

# ANNUAL REPORT OBSERVATORY FOR WATER ACCIDENTS IN GREECE



Issue 5<sup>th</sup> - 2025





SAFE  
**WATER**  
SPORTS







# SAFE WATER SPORTS: OBJECTIVES

Safe Water Sports is a non-profit organisation that was established in 2015 aiming primarily to support safety in water, water-related sports and recreational activities. It is a purely voluntary initiative that is supported exclusively by the private sector and the wider public (it receives no state funding). The Organisation is currently active in Greece and Cyprus, having signed cooperation agreements with institutions in both these countries. In addition to working together with private companies, it cooperates with wider public bodies, professional associations and other organizations.

The main objective of SWS is to increase the safety of activities in and around the water and reduce the risks of drowning.

The Organisation aims to develop its strategy in other countries as well, in cooperation with local public benefit or state organizations and NGOs, as it firmly believes that international cooperation, research and best practice exchange will help in reducing human loss and accidents in the water, the sea and water-related sports and recreational activities.

The Organisation has created the Observatory for Water Accidents in Greece, which collects and processes relevant data. This information helps us to clarify the causes and conditions under which these accidents take place.

Statistics and numbers related to drownings and fatal accidents in the water are a cause of great concern, especially if we take into consideration that they are largely preventable. The Organisation is fighting for a reduction in the number of people who lose their life every year in the water, by supporting and improving the institutional framework and by helping to change the behaviours of citizens and professionals, so that everyone can enjoy the water with safety and trust. This activity is aligned to the directives of the World

Health Organisation (WHO), which has recommended that every country produces a National Plan for safety in the water.

The plan of our Organisation includes actions that aim to:

- support all related state actors to be more organised and effective in their work, increasing water safety
- help professionals and companies that work in the water to improve their organisation and practices, so that safety is always the over-arching priority
- contribute to the change in attitudes and behaviours of citizens, so that they become more active and more involved, each in their own way, to the common effort that will benefit us all.

Today, the main pillars of activity of our Organisation are:

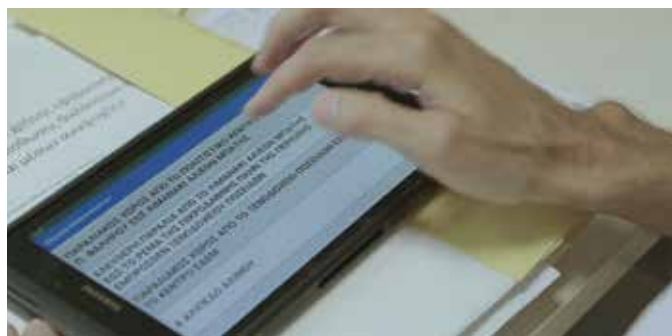
- Legal and organisational initiatives for the support of the wider institutional framework connected to water safety
- Supporting the state for the improvement of monitoring the implementation of water safety rules
- Informing and raising public awareness of water safety, through multi-level informative activities
- Educating children and young people at schools
- Certifying water sports companies (in cooperation with the TUV Austria Hellas) with the “certified quality” standard.

Apart from supporting water safety and preventing accidents, the Organisation has wider developmental aims. These are connected to tourism, as we can significantly contribute in upgrading the country’s image abroad, for the multitude of foreign visitors that choose to come to Greece for their holidays every year.

**Be informed. Check. Be careful. Enjoy.**

# SAFE WATER SPORTS ACTIVITIES

The Organisation is currently active in Greece and Cyprus and its main actions are the following:



## Integrated Information System of Audits and Inspections

Safe Water Sports has provided free of charge to the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of Greece and to the Port Police of Cyprus an innovative “Integrated Information System of Audits and Inspections”.

Through this Information System, port authorities can now manage digitally all the licences of companies and professionals (water sports companies, day cruisers, lifeguard cover of beaches etc). They can run regular inspections and audits with portable devices and a special app, monitor infringements and fines imposed, check the performance of port authorities and identify possible gaps in the inspections.

## Observatory for Accidents

The Organisation has established in cooperation with the state the “OBSERVATORY FOR ACCIDENTS”, which allows for the accurate recording of data related to drownings and accidents at sea and internal waters (pools, lakes, rivers, etc) in cooperation with the Hellenic Coast Guard and the Hellenic Police respectively. The Organisation has undertaken the statistical analysis of data of the Observatory, in order to plan the national policy for supporting prevention activities aiming at the continuous reduction of the loss of life.

## Legislative Work

Safe Water Sports makes recommendations, participates and contributes to actions that pertain to the modernisation of the wider institutional framework regarding water safety.

To date, the Organization has contributed to and actively participated in four significant legislative initiatives:

- Presidential Decree 71/2020 of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy (as well as the

earlier PD 30/2020) regarding the operation of lifeguard training schools and lifeguard coverage on beaches.

- General Regulation No. 20 (Government Gazette 30-5-2018) and the 2022 update (Government Gazette 6543/21-12-2022) on water sports and recreational activities, issued by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy.
- Law 4688/2020 “Special forms of tourism, provisions for tourism development and other provisions” of the Ministry of Tourism.
- The establishment of the National Day for the Prevention of Drownings and Maritime Accidents (Law 4597/28-2-2019 of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy).



## Educational Programme

Safe Water Sports has designed a prototype educational program for primary and secondary education, which has received the sanction of the Greek and Cypriot Ministries of Education, and was first presented in 2018, under the aegis of the President of the Republic.

Since 2020, the educational program for primary & secondary education has been included in the platform 21+ at “Skills Labs” of the Institute for Education Policy and has become part of the national curriculum across the country.

At the same time, in cooperation with the Hellenic Coast Guard – Directorate of Port Police, the Organisation is implementing a program of school presentations named “Check-Learn-Care”.

The educational activities that we have developed aim at the consolidation of water safety rules. It addresses students of all grades and includes modern educational material, such as videos, animations, quizzes, all included in a specially designed educational bag. Every year, about 40,000 children participate in the Organisation’s educational activities.

### Safe Swimming Program

For the first time in our country, Safe Water Sports has designed a comprehensive swimming program for children aged 3 months to 12 years, with the support of the Deputy Ministry of Sports, the Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs, and under the auspices of the Hellenic Swimming Federation (KOE) and the Panhellenic Union of Physical Education Teachers (P.E.P.F.A.).

The program has been incorporated into the “Skills Labs” of the Ministry of Education, which form part of the compulsory curriculum of primary education, aiming to ensure quality swimming instruction in pools through the enjoyment of water and to raise children’s awareness about their safety in the water.

The program is addressed to:

- Schools conducting swimming lessons in the 3rd & 4th grade during the school year, with the goal of serving as a supplementary manual and tool for Physical Education teachers.
- Public/private swimming pools, sports clubs, and swimming coaches.

To date, more than 14,000 diplomas have been awarded to children who have demonstrated their swimming skills.

### Information campaigns for the older generation

The Organisation runs a large number of information campaigns for the older generation about the dangers that exist and the safety measures they need to take when they are undertaking activities in the water.

The programme has been designed under the aegis of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, the Hellenic Coast Guard and the support of the Ministry of Health.



### Certifying Water Sport Companies

The Organisation and TUV AUSTRIA HELLAS (an independent organisation of audit and inspection) have created a Private Certifying Standard for Water Sports Companies. The certification is based on the existence and implementation of specified safety

requirements. The companies that fulfil those requirements are provided with the “Watersports certified quality” Quality Standard. 40 companies have been certified so far and it is expected that there is going to be further uptake of this Standard nationwide.

### Information E-Platform

The Safe Water Sports e-platform, available online ([www.safewatersports.com](http://www.safewatersports.com)) and through the Safe Water Sports app for mobile devices (available in Greek & English), includes information in Greece and Cyprus on:

- 3.400+ beaches for swimming and all their features,
- legal water sports centers
- marinas
- recreation boat rentals
- certified water sports centers
- daily cruises
- hospitals, port authorities and
- current safety regulations for every water sport.

### Collaborations with Local Governments

The Organisation is working together with local governments on two main strands of activity: Placement of information signage for safety at the beach and in the sea. We have helped put up such signs in more than 500 beaches.

Info-kiosks: In the summer months these kiosks are set up at beaches and offer entertainment and information activities to children on how to be safe when at the sea and while doing water sports.



### Educational visits at Ocean Lab:

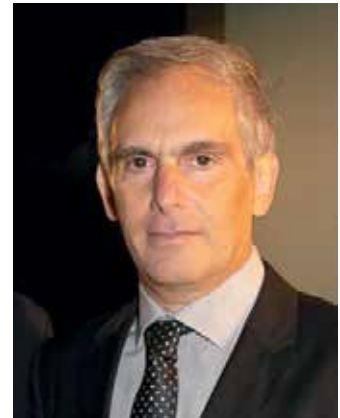
With the approval of the Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs, the Organization has created the Ocean Lab — a specially designed, digital & educational place where schools can carry out free educational visits to the Organization’s facilities. The purpose of these visits is to educate and inform primary and secondary school students on issues related to safety at sea and in water sports, using technology as the primary tool. To date, more than 600 schools and 12,000 students have visited the Ocean Lab.

## ΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΜΕΝΑ

σελ. <b>19</b>	<b>UNIT A</b> <b>Analysis of accidents in 2024</b>
σελ. <b>21</b>	Chapter 1 Accidents at sea involving recreation activities
σελ. <b>35</b>	Chapter 2 Accidents involving water sports and means of recreation
σελ. <b>41</b>	Chapter 3 Lifeguard cover
σελ. <b>49</b>	Chapter 4 Accidents in internal waters
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σελ. <b>69</b>	Chapter 7 Accidents in internal waters 2020-2024



## OPEN INVITATION FOR ACTION



In 2019 Safe Water Sports created the “Observatory of Accidents”, which — in cooperation with the Hellenic Coast Guard of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy and the Hellenic Police of the Ministry of Citizen Protection — collects, processes, and analyzes data relating to incidents involving loss of human life and injuries in the country’s aquatic environment (both at sea and in inland waters).

For the fifth consecutive year, the Organization publishes the annual Observatory of Accidents report, which includes data on incidents that occurred in 2024 as well as a comparative analysis of these figures with those from the previous period (2020–2024).

This study serves as the basis for all actions and initiatives designed and implemented in our country to strengthen prevention and reduce accidents that occur at sea and in inland waters.

It is also a call to action for both our current and future partners to join forces in a common national action plan with the aim of preventing accidents in our aquatic environment.

Cooperation from all stakeholders is essential and of utmost importance if we wish to reduce the number of human lives lost each year in our country’s waters.

Our Organization calls on you to go beyond simply reading this study — to truly engage with it — and to support our initiatives.

We would like to thank you for your support and your commitment to this shared effort.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Panagiotis Paschalakis', with a stylized, flowing script.

**PANAGIOTIS PASCHALAKIS**  
President of the Non-Profit Organisation Safe Water Sports



## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND INSULAR POLICY



In a country like Greece, where the sea is an integral part of our daily life and our identity, safety in the marine environment is and will remain a top priority. We have a duty to protect lives and to reduce risks with system, consistency, and cooperation.

The Observatory of Accidents of the Safe Water Sports organization is a valuable partner in this national effort. The annual report is not just a statistical record, but a substantial tool for improvement. With reliable data and well-documented observations, it offers useful guidance for targeted interventions in the areas of awareness, education, and the effective implementation of safety regulations.

At the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, we regard safety as a shared responsibility, because safety is not only the responsibility of the authorities — it is a matter for all of us: the State, society, the educational community, professionals, and above all, the younger generation.

Initiatives such as that of Safe Water Sports are based on this shared spirit — prevention through knowledge and awareness, addressed both to younger ages and to older generations, who remain an active and important part of our society. Safety at sea concerns all of us, regardless of age.

For this reason, our cooperation with Safe Water Sports is essential. It is founded on education, prevention, and the creation of a safety culture. The Organization's educational activities in schools, the development of educational materials, digital tools, and interactive programs are initiatives that deserve attention, support, and institutional reinforcement.

As a Ministry, we are committed to continuing to support them actively and consistently.

I would like to sincerely thank the Safe Water Sports team for its work and contribution, as well as all those who contribute daily to shaping a culture of prevention and safety. With cooperation, planning, and a shared goal, we will continue working to make the Greek seas even safer for everyone.

**VASILIOS KIKILIAS**  
Minister of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy





## **GREETING FROM THE CHIEF OF THE HELLENIC COAST GUARD**



The protection of the supreme value of human life and the elimination of the causes that lead to the loss of lives in the maritime space have always been — and remain — at the core of the mission of the Hellenic Coast Guard. It is therefore natural that the Authorities systematically invest in strengthening prevention, as well as in cooperation with bodies that share the same vision.

We are faced with the unpleasant reality that, on average, a three-digit number of accidents occur in Greek waters every year. This is precisely the reality we are called upon to address responsibly and, ultimately, to reverse.

In this direction, the Port Police Directorate of the Headquarters of the Hellenic Coast Guard has actively sought to inform and raise awareness among all those engaged, whether recreationally or professionally, in maritime leisure activities, in order to reduce accidents at sea, strengthen the sense of responsibility — both collectively and individually — and, of course, improve the quality of the related services provided.

The establishment of 11th May as the National Day for the Prevention of Maritime Accidents and Drownings — a joint initiative of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy and the non-profit organization Safe Water Sports (SWS) in 2019 — has significantly contributed to raising public awareness on the matter, bringing us closer to achieving our goals. At the same time, it has highlighted our country's leading role at the global level in actions for safety at sea — a role that continues to grow stronger over time.

Since 2015, the Hellenic Coast Guard and SWS, in excellent cooperation, have been continuously developing their multi-level action plan, taking advantage of the ability to digitally record businesses and professionals active on beaches, in water sports, and recreational water activities.

**REAR ADMIRAL HCG TRYFON KONTIZAS  
CHIEF OF HCG**





## NOTE FROM THE CHIEF OF THE HELLENIC POLICE



The Non-Profit Organization “SAFE WATER SPORTS” has a clear mission: to prevent fatal accidents that occur in the aquatic environment, through the cooperation of all stakeholders, in order to ensure the safe enjoyment of sports and recreational activities in the water.

The Hellenic Police, as part of its mission, has since 2020 developed an active and fruitful collaboration with your Organization through the Memorandum of Understanding that has been signed.

I consider the informing of citizens, prevention, and enhancement of safety in all types of aquatic activities to be of particular importance for reducing fatal accidents in the water. These actions are fully aligned with the “community policing” model implemented by the Hellenic Police since 2024.

In view of the tourist season, which has already begun and is expected this year as well to operate at particularly high levels, we must make use of the knowledge provided by the Annual Report of the Observatory of Accidents in the aquatic environment of our country, so as to guide our actions.

At the same time, through the SafeWaterSports mobile app, we can access valuable information on recreational water activities in inland waters and, more broadly, in the field of water safety.

All the Services of the Hellenic Police will make a substantial and effective contribution to the work of your Organization, and as Chief of the Force, I express my strong commitment to continuing and expanding our cooperation, aimed at providing the highest level of safety to society as a whole.

Chief of the Hellenic Police  
**DIMITRIS MALLIOS**  
Lieutenant General



## **NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC ASSOCIATION OF LIFEGUARD SCHOOLS**



The Hellenic Association of Lifeguard Schools, as the officially recognized institutional body of lifeguarding in the country, has developed and implements, together with the non-profit organization SAFE WATER SPORTS, a joint action framework defined through a Memorandum of Understanding, which includes the following objectives:

- The joint development of initiatives, actions, and measures that in every way contribute to the enhancement and promotion of safety in our seas and on our coasts.
- The joint implementation of training programs and, more broadly, the creation of informational-educational material that can be used in awareness-raising and educational activities in schools, as well as in public and private spaces.
- The joint analysis of the results from the Drowning and Accidents Observatory, with the aim of implementing measures that will contribute to the reduction of incidents and ensure the protection of citizens and all tourists visiting our country.
- Cooperation with coastal municipalities for the more effective organization of lifeguard coverage on beaches.
- Cooperation in promoting legislative and regulatory changes aimed at upgrading services, training, and equipment for lifeguard services.

As an Association, we remain faithful to our mission to safeguard and protect human safety and life in the aquatic environment.

The presentation of this specific study, containing data related to incidents in the aquatic environment, is a tool and foundation for the initiatives that should be considered by all stakeholders. Based on the annual Accident Observatory report on incidents in the aquatic environment, we now have, for the 5th consecutive year, an accurate picture of the incidents and their causes.

ESNE fully supports and aligns itself with all its resources, dedicating its personnel to achieving the noble and common goal set since 2015 by the non-profit organization Safe Water Sports.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marios Myronakis', written over a horizontal line.

**MARIOS MYRONAKIS**  
President of the Hellenic Association of Lifeguard Schools



# INTRODUCTION

In the last five years (2020-2024) 357 people on average lose their lives in the water in Greece, during a recreation activity (swimming, water sports, water recreation). Water patrols, checks and audits by the competent public bodies, lifeguards and rescue services are very effective, but cannot be everywhere, at any given moment.

‘Safe Water Sports’ cooperates with institutions of the wider public sector, professional associations and other organisations, as well as with private businesses, in order to make activities in and around the water safer and reduce the risks of drowning.

The Organisation created the Observatory for Accidents in Water in Greece, which collects and processes information, helping to throw light on the causes and conditions under which these accidents happen.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended that every country puts together a National Strategic Plan for safety in water. The Observatory for Accidents assists Greece towards following this recommendation.

Drownings and fatal accidents in water are

often complex and have multiple causes, but can be prevented through simple and coordinated action.

Interventions such as the creation and maintenance of a safer environment, the improvement of current legislation, offering safe swimming training and raising awareness on the risks that our contact with water may entail can help all members of the public.

The Organisation has the knowledge and capability to approach groups of people at risk separately, with appropriate customised actions, in order to achieve a behaviour change. It can also identify the gaps in the institutional framework and take up initiatives for bridging them over.

A national strategy sets the basic pillars of action that we all need to focus on in order to make a difference. Prevention and the continuous reduction of the loss of human life are our ultimate goals.

Let us be more effective than ever, aiming at groups and activity areas with the appropriate action, informing about dangers, transforming the legal framework and – ultimately – providing greater safety to society as a whole.

## OBJECTIVE

**To prevent fatal water accidents, in cooperation with all interested institutions, so as to guarantee the safe enjoyment of sports and recreation in the water.**



## OBJECTIVE

**To reduce fatal water accidents**

**by 50% over the next ten years.**

# UNIT A

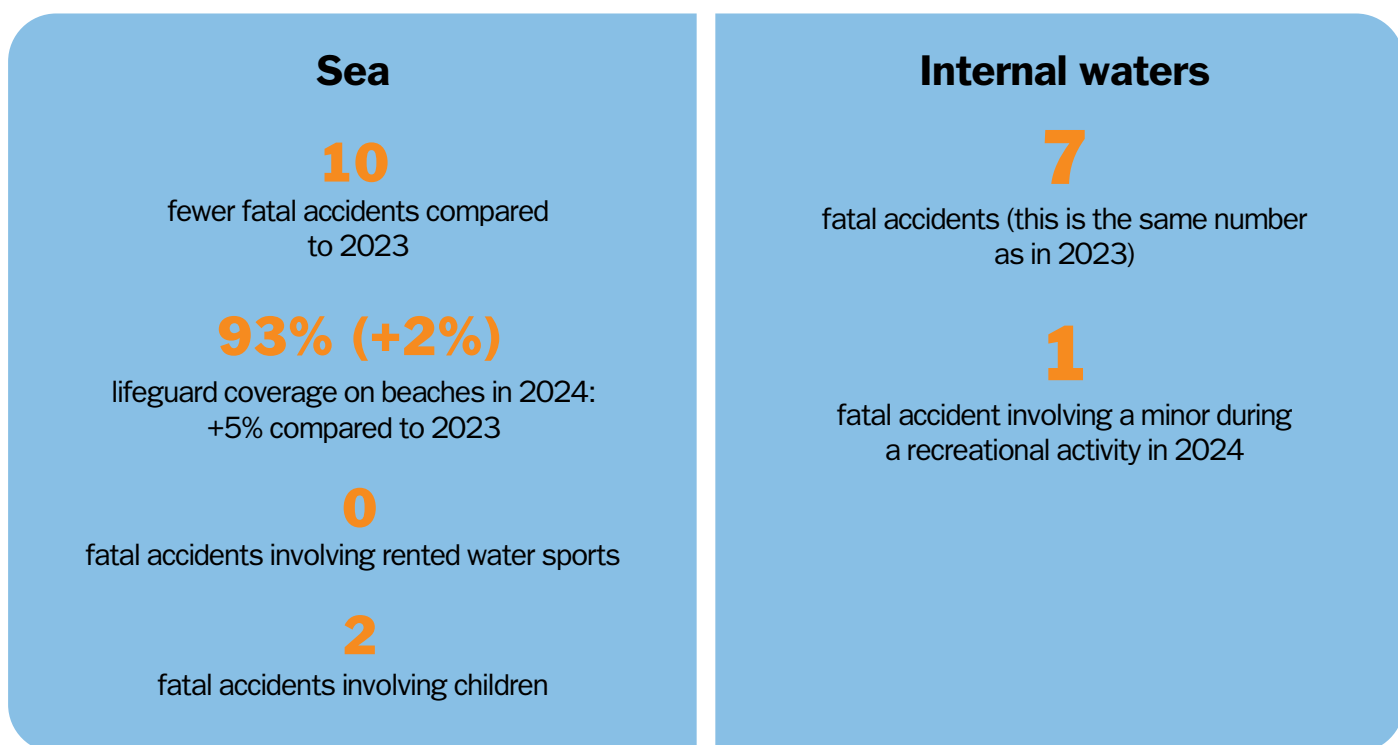
# ACCIDENT ANALYSIS FOR 2024

\*The data, as recorded up to  
the end of February 2025.

