



LIFESAVING SOCIETY
The Lifeguarding Experts

International Drowning Data

- The World Health Organization estimates that 382 312 people died from drowning in the year 2002.
- WHO notes that drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional injury death globally after road traffic injuries and falls (*World Health Report 2004*).
- Ninety-seven percent of unintentional drowning deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries.
- WHO acknowledges that the drowning problem is even greater because its data include only “accidental drowning and submersion.” Cataclysms (floods), transport accidents, assaults, and suicide were specifically excluded. Cataclysms and transport accidents cause significant numbers of drowning deaths and are certainly unintentional.

Table 2
Global drowning deaths by sex and WHO region (GBD 2002, Version 5)

	World Total	AFR	AMR	EMR	EUR	SEAR	WPR
Males	262 171	50 006	18 487	18 235	31 016	60 406	83 617
Females	120 141	15 190	4 211	7 470	6 971	37 700	48 329
Total	382 312	65 196	22 698	25 705	37 987	98 106	131 946
Sex Ratio (M : F)	2.2 : 1	3.3 : 1	4.3 : 1	2.4 : 1	4.4 : 1	1.6 : 1	1.7 : 1
%	100	17.0	5.9	6.7	9.9	25.6	34.5
Rate per 100 000	6.2	9.7	2.7	5.1	4.3	6.1	7.7

AFR: African Region

AMR: Americas Region

EMR: Eastern Mediterranean Region

EUR: European region

SEAR: South Eastern Asian Region

WPR: Western Pacific Region