

Drowning Epidemiology in Bahrain (2003-2015)

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Objective: To evaluate the epidemiology of drowning mortality in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Design: A Retrospective Descriptive Study.

Setting: Ministry of Health, Bahrain.

Method: All deaths due to drowning from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2015 in Bahrain were included.

Result: Two hundred eight deaths were recorded with an annual average of 16 deaths. One hundred thirty-seven (66%) deaths were in non-Bahrainis, and 158 (76%) deaths were in males. The age-standardized incidence death rate per 100,000 population for the year 2014 was 0.4 deaths per 100,000 population.

Conclusion: Developing a national water safety strategy is necessary to decrease age-standardized unintentional drowning mortality rate in Bahrain.

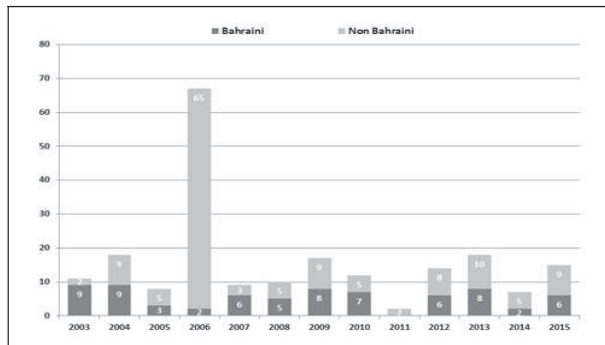


Figure 2: Drowning Deaths in Bahrain by Nationality from 2003 to 2015

One hundred fifty-eight (76%) of the deaths were males, see figure 3. One hundred twenty-seven (61%) were above 25 years old, see figure 4. One hundred thirty-five (64.9%) occurred in the sea, 30 (14.4%) were in pools, and 28 (13.5%) were unknown (not written or specified in the medical notification of death), see figure 5.



The age standardized incidence death rate per 100,000 population in 2014 was 0.4 deaths per 100,000 population.

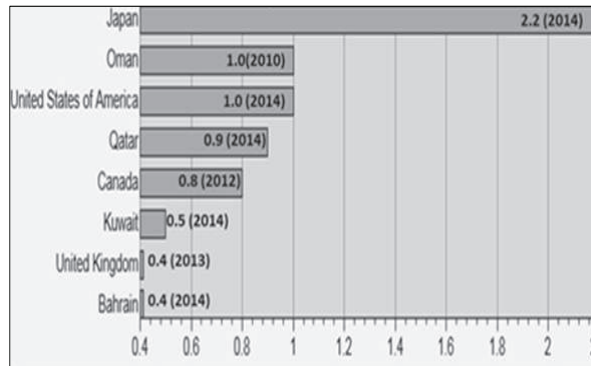


Figure 6: ASDR per 100,000 – Accidental Drowning and Submersion in Both Sexes

DISCUSSION

The age-standardized incidence death rate (ASDR) for the year 2014 was 0.4% deaths per 100,000 population, which is low compared to Japan (2.2%), USA (1.0%) and Canada (0.8%) but similar to that of the UK. The ASDR in Bahrain is less than

Worldwide, increased access to water is another risk factor for drowning. Individuals with occupations such as fishing are more prone to drowning. Children who live near open water sources are at higher risk of drowning².

CONCLUSION

Drowning is a public health hazard with impacts on children and youth. Drowning prevention strategies implemented in the household, community and on a national level could significantly reduce the risk of drowning.

Developing a national water safety strategy is necessary to decrease age-standardized unintentional drowning mortality rate in Bahrain.

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Potential Conflicts of Interest: None.

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