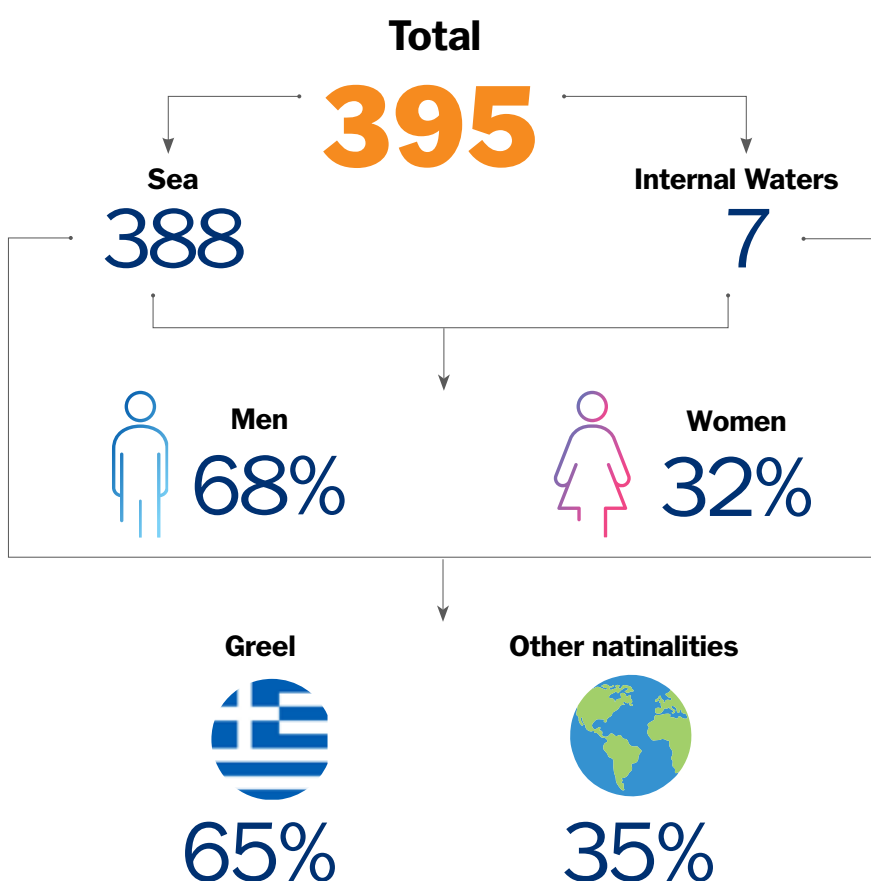


## THE MAIN RESULTS OF 2024

### AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT



## FATAL WATER ACCIDENTS IN THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT - 2024



In 2024, 395 people lost their lives in Greece's aquatic environment while participating in recreational activities (swimming, water sports, and other water-based leisure activities). Of these, 388 fatalities occurred at sea, while the remaining 7 took place in inland waters (lakes, rivers, swimming pools, etc.).

Based on data analysis, 68% (270) of the victims were men, 65% (255) of these deaths involved Greek nationals, while 35% involved foreign nationals.

In the following chapters of this study, we present a detailed analysis of the accidents (fatal and non-fatal) that occur during recreational water activities.



# CHAPTER 1

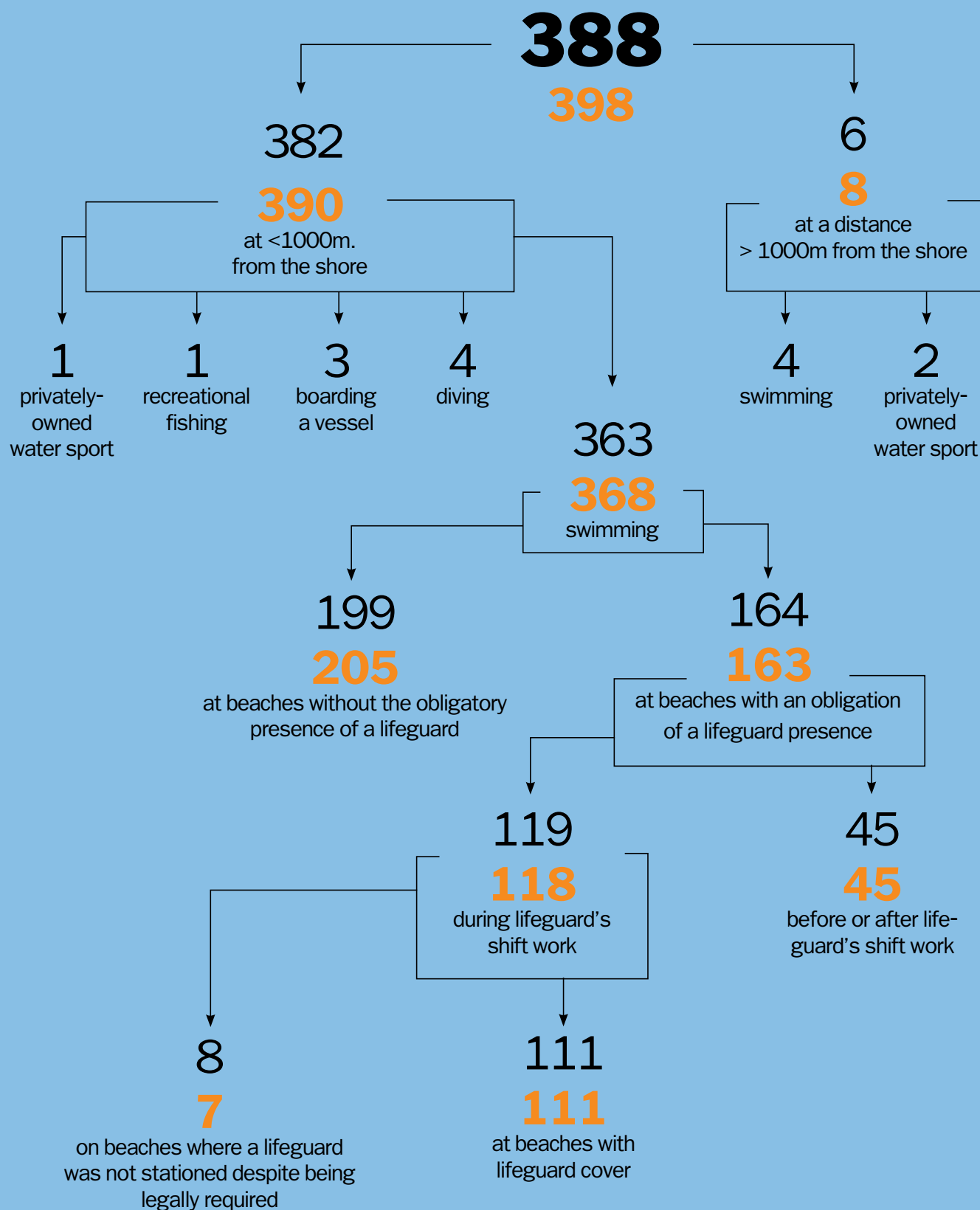
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## ACCIDENTS AT SEA DURING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



## FATAL ACCIDENTS 2024 (compared to 2023)

drowning-pathological causes-fatal accident-undefined



## TYPE OF FATAL ACCIDENT

**201**

### DROWNING

(303 following resuscitation)

**5** in recreational fishing  
**1** boat passenger  
**2** in water sports  
**2** in recreational diving  
**191** in swimming

### PATHOLOGICAL CAUSES

(50 following resuscitation)

**16** in swimming  
**2** in recreational fishing

**1**

### 3. FATAL ACCIDENT

(4 following resuscitation)

### UNDEFINED

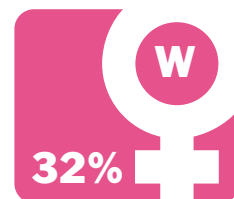
(31 following resuscitation)

**160** in swimming  
**4** in recreational fishing (6 spearfishing, 2 from a boat)  
**1** in recreational diving (from a business)  
**2** boat passengers  
**1** in a water sports (banana boat).

**18**

**168**

**TOTAL 388**

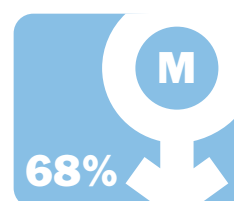


Of the 388 deaths that occurred in 2024 during recreational sea activities, 201 were due to drowning (52%), 18 to pathological causes (5%), 1 to a fatal accident, and 168 (43%) have not yet been determined.

The category “Not yet determined” refers to deaths for which the coroner’s report, recording the actual causes, has not been completed. In most cases, it takes about a year for the majority of these reports to be finalized, allowing the death to be classified as either drowning, due to pathological causes, fatal accident, or unknown.

According to the average of the last four years (2020–2024), 78% of deaths are due to drowning, 13% to pathological causes, 8% to undetermined causes (pending coroner’s report), and 1% to fatal accidents.

Therefore, for a more accurate representation of the 2024 results, this ratio will be applied. Based on this assumption, once all coroner’s reports are completed, drownings are estimated to reach 303, deaths due to pathological causes 50, fatal accidents 4, and the classification of another 31 deaths will still be pending (“Not yet determined”).



## TIME UNIT (MONTH)

As the data below shows, most fatal accidents are recorded during the summer months, when both Greeks and the large number of tourists visiting our country choose the sea for swimming as well as for other recreational and sporting activities.

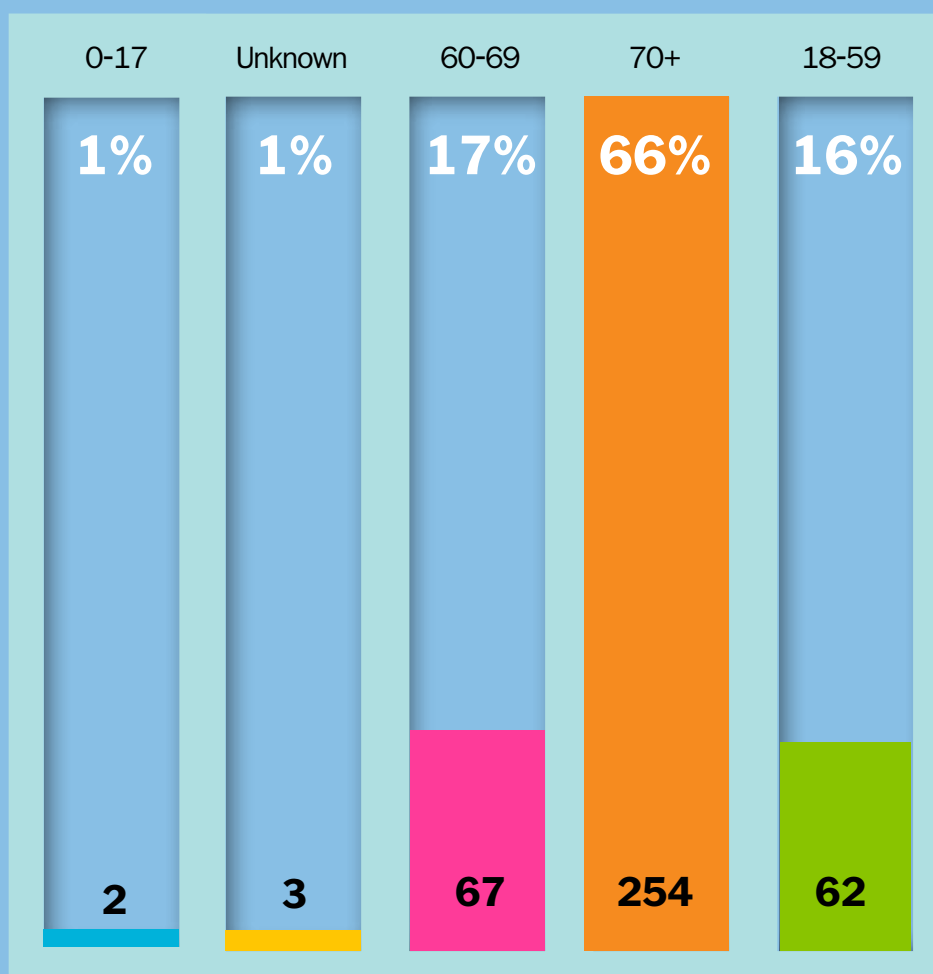


## JULY THE MONTH WITH THE MOST DEATHS



## AGES

Of the 388 fatal accidents, 321 involved individuals over the age of 60 (83%), 62 individuals aged 18–59, 2 children aged 0–17, and 3 of unknown age. Based on these figures, since the summer of 2020, Safe Water Sports, in collaboration with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, the Hellenic Coast Guard, and with the support of the Ministry of Health and the Hellenic National Public Health Organization (EODY), has implemented a series of awareness-raising initiatives aimed at informing senior citizens about the dangers at sea and the necessary precautions they should take. These initiatives include seminars and presentations at Municipal Open Care Centers for the Elderly.

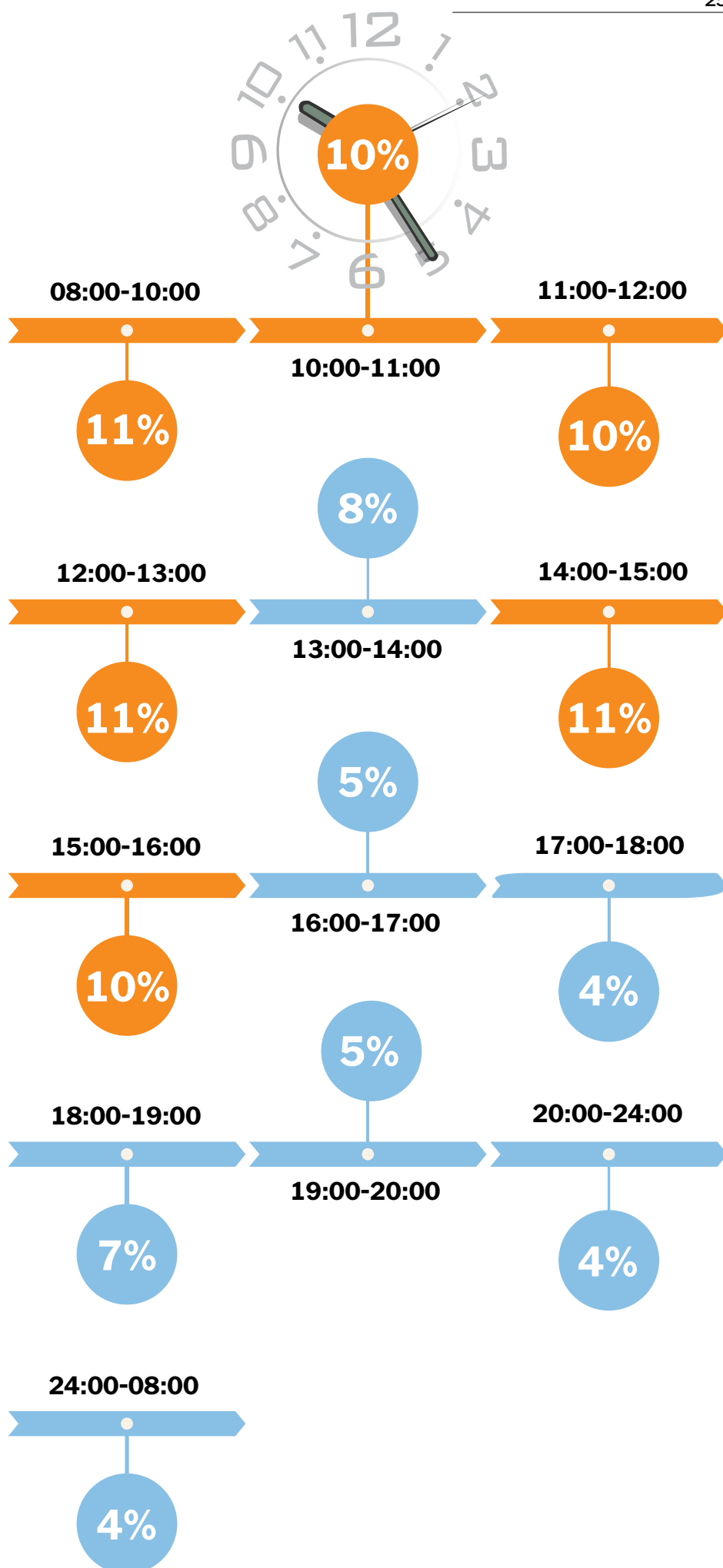


**8 IN 10** PEOPLE THAT LOSE THEIR LIVES AT SEA  
ARE OVER **60 YEARS OLD**

## TIME UNIT (HOUR)

It is noteworthy that the time periods between 08:00–10:00, 12:00–13:00, and 14:00–15:00 are when the highest number of fatal accidents occur (each accounting for 11%), coinciding with peak attendance at the beaches. The second-highest percentage of fatalities per hour, representing 10% of fatal accidents, is recorded between 10:00–11:00, 11:00–12:00, and 15:00–16:00.

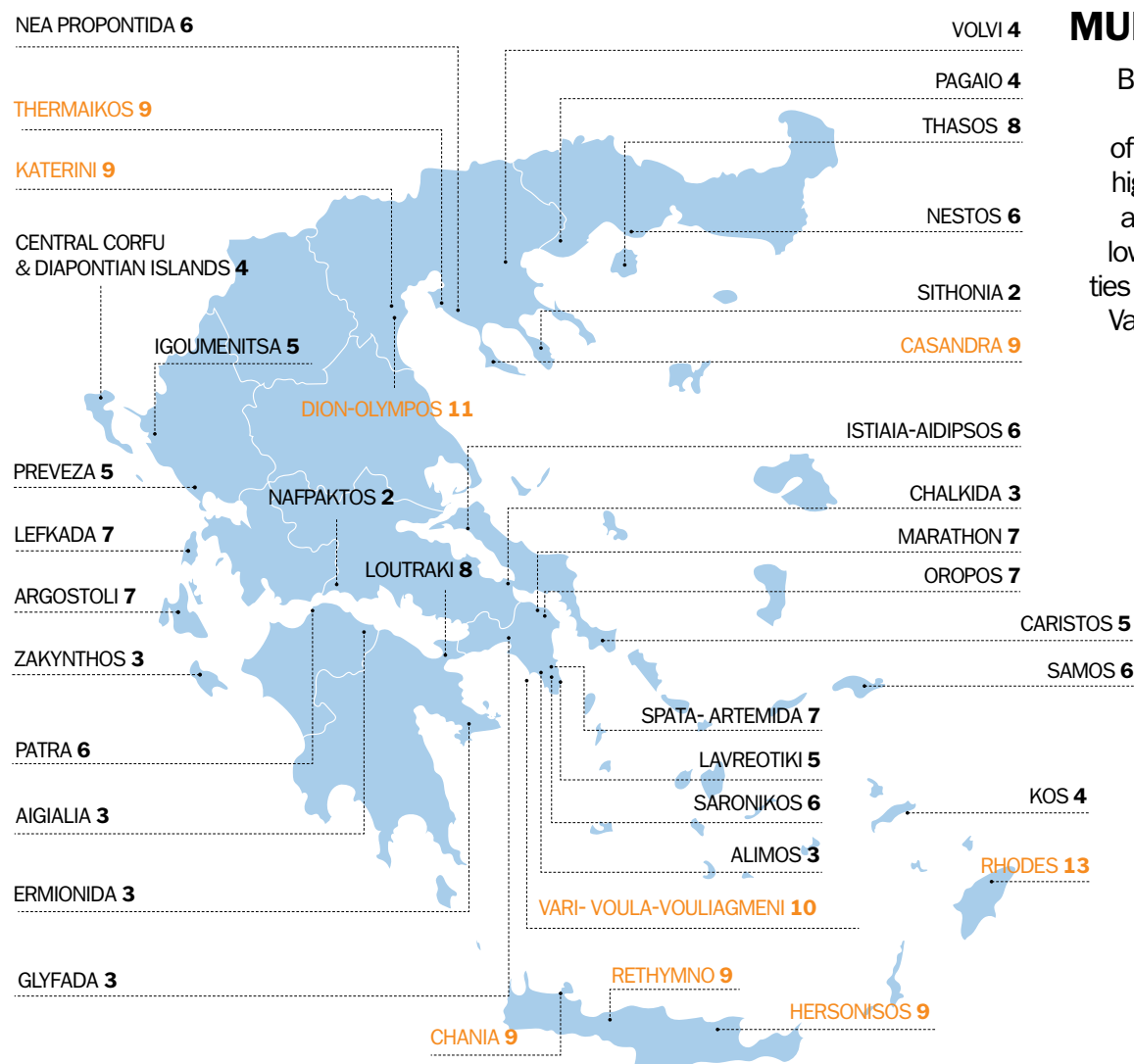
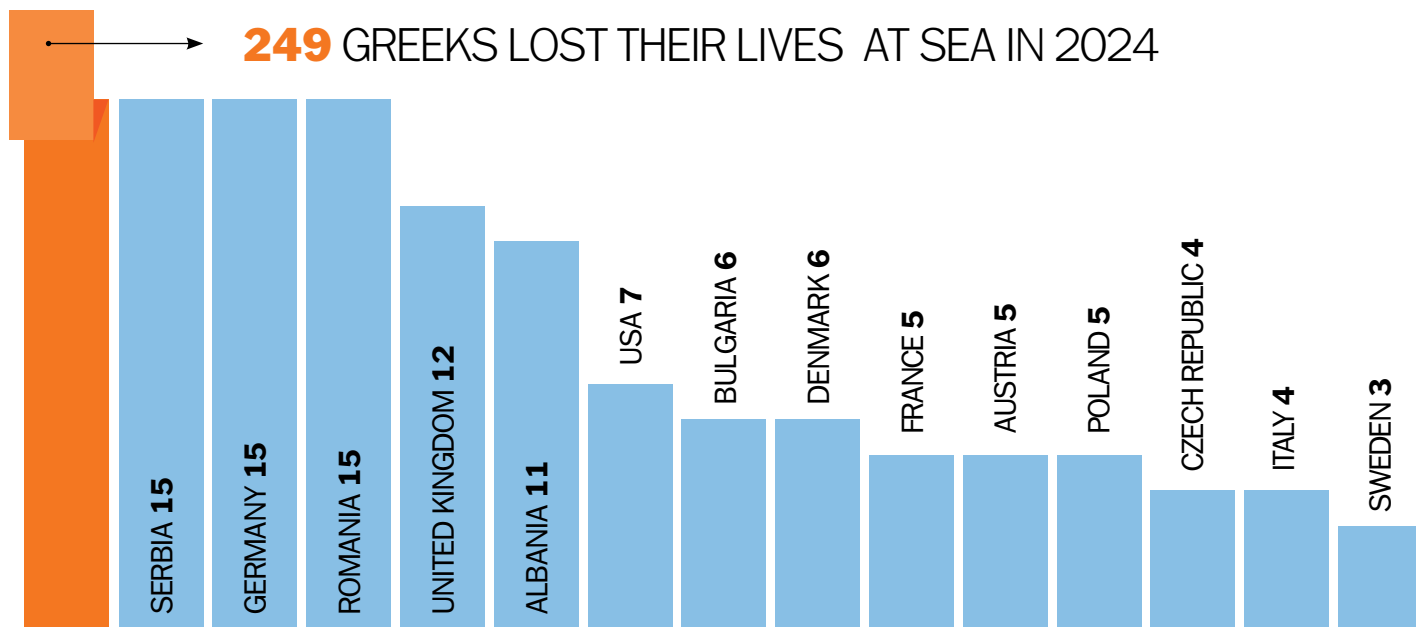
It is important to highlight that lifeguard coverage on beaches now lasts 8 hours, from 10:00 to 18:00. The Accident Observatory's data was taken into account in the drafting of Presidential Decree 71/2020 on lifeguard coverage of beaches, which was approved in 2020 and came into force in 2021. This led to the extension of lifeguard coverage hours by one hour (from the previous 7-hour schedule of 10:30–17:30 to the current 8-hour schedule of 10:00–18:00), with a provision allowing local competent authorities to further extend operating hours if deemed necessary.





