NEW ZEALAND

Population: 4 917 000 | **Income group:** High | **Gross national income per capita:** US$ 42 450 (2019)

MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF DROWNING PREVENTION

DOES NEW ZEALAND HAVE A NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR DROWNING PREVENTION?	NO

SELECTED SECTORS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED IN DROWNING PREVENTION:

Ministry of Health | Ministry of Education | Police | Disaster risk reduction | Ministry of Transport | Maritime safety | Coastguard/Military | Water Safety New Zealand | Accident Compensation Corporation | Surf Life Saving NZ | Sport NZ

INTERVENTIONS FOR DROWNING PREVENTION

	AVAILABLE	COVERAGE	EVALUATED
Physical barriers	●	HIGH	YES
Swim skills training	●	HIGH	YES
Childcare	●	HIGH	YES
Public awareness on drowning	●	HIGH	YES
Manage flood risks	●	HIGH	YES
Disaster warning systems	●	HIGH	YES
Public awareness on alcohol and swimming/boating	●	HIGH	YES
Rescue and resuscitation	●	MED	-
Lifeguards	●	HIGH	YES
Search and rescue	●	HIGH	NO
Maritime safety	●	HIGH	NO
Media	●	HIGH	YES

SOURCES OF DROWNING DATA

	TYPE OF DROWNING CAPTURED			
SOURCE OF DATA	FATAL	INFORMATION COLLECTED*	NON-FATAL	INFORMATION COLLECTED*
Vital registry	●	■■■■■	N/A	-
Verbal autopsy	-	-	N/A	-
Hospital admission data	●	■■■■■	●	■■■■■
Hospital emergency department data	-	-	-	-
Police	●	■■■■■	-	-
Transport sector	-	-	-	-
Education sector	-	-	-	-
Maritime safety	●	■■■■■	-	-
Coastguard	●	■■	●	■■
Tourism sector	-	-	-	-
National community survey	-	-	-	-
Media	-	-	-	-

■ Age ■ Sex ■ Type of drowning event ■ Activity ■ Water body

Drowning deaths in community settings are captured	YES
Persons missing at sea are assumed to have died	YES
Persons missing at sea are assumed to have drowned	NO
PROPORTION OF DROWNING DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH ALCOHOL	**15%**

STRATEGY AND TARGETS FOR DROWNING PREVENTION

DOES NEW ZEALAND HAVE A NATIONAL WATER SAFETY STRATEGY?	YES
Are measurable targets to reduce drowning included?	YES

If yes, please specify:
Reduce per-capita preventable drowning deaths using a five-year rolling average of 25% by 2025. Per-capita fatalities are targeted to move from 1.59 to 1.19 by 2025.
Reduce per-capita preventable drowning-related hospitalizations using a five-year rolling average of 12% by 2025. Per-capita hospitalizations are targeted to move from 3.7 to 3.25 by 2025.

Do these strategies align with relevant SDGs?	NO
Are plans underway, or is there interest, to develop a national water strategy?	-

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION FOR DROWNING PREVENTION

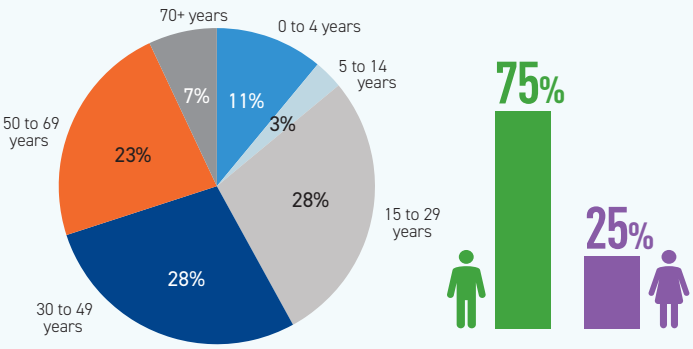
	ENFORCEMENT	
MARITIME SAFETY	LIMITED	MAXIMUM
Mandated registration of watercraft	YES	-
Mandated licensing of watercraft	YES	-
Mandated periodic safety inspections of watercraft	YES	-
Mandated licensing of the operator	YES	-
Individuals responsible for overall safety of watercraft	Owner/Operator/Crew/ Recognized surveyors	
Law against alcohol consumption and boating	YES	-
If yes, specify blood alcohol concentration limit: 50 mg per 100 mililitres		-
Law against drug use and boating	NO	-
Restrictions on watercraft passenger capacity	YES	-
Restrictions on watercraft load capacity	YES	-
Mandated provision of lifejackets on board watercraft	YES	-
Specific standard of lifejacket required	National standards exist	
Specific number of lifejackets required	YES	-

Watercraft often exempt from national maritime legislation:
Complex exemptions exist dependant on vessel function, area of operation and specific circumstances of vessel use.

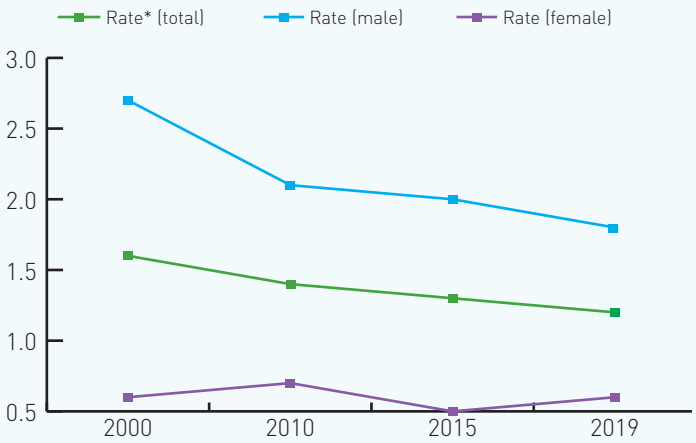
CHILD SAFETY		
Fencing to exclude children from swimming pools	YES	-
Swimming lessons in school curricula	YES	-
Structured adult supervision of preschool children	YES	-
Prosecution of neglect against children	YES	-
WATER SAFETY COMPETENCIES		
Required competencies for swimming instructors	NO	-
Required competencies for lifeguards	NO	-
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION		
Private communication channels broadcast disaster warnings	YES	-
DROWNING DATA		
One agency maintains all vital registry statistics	YES	-

– No response or not applicable

SHARE OF DROWNING DEATHS BY AGE GROUP[a]



RATE OF DROWNING DEATHS[b]



* rate = age-standardized death rate

[a] Global Health Estimates (GHE) data, 2019

[b] GHE data, 2000–2019

National Drowning Reports developed by Water Safety New Zealand available: https://watersafety.org.nz/drowning%20statistics

Data based on national consensus and cleared by Water Safety New Zealand