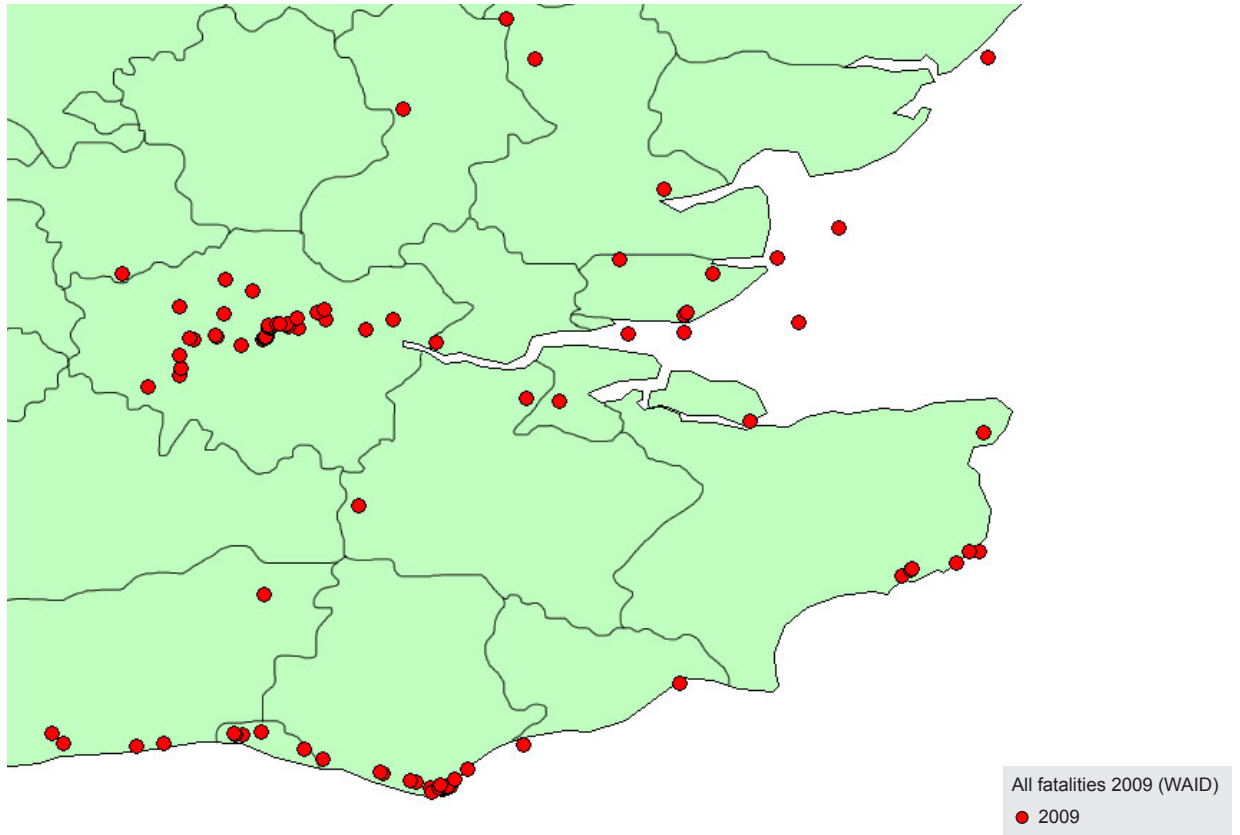


### Notes

Total 59 casualties



*In focus: South East England*





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## *National Water Safety Forum: Background*

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Formed in 2005, the NWSF is an association of organisations tasked with providing a “one-stop-shop” for authoritative water safety information and advice. Members have a wide variety of interests and responsibilities for water safety.

The forum’s work is carried out by six expert groups, overseen by a co-ordinating group.

Central to the forum’s work and decision making are its Principles for Water Safety, which include: fully recognising the responsibility of individuals; encouraging the participation of all stakeholders in decision making; and, minimising the need for statutory regulation.

The forum’s brief to provide information and advice is delivered through its Communications Strategy. Further information on the strategy, the Principles for Water Safety and details of the forum’s other work can be found on the website:

**[www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk](http://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk)**