## NATIONALITIES

Although the sea is the natural environment of our country and despite welcoming more than 34 million foreign visitors each year—three times our population—the data clearly shows that Greeks, by a wide margin, are the ones who lose their lives in it the most. In 2024, 249 Greeks (64%) lost their lives in Greek waters, compared to 138 foreigners, while 1 victim remained unidentified.



## MUNICIPALITIES

Based on the collected data, the Municipality of Rhodes recorded the highest number of fatal accidents in 2024, followed by the Municipalities of Dion-Olympos and Vario-Voula-Vouliagmeni.

## FATAL ACCIDENTS

The following table shows fatal accidents in 2024 per Municipality

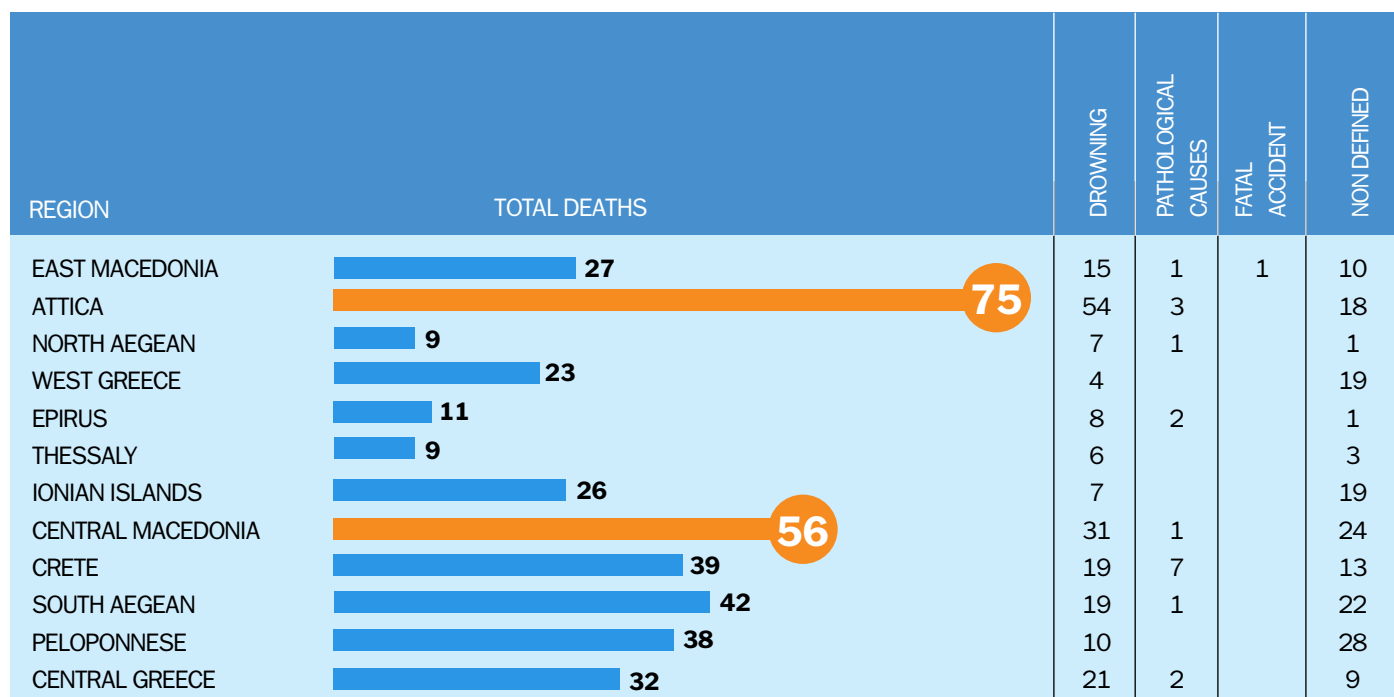
REGION	MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL DEATHS	DROWNING	PATHOLOGICAL CAUSES	FATAL ACCIDENT	NON DEFINED
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	AVDIRA	2	1	1		
THESSALY	AGIAS	2				2
CRETE	AGIOS VASILIOS	3	1	2		
CRETE	AGIOS NIKOLAOS	1	1			
ATTICA	AGISTRI	1				1
WEST GREECE	AIGIALIA	3				3
ATTICA	AEGINA	3	1			2
WEST GREECE	AKTIO-VONITSA	1				1
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	ALEXANDROUPOLLI	2	2			
ATTICA	AAIMOY	3	3			
THESSALY	ALMIROS	2	2			
WEST GREECE	AMFILOCHIA	1				1
PELOPONNESE	EAST MANI	2	2			
WEST GREECE	ANDRAVIDA-KILINI	2	1			1
WEST GREECE	ANDRITSENA-KRESTENA	1	1			
SOUTH AEGEAN	ANDROS	1	1			
SOUTH AEGEAN	ANTIPAROS	1				1
IONIAN ISLANDS	ARGOSTOLI	7				7
PELOPONNESE	ARGOS -MYCENAE	2				2
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	ARISTOTELIS	4	1			3
EPIRUS	ARTA	1	1			
ATTICA	ASPROPYRGOS	1				1
SOUTH AEGEAN	ASTYPALAIA	1				1
ATTICA	VARI- VOULA-VOULIAGMENI	10	9			1
PELOPONNESE	VELOS-VOHAS	3	1			2
CRETE	VIANNOU	1				1
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	VOLVI	4	1			3
THESSALY	VOLOS	2	2			
PELOPONNESE	NORTH KINOURIA	1				1
ATTICA	GLYFADA	3	2			1
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	DION-OLYMPUS	11	10	1		
CENTRAL GREECE	DIRFIS-MESAPIES	1	1			
NORTH AEGEAN	WEST LESVOS	2		1		1
CENTRAL GREECE	DORIDA	1	1			
ATTICA	ELEFSINA	1				1
PELOPONNESE	EPIDAVROS	1				1
CENTRAL GREECE	ERETRIA	1				1
PELOPONNESE	ERMIONIDA	3				3
EPIRUS	ZAGORI	1				1
IONIAN ISLANDS	ZAKYNTHOS	3				3
EPIRUS	IGOYMENITSA	5	5			
WEST GREECE	ILIDA	3				3
ATTICA	HERAKLEION	1	1			
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	AVDIRA	2	1	1		
THESSALY	AGIA	2				2
CRETE	AGIOS VASILEIOS	3	1	2		
CRETE	AGIOS NIKOLAOS	1	1			
ATTICA	AGISTRI	1				1
WEST GREECE	AIGEIALIA	3				3
ATTICA	AEGINA	3	1			2
WEST GREECE	AKTIO-VONITSA	1				1
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	ALEXANDROUPOLI	2	2			
EPIRUS	ALIMOS	3	3			
THESSALY	ALMIROS	2	2			
WEST GREECE	AMFILOCHIA	1				1
PELOPONNESE	EAST MANI	2	2			
WEST GREECE	ANDRAVIDA-KILINI	2	1			1
WEST GREECE	ANDRITSENA-KRESTENA	1	1			
SOUTH AEGEAN	ANDROS	1	1			
SOUTH AEGEAN	ANTIPAROS	1				1
IONIAN ISLANDS	ARGOSTOLI	7				7
PELOPONNESE	ARGOS -MYCENAE	2				2
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	ARISTOTELI	4	1			3
EPIRUS	ARTA	1	1			
EPIRUS	ASPROPIRGOS	1				1

REGION	MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL DEATHS	DROWNING	PATHOLOGICAL CAUSES	FATAL ACCIDENT	NON DEFINED
SOUTH AEGEAN	ASTIPALAIA	1				1
ATTICA	VARI-VOULA-VOULIAGMENI	10	9			1
PELOPONNESE	VELOS-VOCHAS	3	1			2
CRETE	VIANNOS	1				1
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	VOLVI	4	1			3
THESSALY	VOLOU	2	2			
PELOPONNESE	NORTH KYNOURIA	1				1
ATTICA	GLYFADA	3	2			1
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	DION-OLYMPUS	11	10	1		
CENTRAL GREECE	DIRFIS-MESAPIES	1	1			
NORTH AEGEAN	WEST LESVOS	2		1		1
CENTRAL GREECE	DORIDA	1	1			
ATTICA	ELEFSINA	1				1
PELOPONNESE	EPIDAVROS	1				1
CENTRAL GREECE	ERETRIA	1				1
PELOPONNESE	ERMIONIDA	3				3
EPIRUS	ZAGORI	1				1
IONIAN ISLANDS	ZAKYNTHOS	3				3
EPIRUS	IGOUMENITSA	5	5			
WEST GREECE	ILIDA	3				3
ATTICA	HERAKLEION	1	1			
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	THASOS	8				8
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	THERMAIKOS	9	4			5
CENTRAL GREECE	THIVA	1	1			
SOUTH AEGEAN	THIRA	2				2
WEST GREECE	HOLLY CITY OF MESSOLOGI	1				1
IONIAN ISLANDS	ITHACA	1	1			
CENTRAL GREECE	ISTIAIA-AIDIPSOS	6	5	1		
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	KAVALA	1	1			
SOUTH AEGEAN	KALYMNOS	4	1			3
SOUTH AEGEAN	KARPATOS	1	1			
CENTRAL GREECE	KARISTOS	5	2			3
SOUTH AEGEAN	KASOS	1				1
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	CASSANDRA	9	2			7
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	KATERINI	9	8			1
IONIAN ISLANDS	CENTRAL CORFU & DIAPONTIAN ISLANDS	4	1			3
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	KOMOTINI	2	1			1
PELOPONNESE	KORINTHOS	4	1			3
ATTICA	KROPIA	2	1			1
ATTICA	KITHYRA	1	1			
CENTRAL GREECE	KIMI-ALIVERI	3	2			1
SOUTH AEGEAN	KOS	4	3	1		
ATTICA	LAVREOTIKI	5	3	1		1
SOUTH AEGEAN	LEROS	1	1			
IONIAN ISLANDS	LEFKADA	7	4			3
IONIAN ISLANDS	LIXOURI	1				1
CENTRAL GREECE	LOKROI	3	3			
PELOPONNESE	LOUTRAKI - PERACHORA - AGIOI THEODOROI	8	3			5
ATTICA	MANDRA-IDILIA	1				1
CENTRAL GREECE	MANDOUDI- LIMNI - AGIA ANNA	2				2
ATTICA	MARATHON	7	6			1
ATTICA	MARKOPOULO MESOGAIAS	5	4			1
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	MARONEIA-SAPES	1				1
ATTICA	MEGARA	2	2			
PELOPONNESE	MESSINI	2	1			1
SOUTH AEGEAN	MILOS	1	1			
SOUTH AEGEAN	NAXOS & SMALL CYCLADES	3	3			
WEST GREECE	NAFPAKTOS	2				2
PELOPONNESE	NAFPLIO	3				3
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	NEA PROPONTIDA	6	2			4
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	NESTOS	6	6			
SOUTH AEGEAN	NISIROS	1	1			
PELOPONNESE	SOYTH KINOURIA	1				1
THESSALY	SOYTH PELION	1	1			
PELOPONNESE	XILOCASTRO-EVROSTINI	3				3
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	PAGGAION	4	4			
ATTICA	PALAIIO FALIRO	2	2			
IONIAN ISLANDS	PAXOI	1	1			
EPIRUS	PARGA	2	1	1		
SOUTH AEGEAN	PAROS	4	2			2

REGION	MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL DEATHS	DROWNING	PATHOLOGICAL CAUSES	FATAL ACCIDENT	NON DEFINED
WEST GREECE	PATRA	6	1			5
ATTICA	PEIRAIAS	1				1
ATTICA	PERAMA	1	1			
CRETE	PLATANIA	4	2			2
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	POLIGIROS	1				1
EPIRUS	PREVEZA	2	1	1		
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	PIDNAS- KOLINDROU	1	1			
PELOPONNESE	PYLOS-NESTORO	2	1			1
WEST GREECE	PYRGOY	3	1			2
ATTICA	RAFINA-PIKERMII	1	1			
CRETE	RETHYMNO	9	6	3		
SOUTH AEGEAN	RHODES	13	3			10
ATTICA	SALAMINA	4	2	1		1
IONIAN ISLANDS	SAMI	2				2
EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	SAMOTHRAKI	1			1	
NORTH AEGEAN	SAMOS	6	6			
ATTICA	SARONIKOS	6	2			4
SOUTH AEGEAN	SERIFOS	1	1			
CRETE	SITEIA	2	2			
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	SITHONIA	2	2			
PELOPONNESE	SIKIONIA	1				1
THESSALY	SKIATHOS	2	1			1
ATTICA	SPATA-ARTEMIDA	7	6	1		
CENTRAL GREECE	STILIDA	3	2			1
SOYTH AEGEAN	SYROS-ERMOUPOLI	2				2
CRETE	SFAKIA	2	2			
ΣΤΕΡΕΑΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΑΣ	TANAGRA	3	2	1		
PELOPONNESE	TRIFILIA	2	1			1
ATTICA	TRIZINIA-METHANA	1				1
SOUTH AEGEAN	FOLEGANDROS	1	1			
CENTRAL GREECE	CHALKIDA	3	2			1
CRETE	CHANIA	8	5	1		2
CRETE	XERSONISOS	9		1		8
NORTH AEGEAN	CHIOS	1	1			
ATTICA	OROPUS	7	7			

## FATAL ACCIDENTS

The following chart shows fatal accidents in 2024 per region



## BEACHES

The table presents the beaches where the highest number of fatal accidents occurred in 2024, along with the number of lifeguards that should have been deployed on each beach by the Municipality or the responsible body, as well as the actual number of lifeguards that were ultimately deployed. On the beaches of “Akti N. Poron” in the Municipality of Dion-Olympos, “Akti Paralias Neo” and “Akti Olympiakis Aktis Neo” in the Municipality of Katerini, “Pefkochori No.1” in the Municipality of Kassandra, “Plaz Agyia” in the Municipality of Patras, “Rethymnou” in the Municipality of Rethymno, and “Stalos Agia Marina” in the Municipality of Chania, 4 fatal accidents were recorded.

MUNICIPALITY	BEACH NAME	LIFEGUARDS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN APPOINTED BASED ON LAW	LIFEGUARDS THAT WERE APPOINTED IN THE END	TOTAL OF FATAL ACCIDENTS
DION - OLYMPUS	NEON PORON BEACH	3	3	4
KATERINI	AKTI OLYMPIAKIS AKTIS NEO	7	7	4
KATERINI	AKTI PARALIAS NEO	8	8	4
CASSANDRA	PEFKOCHORI NO1	1	1	4
PATRA	PLAZ AGIA	2	2	4
RETHYMNO	RETHYMNO	8	8	4
CHANIA	STALOS AGIA MARINA	11	11	4
TANAGRA	DILESI	0	0	3
RHODES	ELLI	2	1	3
PAGGAION	KARIANIS	0	0	3
XILOKASTRO-EVROSTINI	LYKOPORIA	0	0	3
THERMAIKOS	EPANOMI RIVER	2	2	3
ARGOSTOLI	SKALAS	3	3	3
STILIDA	AGIA MARINA		0	2
SARONIKOS	AGIOS DIMITRIOS		0	2
DION - OLYMPUS	LEPTOKARIA BEACH	3	3	2
CHALKIDA	ALYKES	3	3	2
SPATA-ARTEMIDA	FROM TRIINAS STR, TO AGIOS SPYRIDONAS	4	4	2
SPATA-ARTEMIDA	FROM THE END OF ANTHEON ROAD TO THE END OF MIAOULI ROAD		0	2
MARKOPOULO MESOGAIAS	AVLAKI	1	1	2
CHANIA	VLITES	1	1	2
VELO-VOCHAS	VRACHATI	1	1	2
THERMAIKOS	EPANOMI BEACH MUNICIPAL REFRESHMENT STATION		0	2
MARATHON	ZOYMPERI	1	1	2
PAGGAION	CARIANIS		0	2
LEFKADA	CASTRO	1	1	2
MEGARA	KINETA BALALET		0	2
KORINTHOS	KORFOU		0	2
ILIDA	KOUROUTAS	1	1	2
KARYSTOS	KREMALA		0	2
KOS	LAMPI (AMMOGLOSSA)		0	2
LOUTRAKI - PERACHORA - AGIOI THEODOROI	LOYTRAKI	3	3	2
OROPOS	MARKOPOYLO OROPOS	2	0	2
SAMOS	MYKALI		0	2
NEA PROPONTIDA	NEA KALIKRATEIA	1	1	2
ALIMOS	ALIPEDO ALIMOIY BEACH A'	1	1	2
LEFKADA	PORTO KATSIKI	1	1	2
CHERSONISOS	POTAMOS	1	1	2
RETHYMNO	SKALETAS	1	1	2
VOLOS	SOUTRALI		0	2
RETHYMNO	SFAKAKI	1	1	2
CASSANDRA	FOURKA	1	1	2



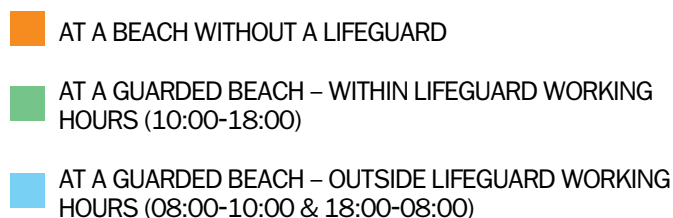
## ACCIDENTS AT BEACHES (WITH/WITHOUT LIFEGUARDS)

Of the 388 fatal accidents that occurred, 380 — plus 1 fatal accident at a privately-owned water sport — were recorded within a distance of less than 1,000 meters from shore, of which 217 took place on beaches where lifeguard coverage was not required.

Of the 380, 363 happened on beaches registered in the National Beach Registry, of which 172 were on beaches without lifeguard coverage.

This section analyzes the 363 fatal incidents (out of the total 381) that occurred during swimming. 54% of the fatal accidents (199) were recorded on beaches without lifeguard coverage, 33% (119) on guarded beaches during lifeguard coverage hours, and 12% (45) on guarded beaches outside lifeguard coverage hours.

**Therefore, 66% of fatal accidents occurred on beaches without lifeguard supervision — a fact that highlights the critical importance of lifeguard coverage in reducing drownings.**

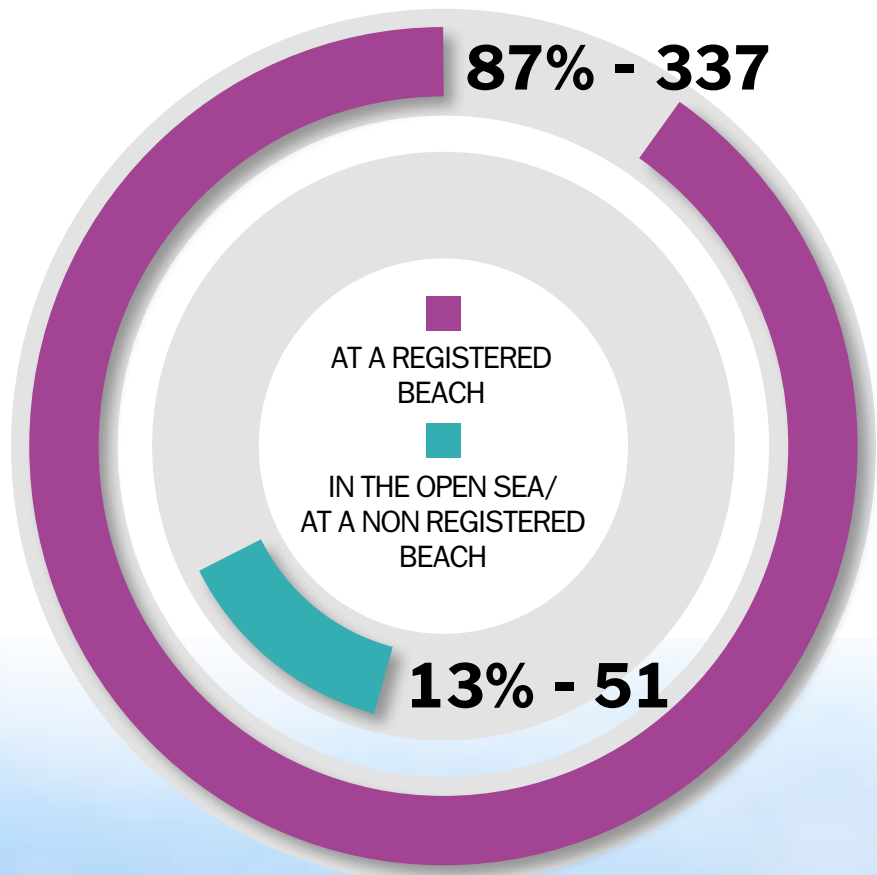


## ACCIDENTS AT BEACHES BELONGING TO THE NATIONAL BEACH REGISTER

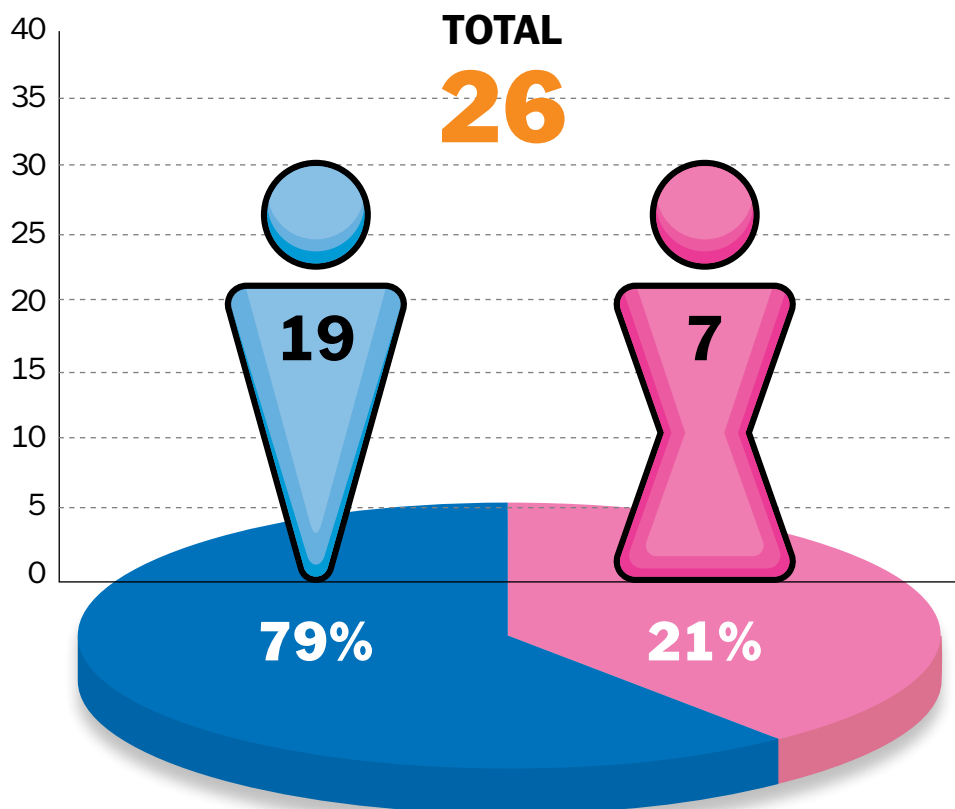
Greece has a coastline of 13,676 Km. The beaches and locations where one can enjoy swimming and recreational activities are endless. The Observatory of Accidents has created the National Beach Register, where more than 3,400 beaches are registered, enabling a better monitoring of incidents. The beaches included in the Beach Register are in their majority popular beaches (organised and non-organised). An incident (accident or injury) is considered to have taken place on a specific beach of the Beach Register if it happened less than 1 km from the coast.

At a longer distance, it is considered to have taken place in the open sea and is not correlated with any beach from the Register. Equally, if it happens close to the coastline, but in a location that is not recorded as a registered beach, again the incident is not connected to a Register beach. The data analysis shows that 88% of fatal accidents takes place at a distance less than 1 km from the coast and at a registered beach.

Therefore, if we could protect and monitor these 3,400 registered beaches better, we could significantly reduce human loss.



## INJURIES AT SEA

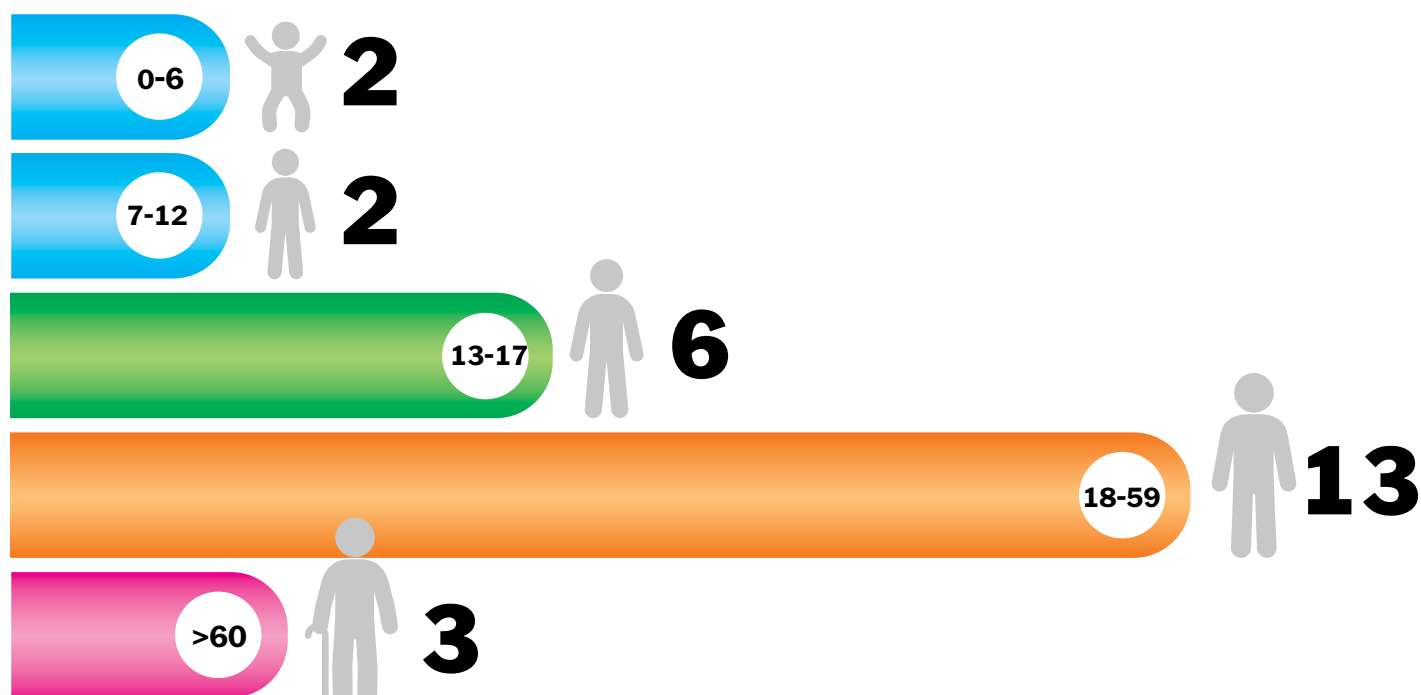


The Accident Observatory records injuries that occur at sea, provided they are reported to a Port Authority. Unreported injury incidents are not included in this analysis.

In 2024, a total of 26 injuries were reported to Port Authorities across Greece. Of these, 73% (19) involved men and the remaining 27% (7) involved women.

## AGES

50% of the injuries (13 cases) involved individuals aged 18–59, as expected, since these are the most active age groups participating in sea-related activities. 23% concerned teenagers aged 13–17, 11% involved individuals over 60 years old, and finally, 4% involved young children aged 0–12.









## CHAPTER 2

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# ACCIDENTS DURING WATER SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



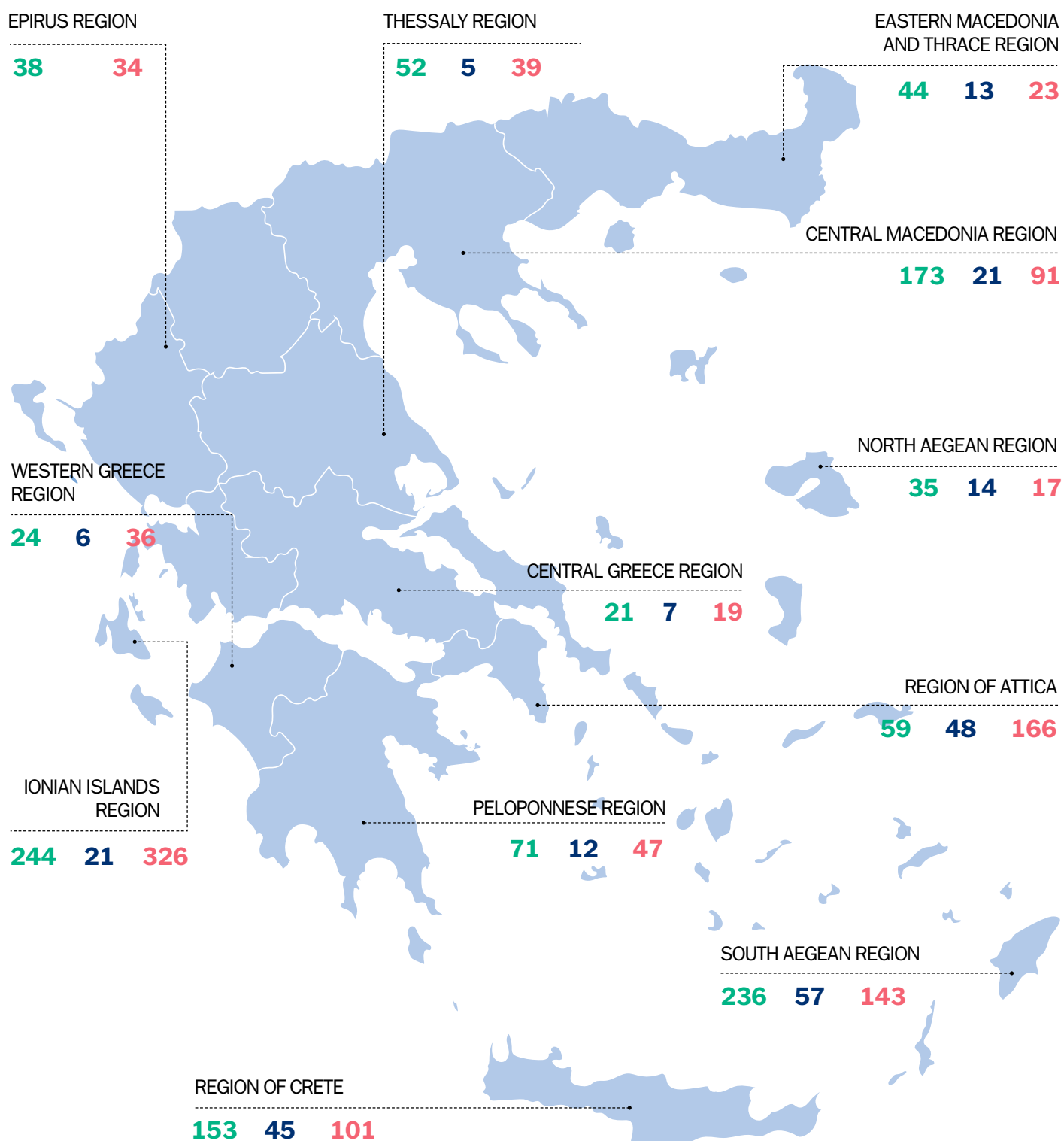
## WATER SPORTS AND RECREATION BUSINESSES IN GREECE

This data was recorded in 1/8/2024.

**1150** WATER SPORTS  
AND RECREATIONS CENTERS

**249** SCUBA DIVING  
CENTERS

**1080** BOAT RENTAL  
CENTERS



## MOST POPULAR SEA RECREATIONS

The following is a list of the most popular recreation activities, based on the number of centers that offer them.





# WATER SPORTS

**0**

FATAL ACCIDENTS  
INVOLVING RENTED  
RECREATIONAL WATER  
SPORTS

FATAL ACCIDENTS  
INVOLVING PRIVATE  
RECREATIONAL WATER  
SPORTS

**14**

INJURIES

**AGES****1**

0-6 YEARS OLD

**2**

7-12 YEARS OLD

**3**

13-17 YEARS OLD

**8**

18-59 YEARS OLD

**1**

SUP

**1**TOWABLE  
TUBE**3**

KITE SURF

**1**TOWABLE  
RING**8**FLOATING  
WATER PARK



# USING SPEED BOAT

## FATAL ACCIDENTS

In 2024, 5 fatal accidents involving speedboats were recorded, all occurring during recreational fishing. This highlights the critical importance of extreme caution on the part of speedboat operators, as the risks for both swimmers and the passengers themselves are significant.

5

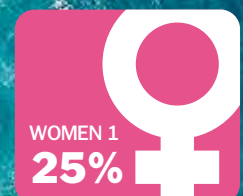
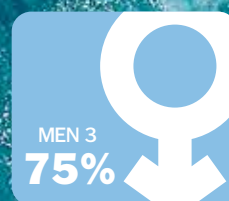
DEATHS FROM  
SPEEDBOAT

## INJURIES

In 2024, 4 injuries were recorded in activities involving a speedboat (both on board a motorboat and during swimming).

4

INJURIES  
FROM SPEEDBOAT









# CHAPTER 3

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# LIFEGUARD COVER



According to the current law, only bathing facilities that are either popular/highly frequented to the public or have a ticket entrance are obliged to have lifeguard cover. With the Presidential Decree (for 2020), for the drafting and formulation of which our Organisation played a pivotal role, the following important changes have taken place:

The first 15 days of August is the period of time during which the committee determines whether a beach is popular/highly frequented, taking into consideration the average daily presence of three hundred (300) bathers at least, in every 1 km of coastline during the rush hour, any accidents that have happened in the past or any other reasons connected to the local characteristics of the area.

► Obligatory lifeguard cover in beaches was extended from three months to four months, i.e. from 1st June to 30th September every year.

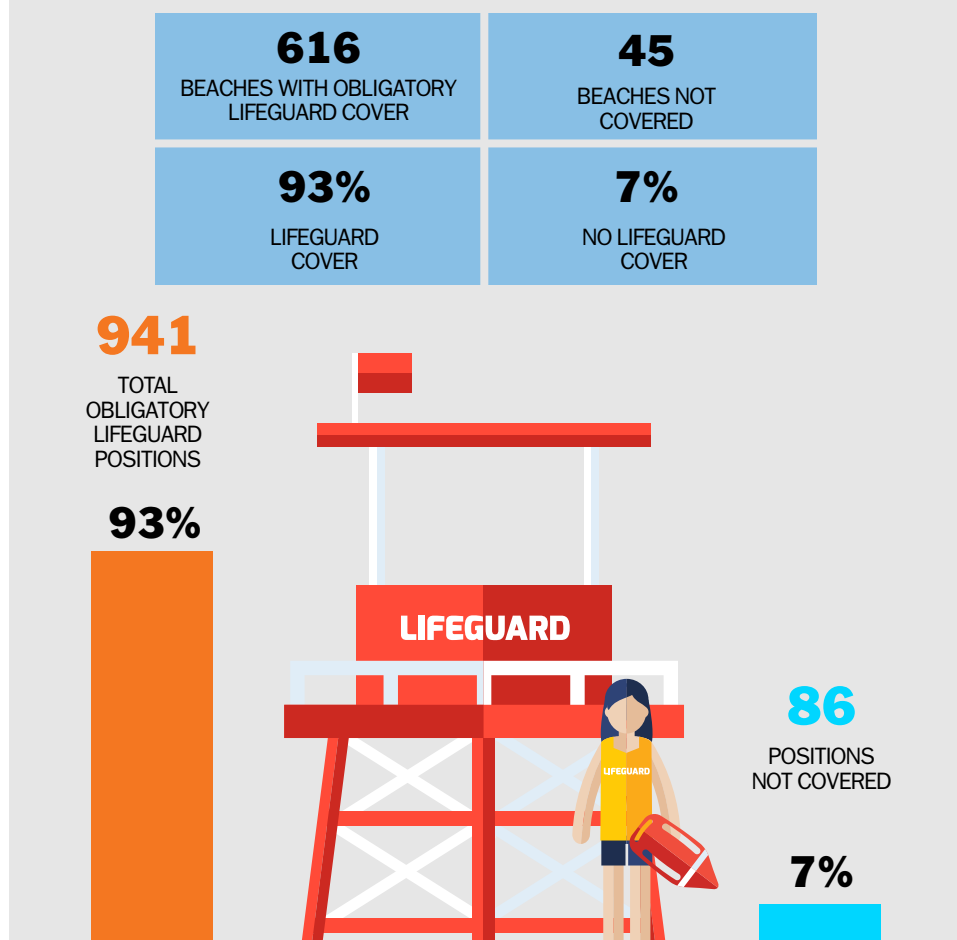
► Every lifeguard monitors the space of beach extending to 200 metres to each side of the stand (previously, with PD 31/2018 the span was 300 metres).

► If the beach is more than 400m long and is highly frequented, then a second lifeguard is necessary. If it is over 800m long, then a third lifeguard and so on.

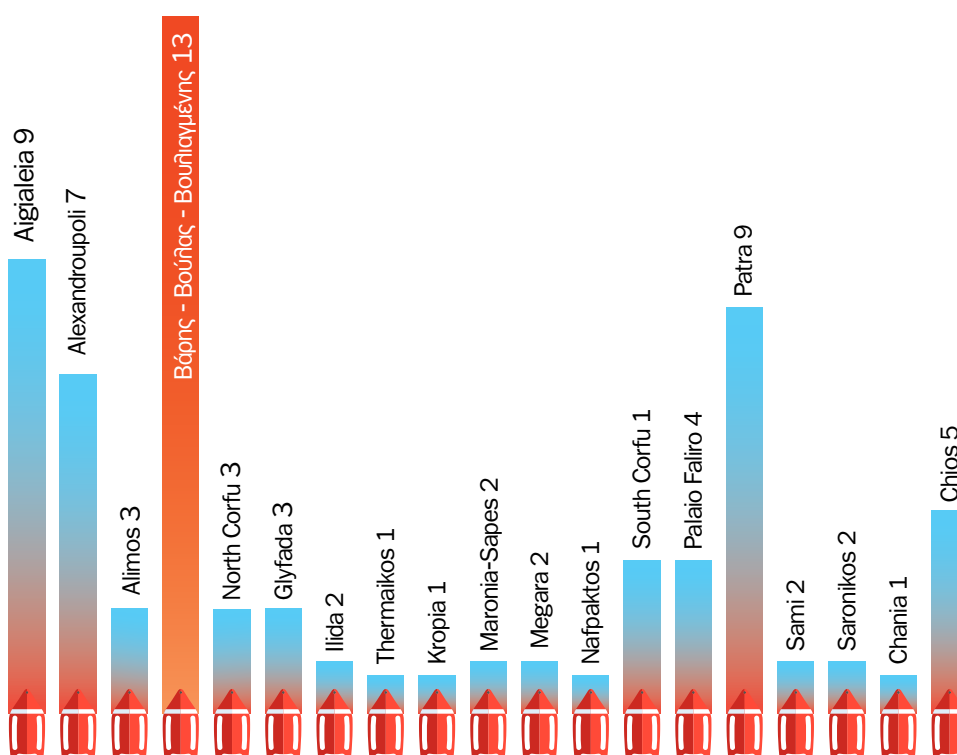
► The decisions as to which beaches in every Municipality are popular/highly frequented are taken annually by a special 3-member committee, where the local Coast Guard, the competent Health Regional Authority and the Municipality are represented.

In 2024, a total of 616 beaches were required to have lifeguard coverage. The total number of mandatory lifeguard posts (as some beaches require more than one post) was 941.

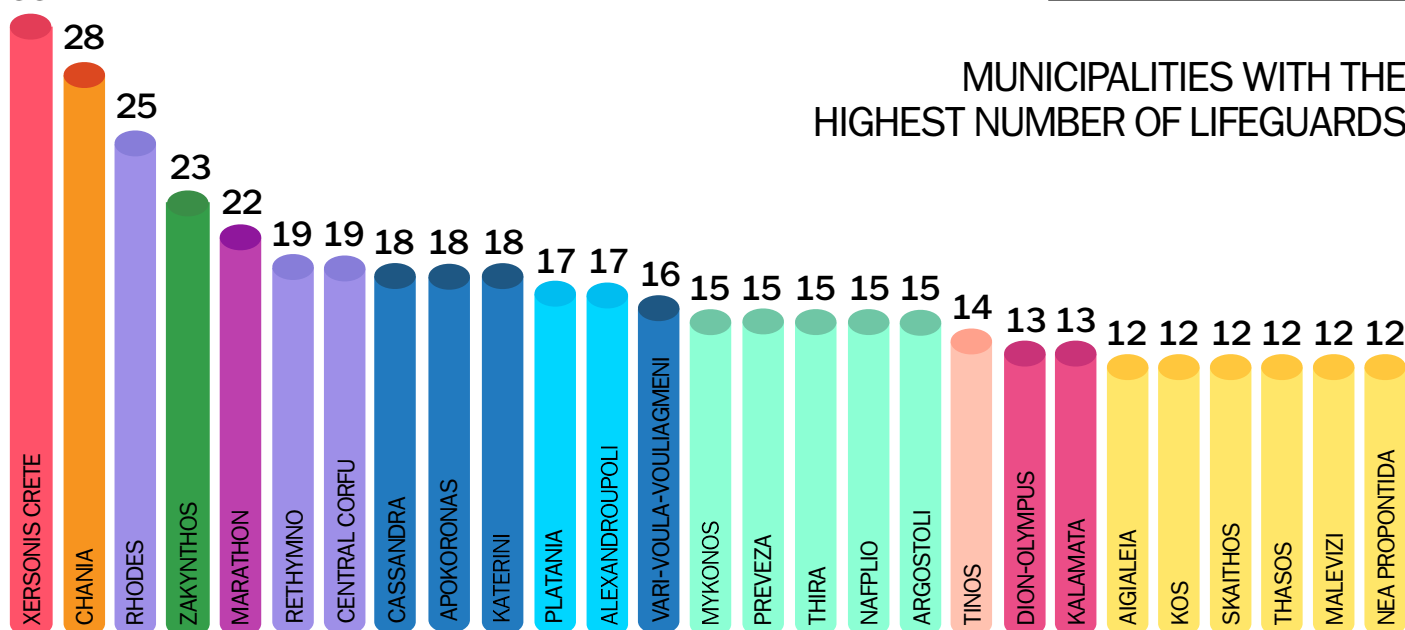
Based on end-of-summer data, lifeguards were deployed on 571 beaches — representing 93% — and 855 posts, corresponding to 92%.



## LIST OF 19 MUNICIPALITIES THAT EXTENDED LIFEGUARD COVER AT 71 BEACHES



## MUNICIPALITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF LIFEGUARDS



THEY FOLLOW: LEFKADA 11, KISSAMOS 11, KAVALA 11, VOLVI 11, IGOUMENITSA 10, SPATA-ARTEMIDA 10, NAXOS 9, CHALKIDA 9, WEST ACHAIA 9, CHIOS 8, PARGA 8, KOMOTINI 8, PYRGOS 8, OROPOS 7, SARONIKOS 7, KARPATOS 6, PHAISTOS 5

LIFEGUARDS PER MUNICIPALITY Municipality	OBLIGATION FOR LIFEGUARD COVERAGE		ACTUAL LIFEGUARD COVERAGE			
	BEACHES	POSITIONS	BEACHES	COVERAGE PERCENTAGE	POSITIONS	COVERAGE PERCENTAGE
AVDIRA	4	6	4	100%	6	100%
AGIA	2	4	2	100%	4	100%
AGIOS VASILEIOS	4	5	4	100%	5	100%
AGIOS NIKOLAOS	3	3	3	100%	3	100%
AGISTRI	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
AIGIALEIAS	9	12	9	100%	12	100%
AIGINA	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
AKTIO-VONITSA	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
ALEXANDROUPOLI	7	17	7	100%	17	100%
ALIMOS	3	4	3	100%	4	100%
AMFILOCHIA	2	2	2	100%	2	100%
ANDRAVIDA-KILLINI	4	5	4	100%	4	80%
ANDRITSENA-KRESTENA	1	1	1	100%	2	200%
ANDROS	5	6	5	100%	6	100%
ANTIPAROS	2	2	2	100%	2	100%
APOKORONOS	5	18	4	80%	16	89%
ARGOSTOLI	9	15	9	100%	15	100%
ARGOS-MYKYNAE	3	3	3	100%	3	100%
ARISTOTELIS	4	6	4	100%	6	100%
ASTYPALAIA	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
VARI-VOULA-VOULIAGMENI	13	16	13	100%	16	100%
VELO-VOCHA	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
VOLVI	4	11	4	100%	11	100%
VOLOS	4	5	4	100%	5	100%
NORTH CORFU	5	12	0	0%	0	0%
NORTH KYNOURIA	2	4	2	100%	4	100%
GLYFADA	4	4	3	75%	3	75%
TEMPI	1	3	1	100%	3	100%
DION-OLYMPUS	7	13	7	100%	13	100%
DIRFYS-MESAPIES	1	3	0	0%	0	0%
WEST ACHAIA	6	9	6	100%	9	100%
WEST LESVOS	1	2	1	100%	2	100%
WEST MANI	3	4	3	100%	4	100%
DORIDA	2	3	2	100%	3	100%
ELAFONISOS	3	6	3	100%	6	100%
ERETRIA	3	3	3	100%	3	100%
ERMIONIDA	1	1	1	100%	1	100%

LIFEGUARDS PER MUNICIPALITY Municipality	OBLIGATION FOR LIFEGUARD COVERAGE		ACTUAL LIFEGUARD COVERAGE			
	BEACHES	POSITIONS	BEACHES	COVERAGE PERCENTAGE	POSITIONS	COVERAGE PERCENTAGE
ZAGORA-MOURESI	3	5	3	100%	5	100%
ZAKYNTHOS	10	23	9	90%	22	96%
ZACHARO						
IGOUMENITSA	6	10	6	100%	10	100%
ILIDA	3	3	3	100%	3	100%
HERAKLEION CRETE	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
THASOS	11	12	11	100%	12	100%
THERMAIKOS	6	8	6	100%	8	100%
THIRA	5	15	5	100%	15	100%
IERAPETRA	3	3	3	100%	3	100%
HOLY CITY OF MESSOLOGI	2	4	2	100%	4	100%
IOS	1	3	1	100%	3	100%
ISTIAIA-AIDIPSOS	4	5	4	100%	5	100%
KAVALA	10	11	10	100%	11	100%
KALAMATA	5	13	5	100%	13	100%
KALYMNOS	2	2	2	100%	2	100%
KANTANOS-SELINOS	3	4	3	100%	4	100%
KARPATOS	6	6	6	100%	6	100%
CASSANDRA	18	18	18	100%	18	100%
KATERINI	3	18	3	100%	18	100%
CENTRAL CORFU & DIAPONTIAN ISLANDS	9	19	0	0%	0	0%
KIMOLOS	1	1	0	0%	0	0%
KISAMOS	9	11	9	100%	11	100%
KOMOTINI	3	8	3	100%	8	100%
KORINTHOS	1	3	1	100%	3	100%
KROPIA	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
KYTHNOS	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
KOS	7	12	7	100%	12	100%
LAVREOTIKI	2	2	1	50%	1	50%
LEROS	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
LEFKADA	7	11	7	100%	11	100%
LIMNOS	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
LIXOURI	2	2	2	100%	2	100%
LOYTRAKI- PERACHORA-AGIOI THEODOROI	3	7	3	100%	8	114%
MALEVISI	7	12	7	100%	12	100%
MANDRA-IDILIA	1	3	0	0%	0	0%
MANDOUDI - LIMNI-AGIA ANNA	1	2	1	100%	2	100%
MARATHON	12	22	12	100%	22	100%
MARKOPOYLO MESOGAIAS	5	6	4	80%	4	67%
MARONIA-SAPES	2	2	2	100%	2	100%
MEGANHSI	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
MEGARA	3	5	0	0%	0	0%
MESSINI	1	3	1	100%	3	100%
MILOS	5	6	5	100%	6	100%
MONEMVASIA	2	3	2	100%	3	100%
MYKONOS	12	15	12	100%	15	100%
MYLOPOTAMOS	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
MYTILINI	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
MOLOS-AGIOS KONSTANTINOS	2	3	2	100%	3	100%
NAXOS & SMALL CYCLADES	5	9	0	0%	0	0%
NAFPAKTOS	2	3	2	100%	3	100%
NAFPLIO	6	15	1	17%	1	7%
NEA PROPONTIDA	11	12	11	100%	12	100%
NESTOS	2	3	2	100%	3	100%
SOUTH CORFU	8	13	8	100%	13	100%
SOUTH KYNOURIA	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
SOYTH PELION	5	5	5	100%	5	100%
PAGGAION	7	11	7	100%	11	100%
PALAIIO FALIRO	4	4	4	100%	4	100%
PARGA	5	8	5	100%	8	100%
PAROS	5	6	5	100%	6	100%
PATMOS	3	3	3	100%	3	100%

LIFEGUARDS PER MUNICIPALITY Municipality	OBLIGATION FOR LIFEGUARD COVERAGE		ACTUAL LIFEGUARD COVERAGE			
	BEACHES	POSITIONS	BEACHES	COVERAGE PERCENTAGE	POSITIONS	COVERAGE PERCENTAGE
PATRA	12	13	12	100%	13	100%
PEIRAIAS	2	2	2	100%	2	100%
PINIOS	3	3	3	100%	3	100%
PLATANIAS	4	17	4	100%	17	100%
POLYGYROS	5	5	5	100%	5	100%
POROS	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
PREVEZA	11	15	11	100%	15	100%
PYRGOS	8	8	8	100%	8	100%
RAFINA-PIKERM	4	5	4	100%	5	100%
RETHYMNO	6	19	6	100%	19	100%
RIGAS FERAIOS	1	1	1	100%	1	100%
RHODES	17	25	16	94%	23	92%
SALAMINA	4	4	4	100%	4	100%
SAMI	2	3	2	100%	3	100%
SAMOTHRAKI	1	1	0	0%	0	0%
SARONIKOS	5	7	5	100%	7	100%
SITEIA	2	2	2	100%	2	100%
SITHONIA	11	19	11	100%	19	100%
SIFNOS	3	5	3	100%	5	100%
SKIATHOS	10	12	10	100%	12	100%
SKOPELOS	2	2	2	100%	2	100%
ΣSPATA-ARTEMIDA	7	10	7	100%	10	100%
SPETSES	2	2	2	100%	2	100%
SYROS-ERMOUPOLI	4	4	4	100%	4	100%
TANAGRA	1	2	1	100%	2	100%
TILOS	1	2	0	0%	0	0%
TINOS	11	14	11	100%	14	100%
TOPIROS	2	5	2	100%	5	100%
TRIFILIA	2	3	2	100%	3	100%
FAISTOS	3	5	3	100%	5	100%
CHALKI	1	1	0	0%	0	0%
CHALKIDA	4	9	4	100%	9	100%
CHANIA	15	28	15	100%	28	100%
XERSONISOS	33	33	33	100%	33	100%
CHIOS	5	8	5	100%	8	100%
OROPOS	5	7	0	0%	0	0%

## LIFEGUARDS PER REGION

REGION	OBLIGATION FOR LIFEGUARD COVERAGE		ACTUAL LIFEGUARD COVERAGE			
	POSITIONS	BEACHES	POSITIONS	BEACHES PERCENTAGE	BEACHES	COVERAGE PERCENTAGE
SOUTH MACEDONIA & THRACE	76	49	75	98%	48	99%
ATTICA	107	80	88	85%	68	82%
NORTH AEGEAN	9	6	9	100%	6	100%
WEST GREECE	68	57	67	98%	56	99%
EPIRUS	33	22	33	100%	22	100%
THESSALY	37	28	37	100%	28	100%
IONIAN ISLANDS	55	31	54	97%	30	98%
CENTRAL MACEDONIA	110	69	110	100%	69	100%
CRETE	162	99	160	99%	98	99%
SOUTH AEGEAN	140	99	125	91%	90	89%
PELOPONNESE	67	34	54	85%	29	81%
CENTRAL GREECE	30	18	27	94%	17	90%

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF LIFEGUARDS IN 13 REGIONS

### EPIRUS REGION

**33 lifeguard positions in 22 beaches.** In 2024 the total number of lifeguards was in place.

### THESSALY REGION

**37 lifeguard positions in 28 beaches.** In 2024 the total number of lifeguards was in place.

### EASTERN MACEDONIA & THRACE REGION

**It has 76 lifeguard positions across 49 beaches.** In 2024, 75 lifeguards were assigned to 48 beaches.

### WESTERN MACEDONIA REGION

There is no coastal area.

### CENTRAL MACEDONIA REGION

Έχει 93 θέσεις ναυαγοσωστών σε 68 παραλίες. Το 2024 τοποθετήθηκε το σύνολο των ναυαγοσωστών σε όλες τις παραλίες.

### WESTERN GREECE REGION

**It has 68 lifeguard positions in 57 beaches.** In 2024 67 lifeguards were placed in 56 beaches.

### CENTRAL GREECE REGION

**It has 30 lifeguard positions in 18 beaches.** In 2024 27 lifeguards were placed in 17 beaches.

### NORTH AEGEAN REGION

**It has 12 lifeguard posts across 8 beaches.** In 2024, the total number of lifeguards was in place.

### ATTICA REGION

**It has 107 lifeguard positions in 80 beaches.** In 2024 88 lifeguards were placed in 68 beaches .

### IONIAN ISLANDS REGION

**It has 99 lifeguard positions in 53 beaches.** In 2024 67 lifeguards were placed in 58 beaches.

### PELOPONNESE REGION

**It has 67 lifeguard positions in 34 beaches.** In 2024 54 lifeguards were placed in 29 beaches .

### CRETE REGION

**It has 162 lifeguard positions in 99 beaches.** In 2024 160 lifeguards were placed in 98 beaches .

### SOUTH AEGEAN REGION

**It has 140 lifeguard positions in 90 beaches.** In 2024 125 lifeguards were placed in 90 beaches .

The map shows the beaches and number of lifeguard positions that every Region had to have in 2024 as well as the beaches and positions that were actually filled.

## NUMBER OF BEACHES WITH OBLIGATORY LIFEGUARD COVERAGE

**439** BEACHES  
WITH **1** LIFEGUARD

**93** BEACHES  
WITH **2** LIFEGUARDS

**62** BEACHES  
WITH **3** LIFEGUARDS

**5** BEACHES  
WITH **5** LIFEGUARDS

**3** BEACHES  
WITH **6** LIFEGUARDS

**8** BEACHES  
WITH **4** LIFEGUARDS

**3** BEACHES  
WITH **8** LIFEGUARDS

**1** BEACH  
WITH **7** LIFEGUARDS

**1** BEACH  
WITH **11** LIFEGUARDS

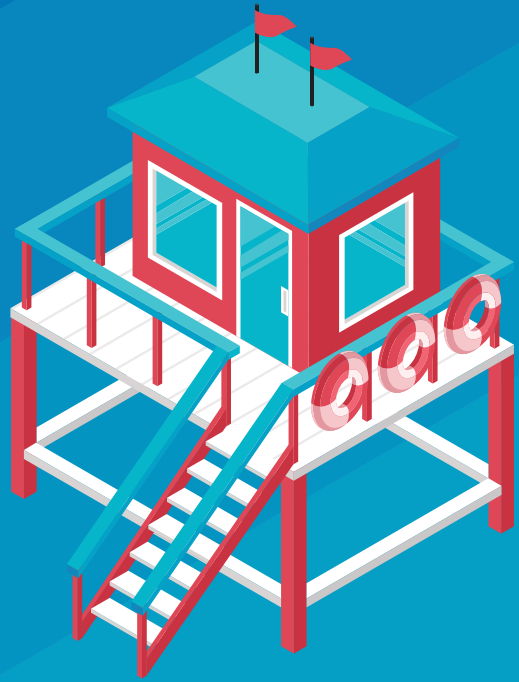
**1** BEACH  
WITH **13** LIFEGUARDS





Safe Water Sports has developed an innovative application called Lifeguard Rescue, which records in real time the rescues and the provision of first aid on beaches by lifeguards. In 2024, the app was in operation on beaches in 21 municipalities, where 3,304 rescue incidents were recorded by the Port Authority. Of these: 382 rescues were carried out either by swimming, with a jet ski, or with a speedboat. The remaining 2,922 incidents involved first aid without rescue, such as defibrillation, CPR, or the use of other medical equipment.





**2.922**

FIRST AID  
(WITHOUT RESCUES)



**1**

WITH A  
SPLINT



**2921**

WITH OTHER  
MEDICAL  
EQUIPMENT



**35**

TRANSPORTATION  
TO THE HOSPITAL



**2.887**

WITHOUT TRANSPORTATION  
TO THE HOSPITAL



FIRST AID

LIFEGUARD  
RESCUE





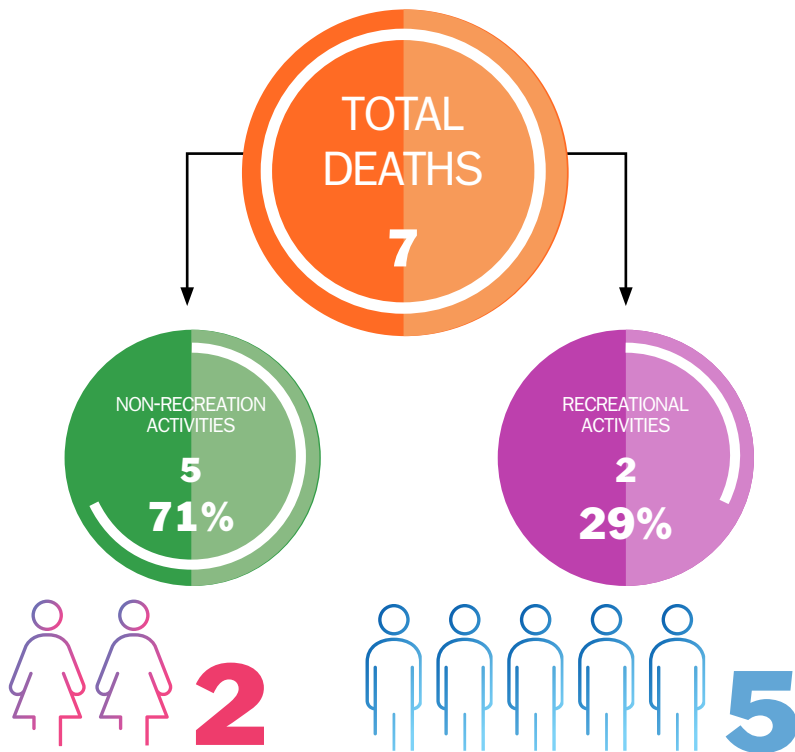


## CHAPTER 4

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# ACCIDENTS IN INTERNAL WATERS

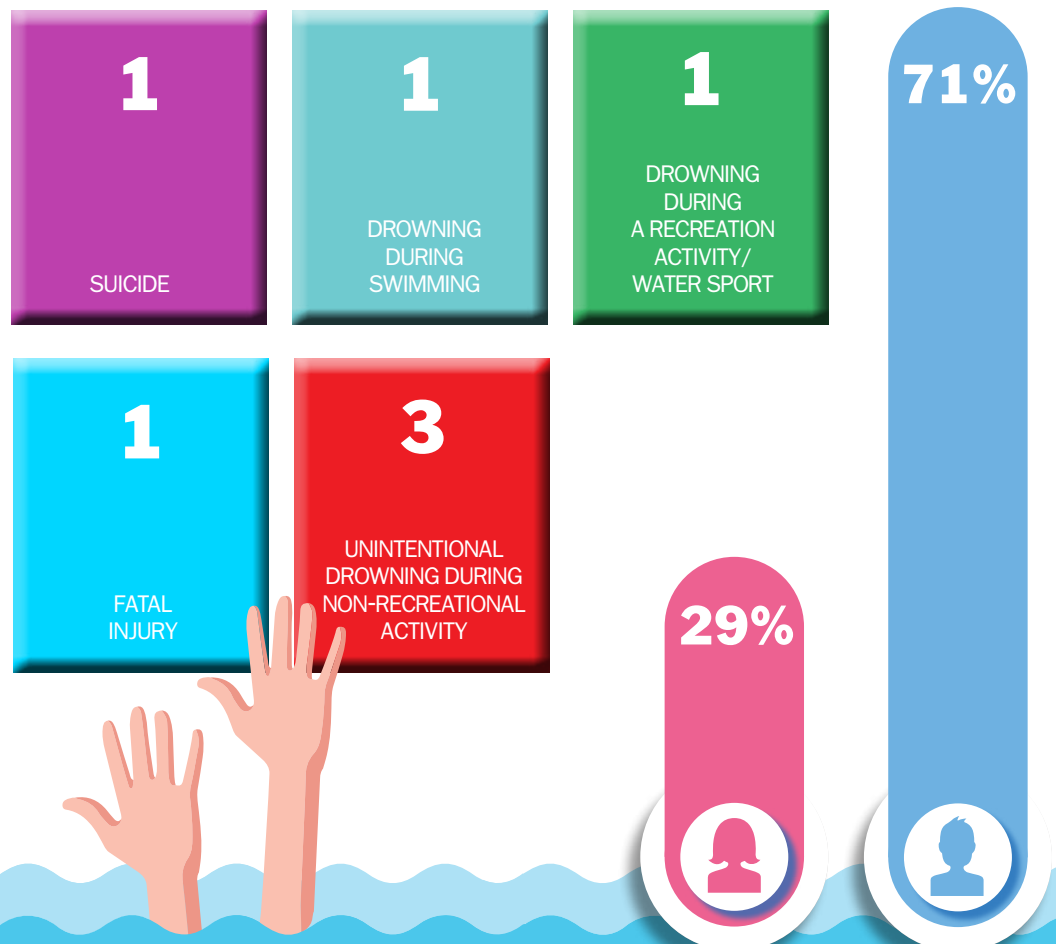
## DEATHS IN INTERNAL WATERS



The Observatory for Accidents separates fatal accidents that take place in internal waters (such as lakes, rivers, hotel or private pools, sports facilities, water tanks, etc.) in two categories: a) Those that happen during sports or recreational activities (during swimming or other water activity, like rafting, fishing etc.) and b) those that are involuntary accidents/fatal accidents, suicides, illegal entries into the country and fatal injuries).

### RECREATION ACTIVITY

In 2024, there were 7 recorded fatalities in inland waters, of which 2 occurred during recreational activities (1 while swimming and 1 during another water-based recreational activity, e.g., fishing), and 5 occurred during non-recreational activities. In the remaining sections of this study, we will primarily analyze the data relating to recreational activities





# FATAL ACCIDENTS IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN INLAND WATERS

In the following pages, we will analyze the data and information related to the 2 fatal accidents that occurred in inland waters during recreational activities (swimming, water sports, fishing, etc.).

## NATIONALITY

The **2** people who lost their lives in recreational activities were Greek.



**2** GREEKS

## PER TIME PERIOD (MONTH)

The time period during which the deaths in recreational activities were recorded was **1** death in June and **1** in August.



## TIME PERIOD (HOURS)

**1** death was recorded between 12:00–18:00 and **1** death was recorded between 18:00–24:00.

## LOCATION

The **2** fatal incidents in recreational activities occurred in a hotel swimming pool and in a lake.

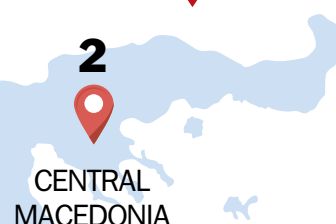
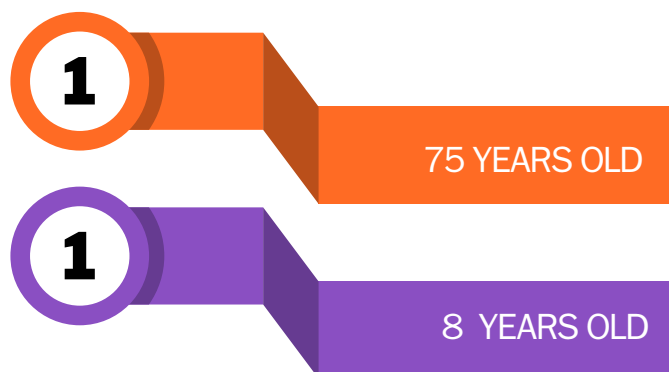
HOTEL SWIMMING POOL

LAKE



## AGES

The people who lost their lives in recreational activities were an 8-year-old child and a 75-year-old adult.



## GEOGRAPHIC REGION (MAP)

The **2** fatal incidents in recreational activities were recorded in the Region of Central Macedonia.



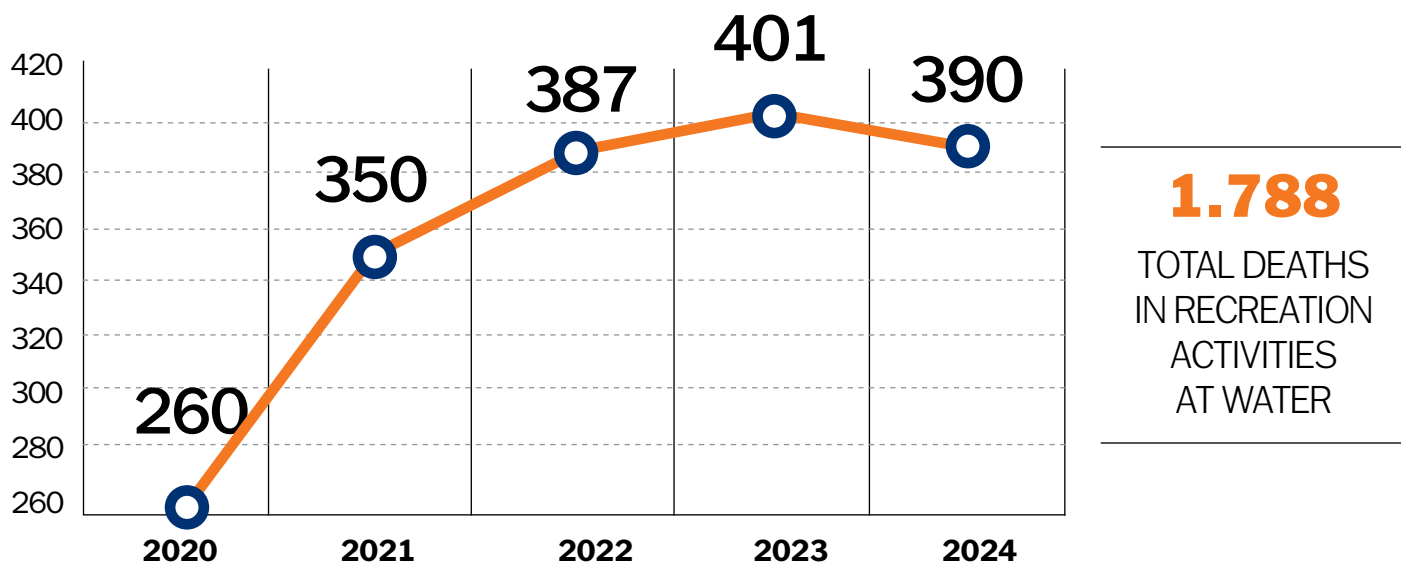


# UNIT B

## ANALYSIS OF ACCIDENTS DURING RECREATION ACTIVITIES 2020- 2024



For the period 2020–2024, the average number of fatal accidents in recreational activities that took place in the country's aquatic environment (at sea and in inland waters) is 357.



## ANNUAL AVERAGE 2020-2024

**357**

Sea

**353 (99%)**

Internal Waters

**4 (1%)**

Men



**70%**

Women



**30%**

Greeks



**70%**

Other nationalities



**30%**



# CHAPTER 5

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## ACCIDENTS AT SEA RECREATION ACTIVITIES 2020- 2024

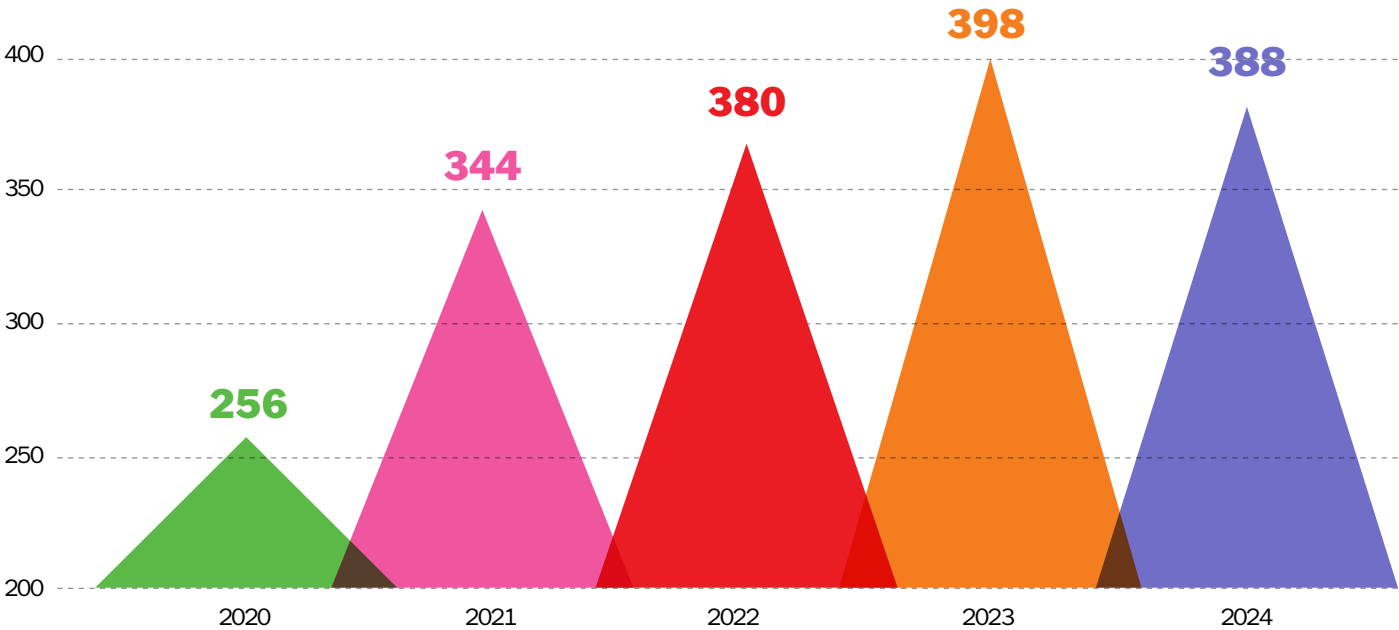


# FATAL ACCIDENTS

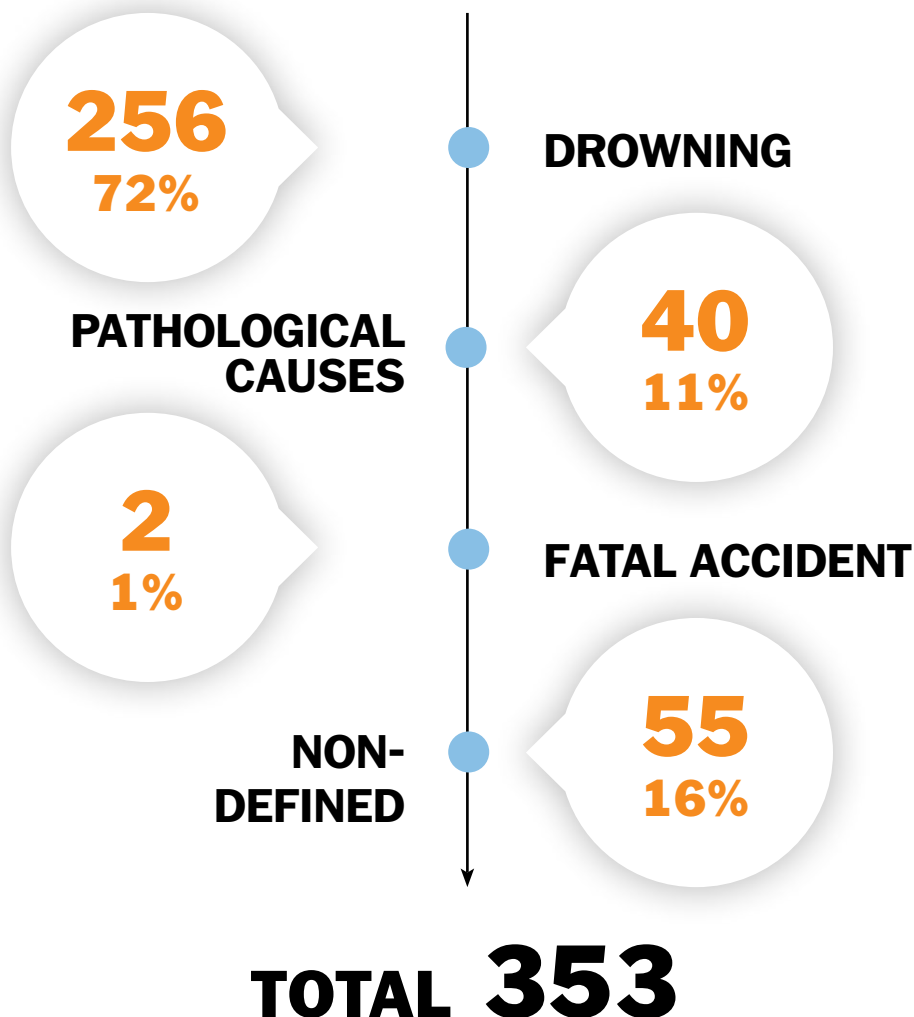
In 2020 an important reduction of the total number of fatal accidents was recorded for the first time, something that can be attributed to the pandemic and the much smaller number of visitors in comparison to precious years. The following graph presents the annual fatal accidents.

**353**  
5-YEAR AVERAGE

**1.766**  
TOTAL DEATHS  
IN 5 YEARS



## TYPE OF FATAL ACCIDENT

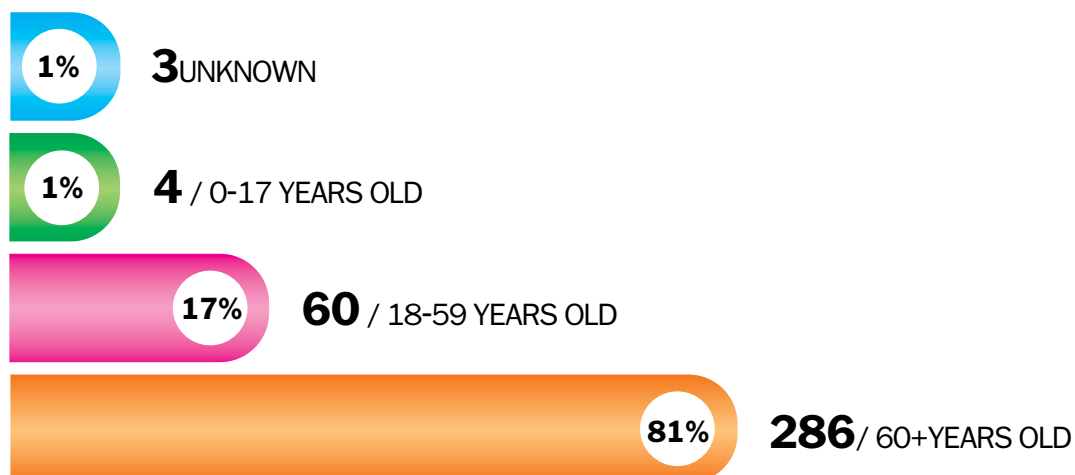


Of the 353 deaths that occur on average each year during the period 2020–2024, 256 are due to drowning (72%), 55 to non-defined causes (16%), 40 to pathological causes (11%), and 2 (1%) to fatal accidents.

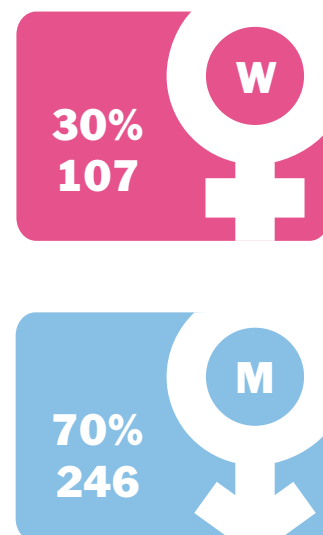
**7 OUT OF 10**  
ON AVERAGE  
LOSE  
THEIR LIVES  
AT SEA FROM  
DROWNING

## AGES

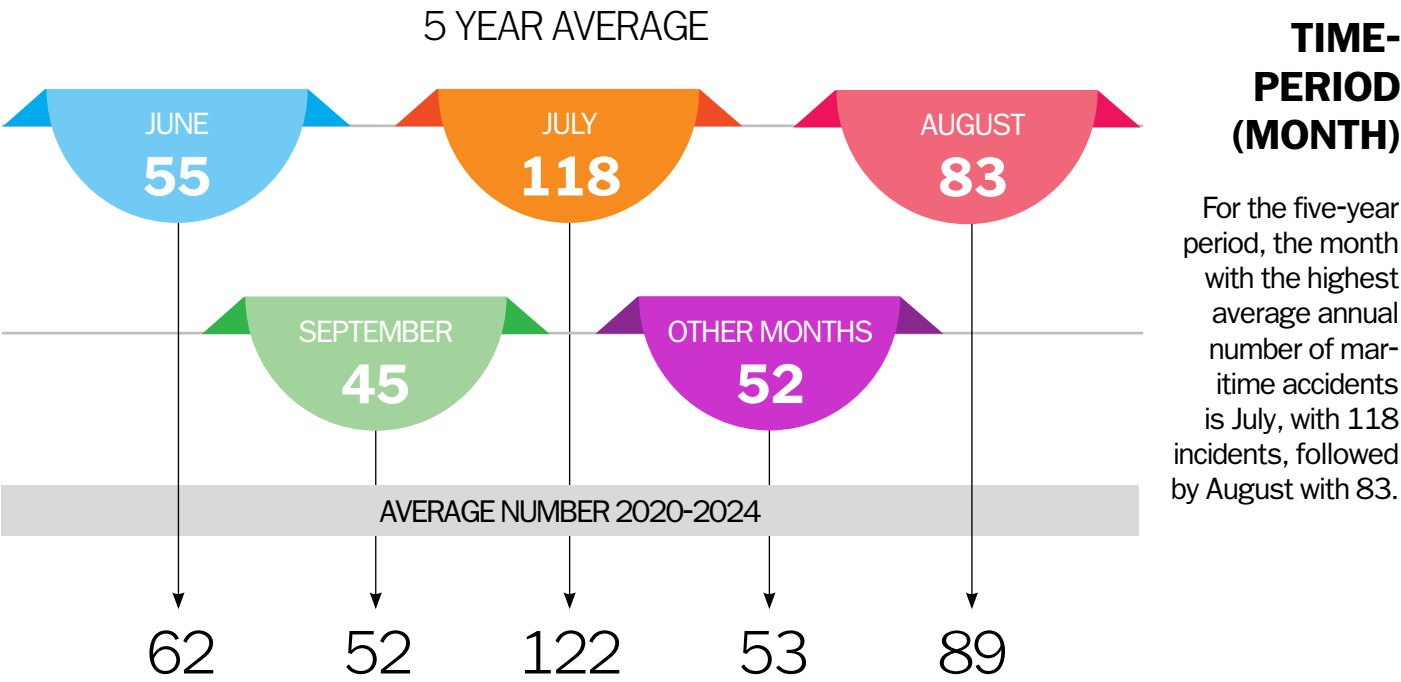
During the five-year period 2020–2024, an average of 353 deaths occurred annually, of which 286 (81%) involved individuals over the age of 60.



## GENDER

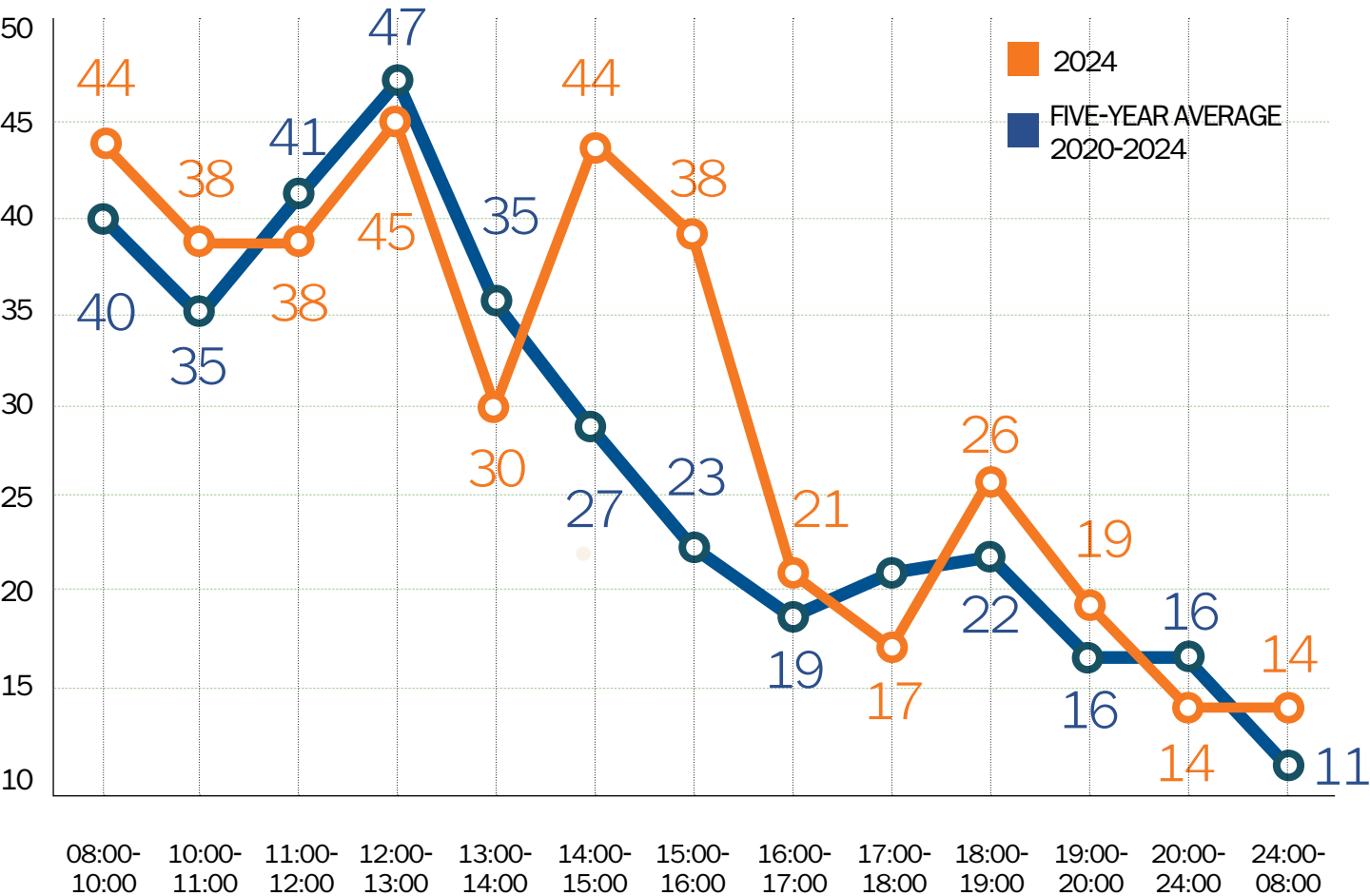


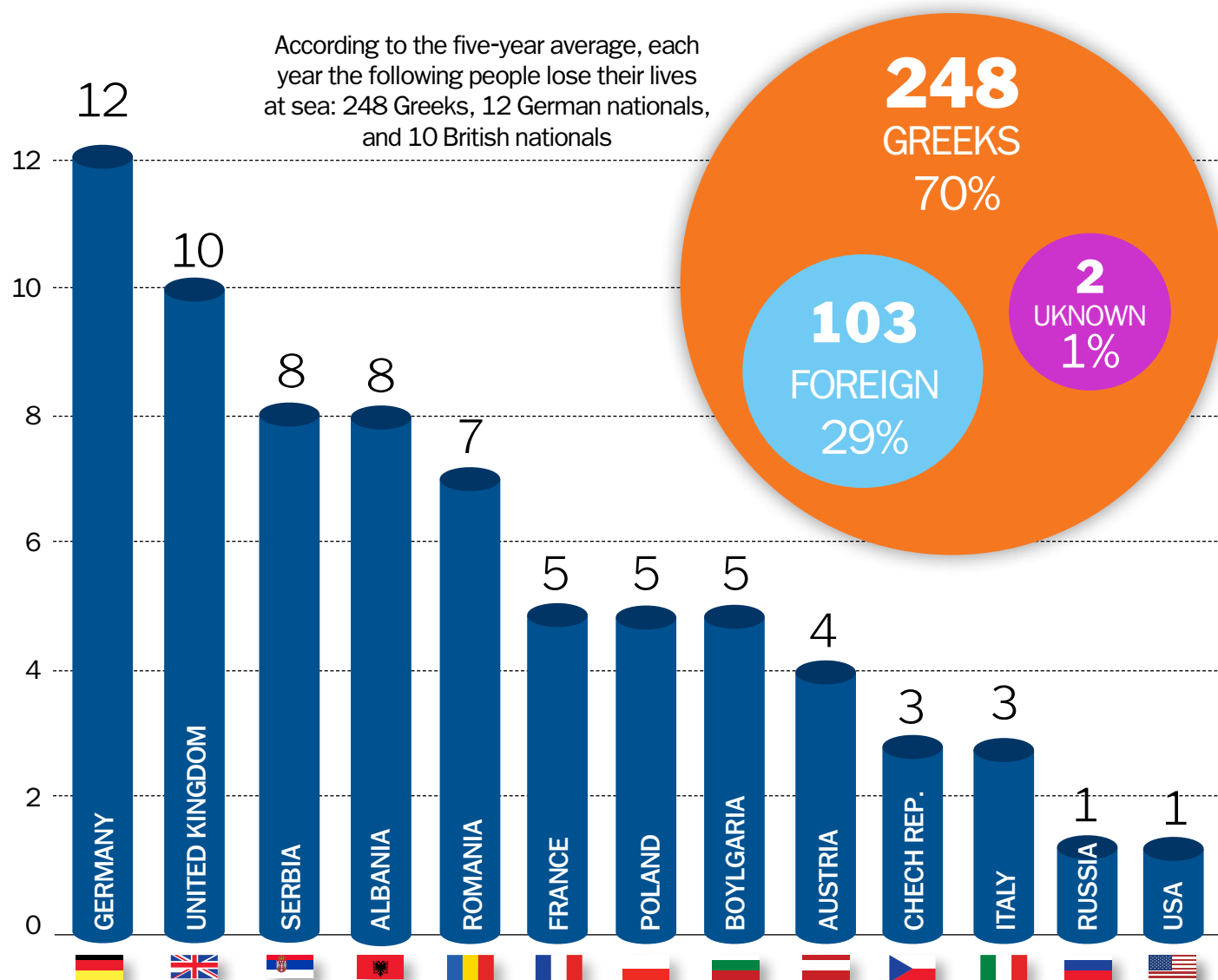
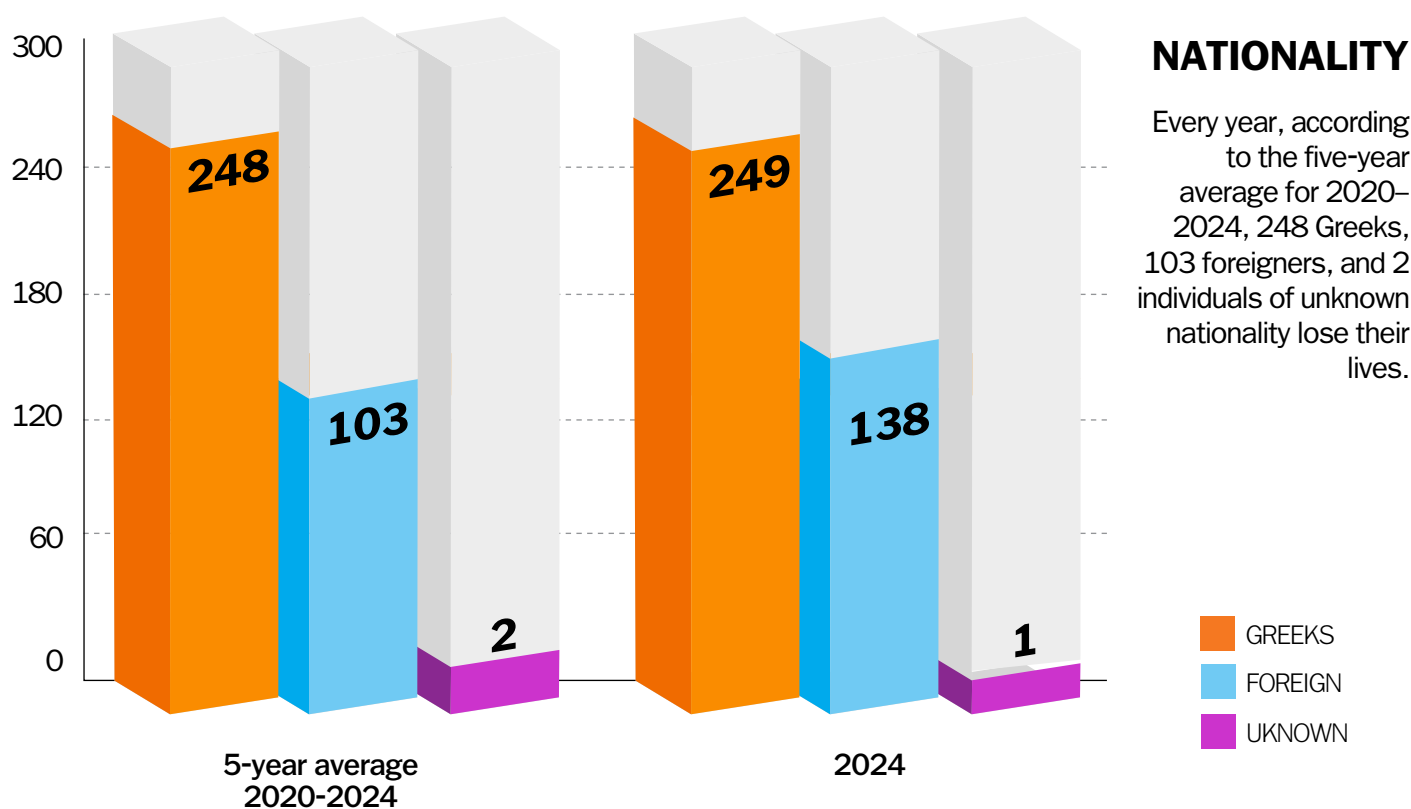




**TIME PERIOD (HOURS)**

The time period between 12:00 and 13:00 is when, on average, the highest number of fatal accidents are recorded.





## MUNICIPALITIES

For the five-year period, the municipalities with the highest total number of deaths are the Municipality of Rhodes with 62 in total, the region of Corfu with 33, the Municipality of Nea Propontida with 40, and the Municipality of Thermaikos with 39.



SITHONIA 21  
PAGGAIO 20  
ERMIONIDA 19  
MEGARA 19  
AEGINA 17  
PREVEZA 17

KARYSTOS 17  
GLYFADA 17  
NAFLIO 14  
IGOUMENITSA 14  
NAFPAKTISA 14  
ALEXANDROUPOLI 14

LOKROI 13  
STYLIDA 13  
PALAION FALIRO 12  
TANAGRA 12  
PYLOS-NESTOR 12  
EAST MANI 10

CHIOS 10  
THESSALONIKI 9  
KALAMATA 7

## BEACHES

The table presents the beaches with the highest number of fatal accidents per municipality from 2020 to 2024, as well as the legally required lifeguard deployment and the actual lifeguard coverage implemented each year.

BEACH -MUNICIPALITY	ΣΥΝΟΛΟ	2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
		Θ	N	K	Θ	N	K	Θ	N	K	Θ	N	K	Θ	N	K
BEACH PARALIAS NEO, KATERINI	10				1	8	0	1	8	0	4	8	0	4	8	8
BEACH A ALIPEDO ALIMOS, ATTICA	14	1	1	0	4	1	0	4	1	0	3	1	0	2	1	1
RETHYMNO, CRETE	13				4	8	0	4	8	0	1	8	0	4	8	8
NEA KALIKRATEIA, NEA PROPONTIDA	6	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0				2	1	1
PLAKA DILESI, TANAGRA	6	3	2	0	1	2	0	2	2	0						
PLAZ (AGIA) PATRA	8	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	4	2	2
NEA POTIDEA, NEA PROPONTIDA	5				1	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	0			
AGIA MARINA, STYLIDA	5				2	0	0	1	0	0				2	0	0
AGIOS SPYRIDON, MARKOPOULO MESOGAIAS	5	1	1	0				3	1	0	1	1	0			
BEACH NEON PORON, DION-OLYMPUS	14				4	3	0				4	3	0	6	3	3
BEACH OLYMPIAKIS AKTIS NEO, KATERINI	9	1	7	0	1	7	0	1	7	0	2	7	0	4	7	7
ALYKES, CHALKIDA	4	1	3	0	1	3	0							2	3	3
FROM MAKARIA PIGI-EVROPIS STR., MARATHON	4															
FROM TRIAINA STR. -AGIOS SPYRIDON, SPATA ARTEMIDA	4	0			2	4	4									
ASPROVALTA, VOLVI	8	4	1	0				1	1	0	2	1	0	1	3	3
AVLAKI, MARKOPOULOS MESOGAIAS	6							2	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	1
GLYFADA BEACH, GLYFADA	6	2	0	0	1	1	0				2	1	0	1	1	1
EPANOMI BEACH MUNICIPAL REFRESHMENT STATION, THERMAIKOS	5	1	0	0							2	0	0	2	0	0
DIONYSOS, NEA PROPONTIDA	5	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0			
WEST BEACH STAVROU, VOLVI	7				3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	2
KALAMAKI (YPSOLITHOS) TO CRYSTAL HOTEL, ZAKYNTHOS	0															
KARATHONAS, NAFPLIO	5	1	2	0	2	4	0	1	4	0	1	4	0			
KARIANIS, PAGGAIO	5							1	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
KASTROSYKIA (PHILIPPAS PALMOS), PREVEZA	5	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0			
LAGANA (FROM LAGANA MAIN STREET TO LOUIS HOTEL) ZAKYNTHOS	6				2	3	0	1	3	0	3	3	0			
LOUTRAKI, LOUTRAKI - PERACHORA - AGIOS THEODOROS	7	2	4	0				3	3	0				2	3	3
MARKOPOULOU OROPOU, OROPOS BEACH THAT EXTENDS FOREVER	7	1	2	0				2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
FISHING HARBOR, PALAIO FALIRO	6	3	0	0	2	1	0				1	1	0			
PERAIA WEST OF PERAIA PORT, THERMAIKOS	7	2	1	0	2	1	0				3	1	0			
PEFKOCHORI NO1, CASSANDRA	5	1	1	0										4	1	1
PLATANIAS, PLATANIAS	6							3	6	0	1	6	0	2	6	6
STALOS, AGIA MARINA, CHANIA	6							1	11	0	1	11	0	4	11	11
FOURKA, CASSANDRA	8	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	1

F: Fatal accident

O: Obligatory lifeguard coverage

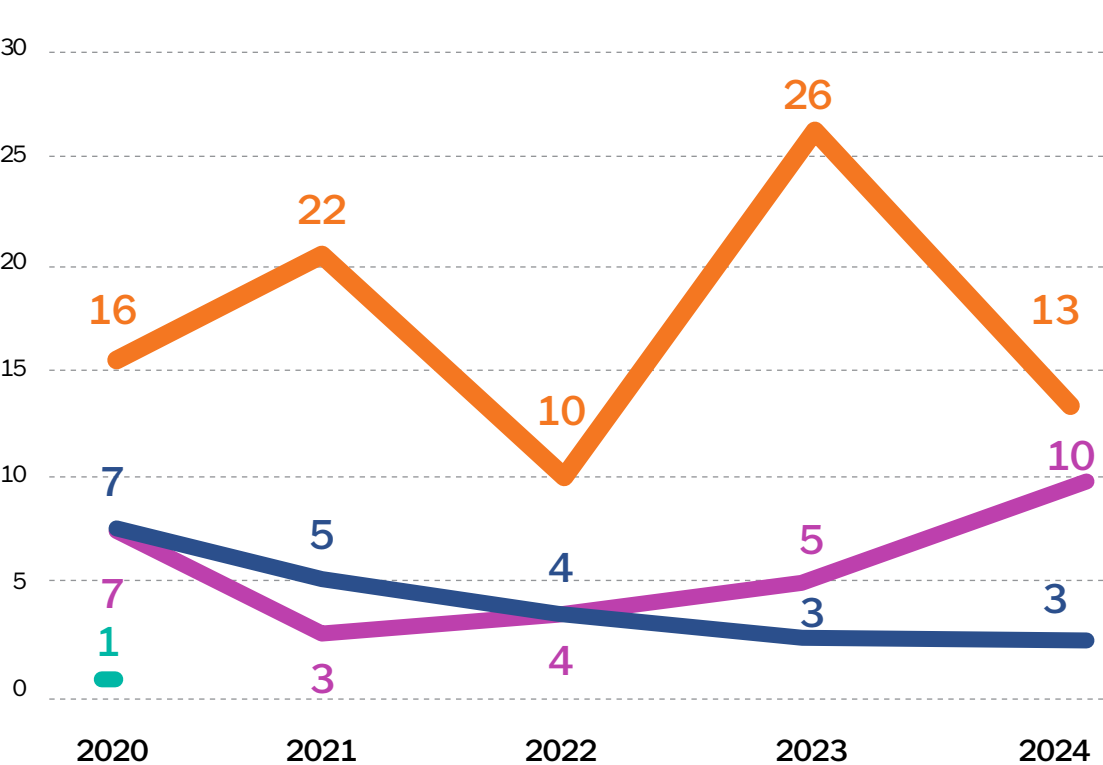
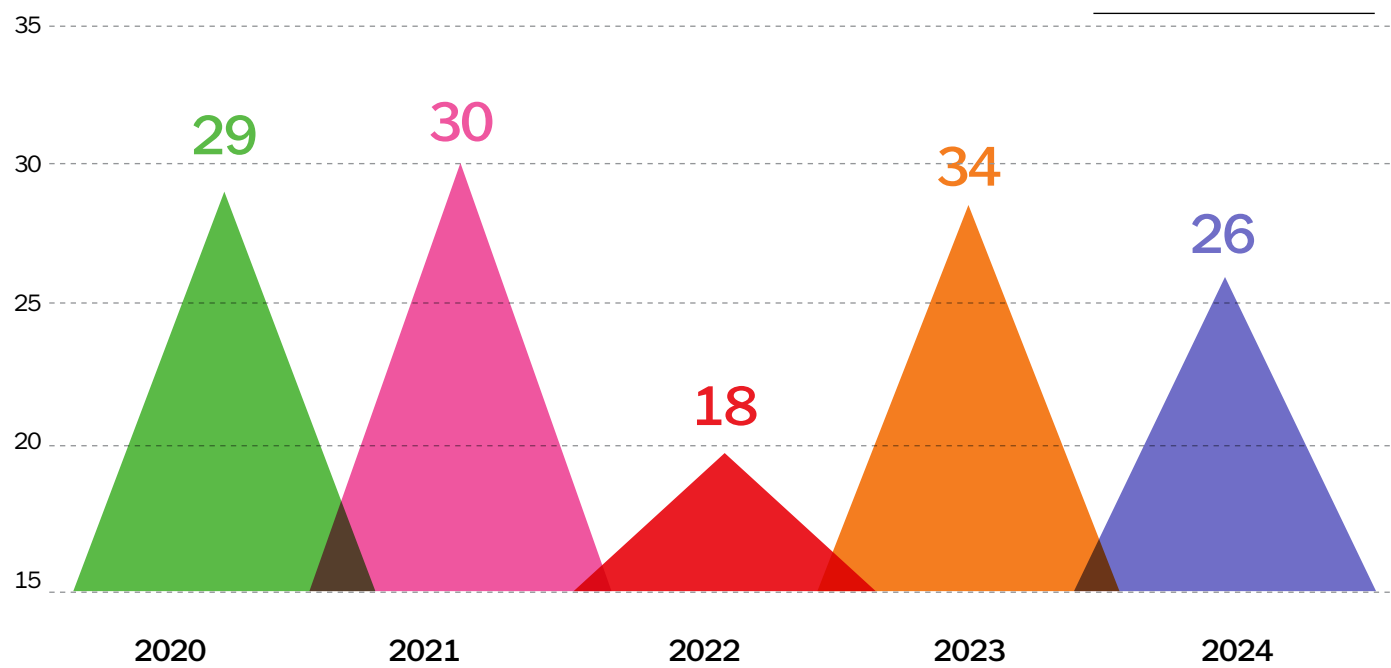
C: Lifeguard coverage per year

# INJURIES AT SEA

For the five-year period, the total number of injuries is 137, with an annual average of 27, representing a 23% decrease compared to the average of the previous five years. Of the 27 average annual injuries during this period, 74% (20 on average) involved men, and the remaining 26% (7 on average) involved women.

27  
5-YEAR AVERAGE

137  
TOTAL  
INJURIES IN THE  
5-YEAR PERIOD



## AGES

From the average number of injuries for the five-year period 2020–2024, it appears that 63% (15) of the injured were individuals aged 18–59, 15% (4) were individuals over 60, 15% were minors aged 13–17, and 7% (2) were young children.

- 18-59
- 60+
- 0-17
- UNKNOWN



## CHAPTER 6

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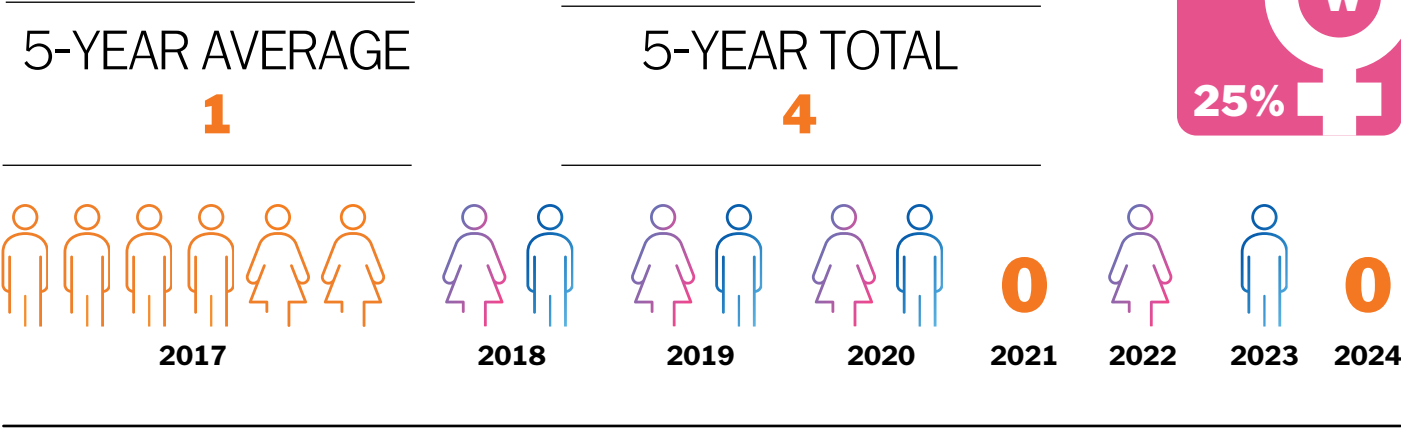
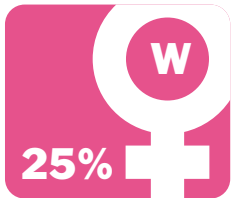
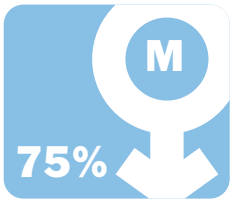
# ACCIDENTS DURING SEA SPORTS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES 2020- 2024



# WATER SPORTS

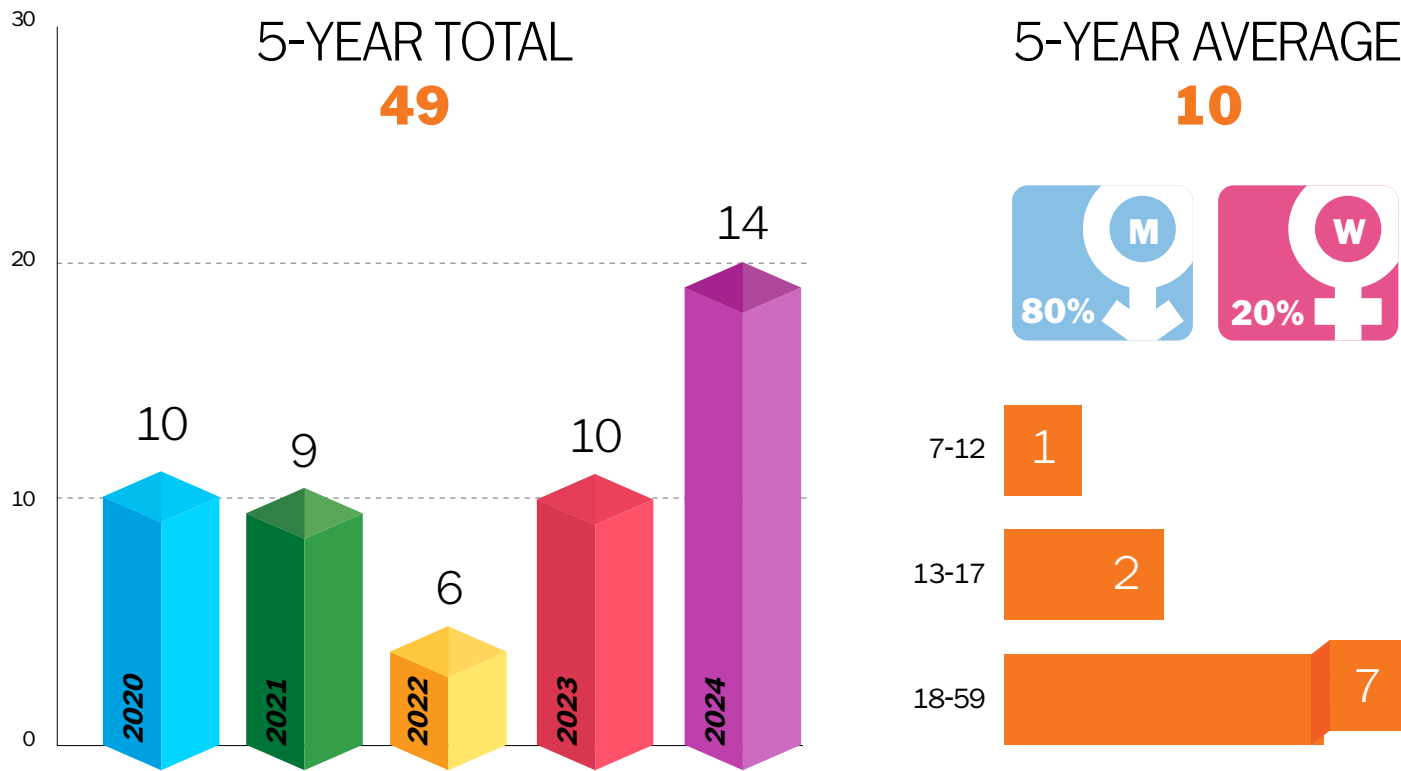
## in rented recreational activities

For the five-year period 2020–2024, an average of 1 fatal accident in water sports is recorded annually. During this period, there were a total of 4 deaths, of which 2 were men and 2 were women.

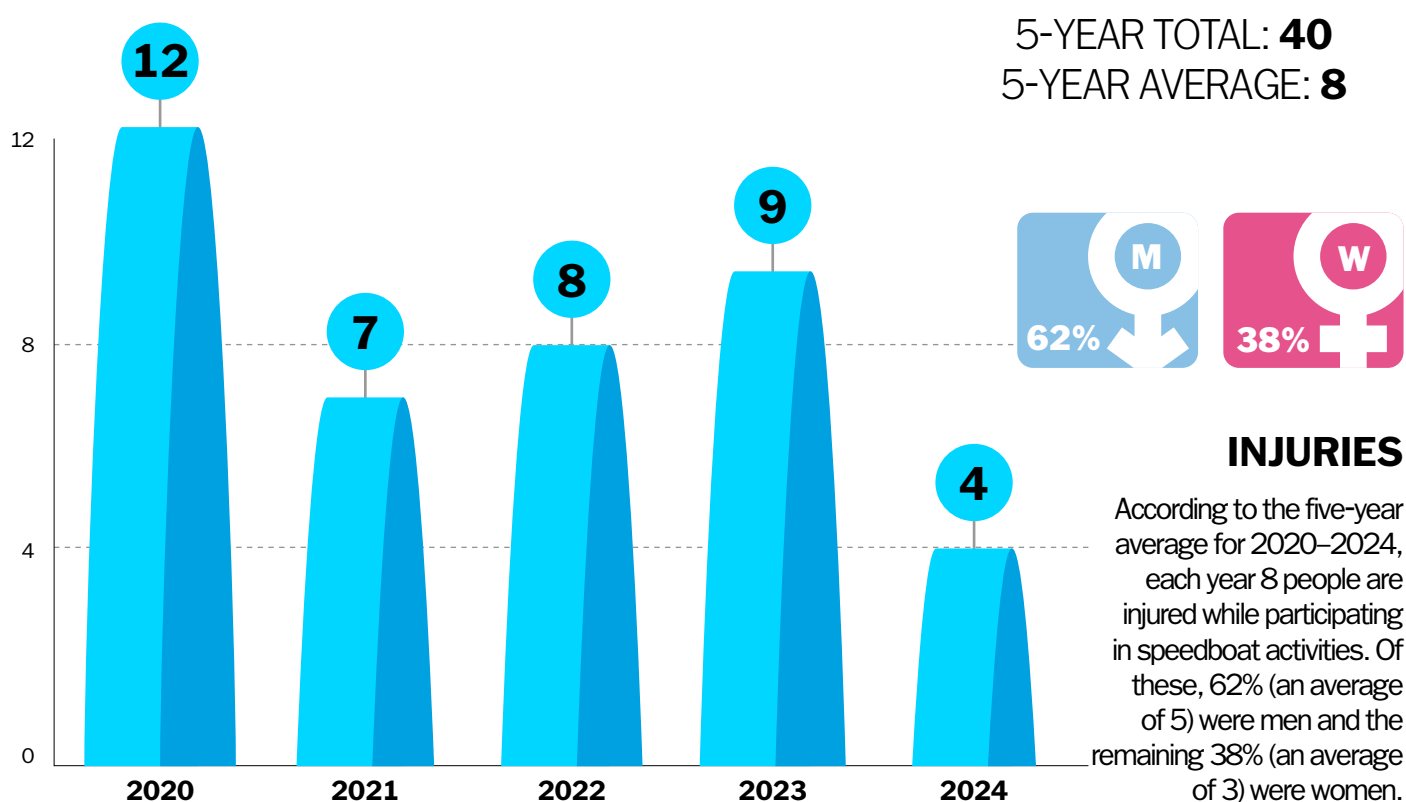
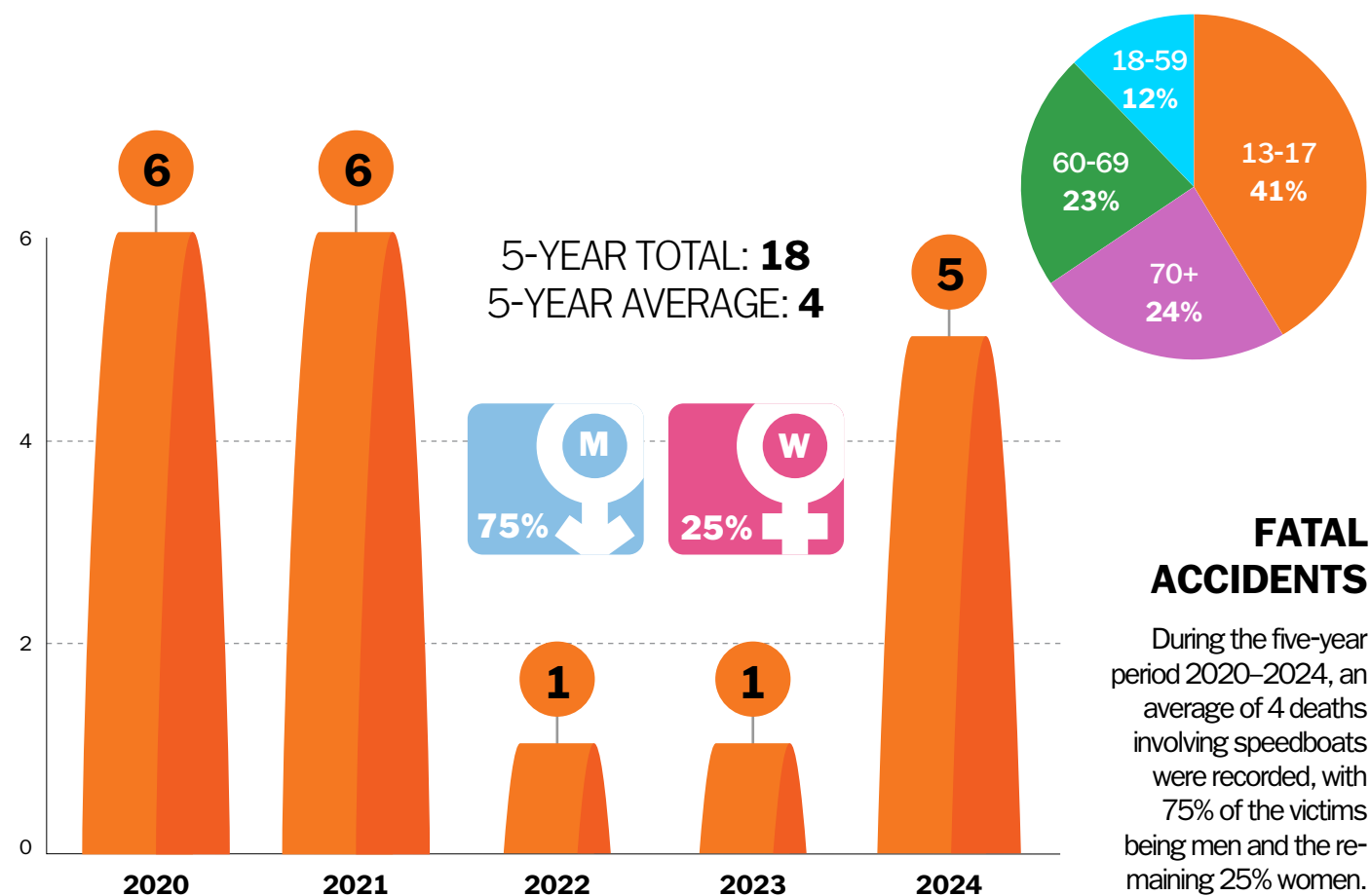


# INJURIES

According to the five-year average (2020–2024), 10 injuries in water sports and recreational watercraft are recorded each year. Of these, 80% (8) involved men and the remaining 20% (2) involved women.



## INVOLVING A SPEED BOAT





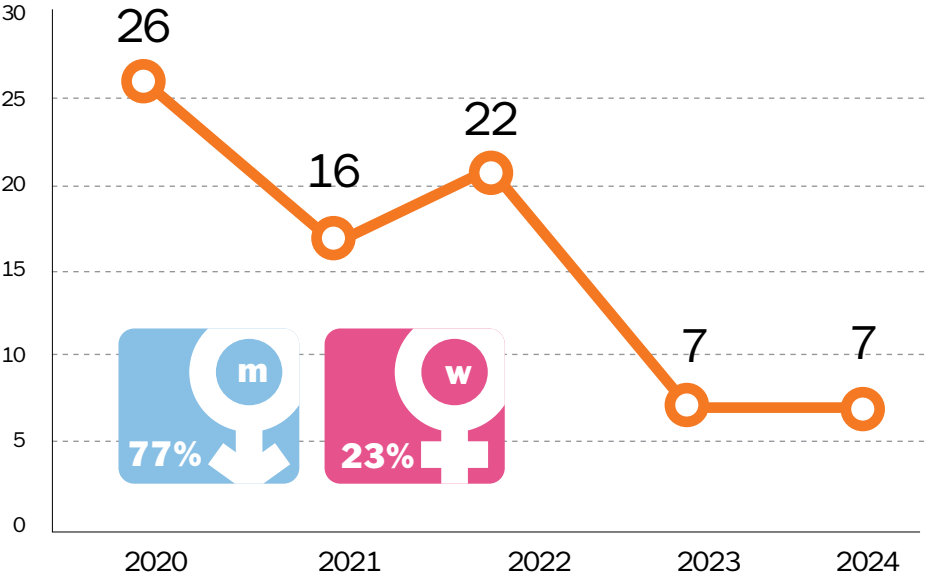


# CHAPTER 7

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## ACCIDENTS IN INTERNAL WATERS 2020- 2024

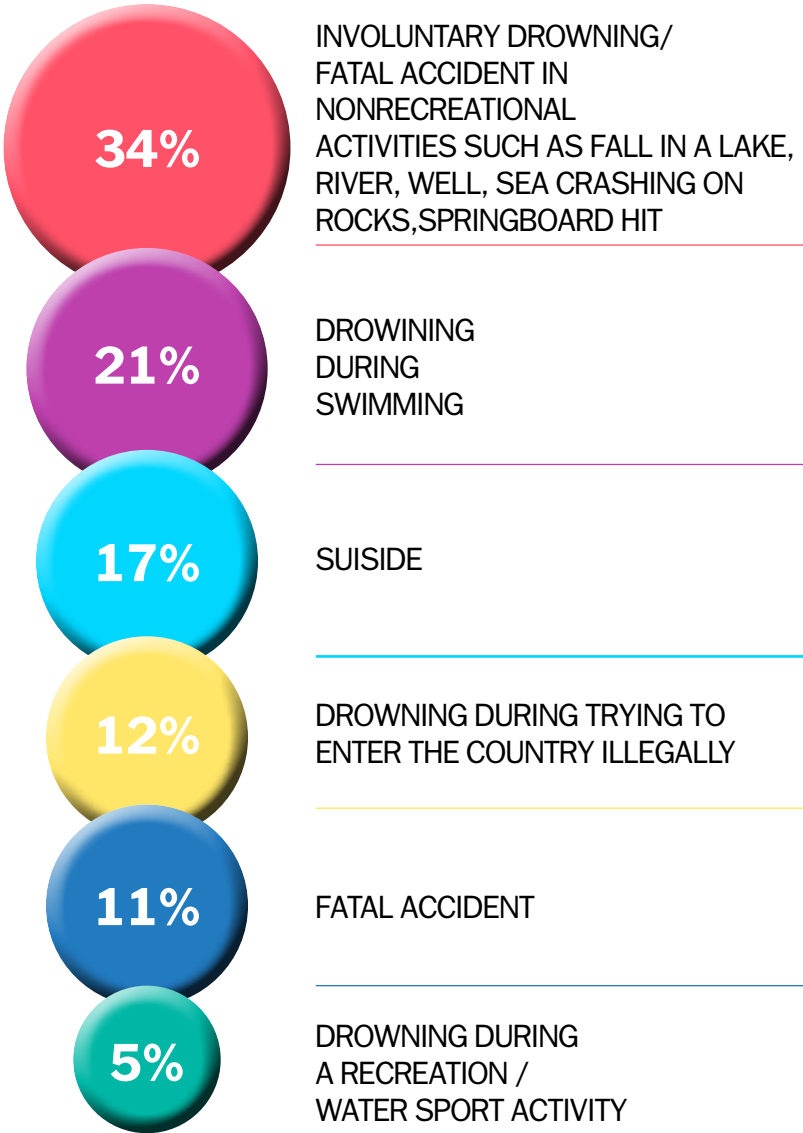
DEATHS



For the five-year period 2020–2024, an average of 16 fatal accidents occurred, with 77% of the victims being men (an average of 10 in total) and the remaining 23% (an average of 6 in total) being women.

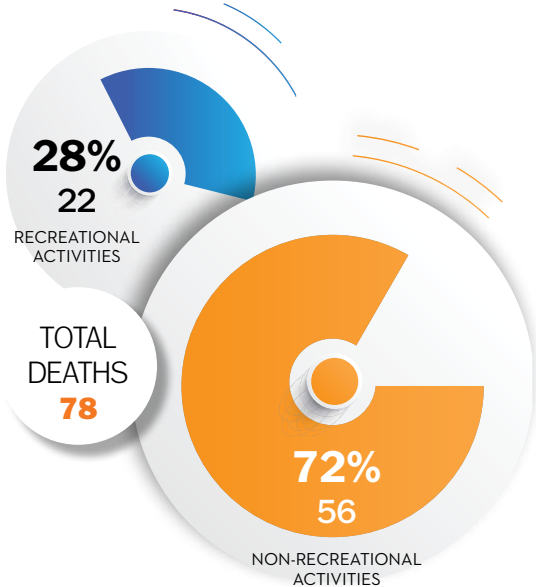
78 5-YEAR  
TOTAL

5-YEAR  
AVERAGE 16



TYPE OF FATAL  
ACCIDENT

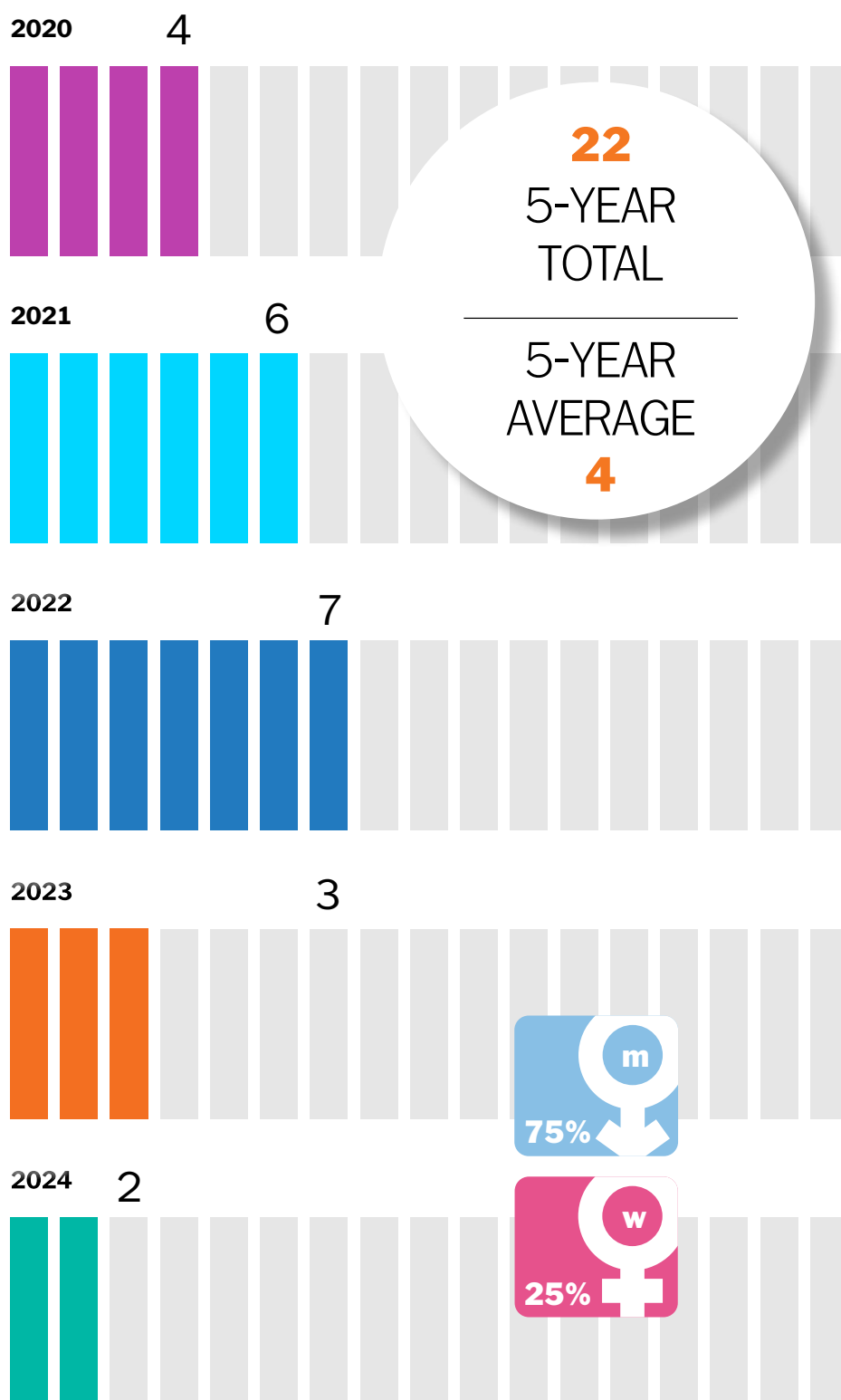
Of the 78 fatal accidents that occurred in inland waters during the five-year period 2020–2024, an average of 34% (6 on average) were due to unintentional drowning during non-recreational activities, 21% (3) to drowning while swimming, 17% (3) to suicide, 12% (2) to incidents during illegal entry, 11% (2) to fatal injury during non-recreational activities, and 5% to drowning during recreational activities.





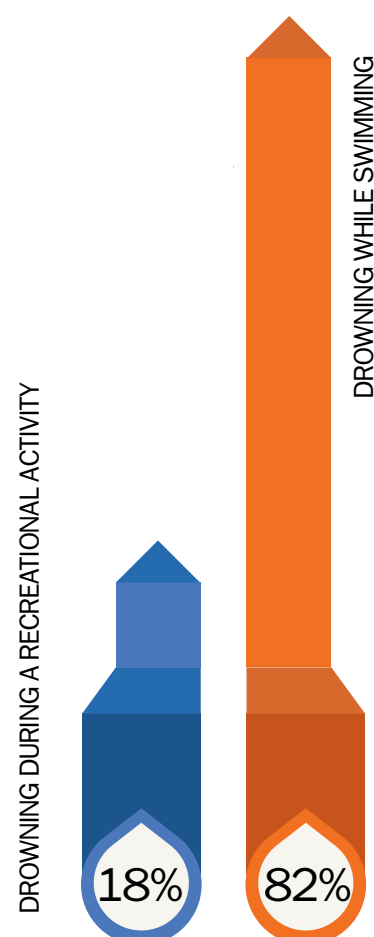
## DEATHS IN RECREATION ACTIVITIES

For the five-year period 2020–2024, an average of 4 fatal accidents occurred in recreational activities, with 75% of the victims being men (3) and the remaining 25% women (1).



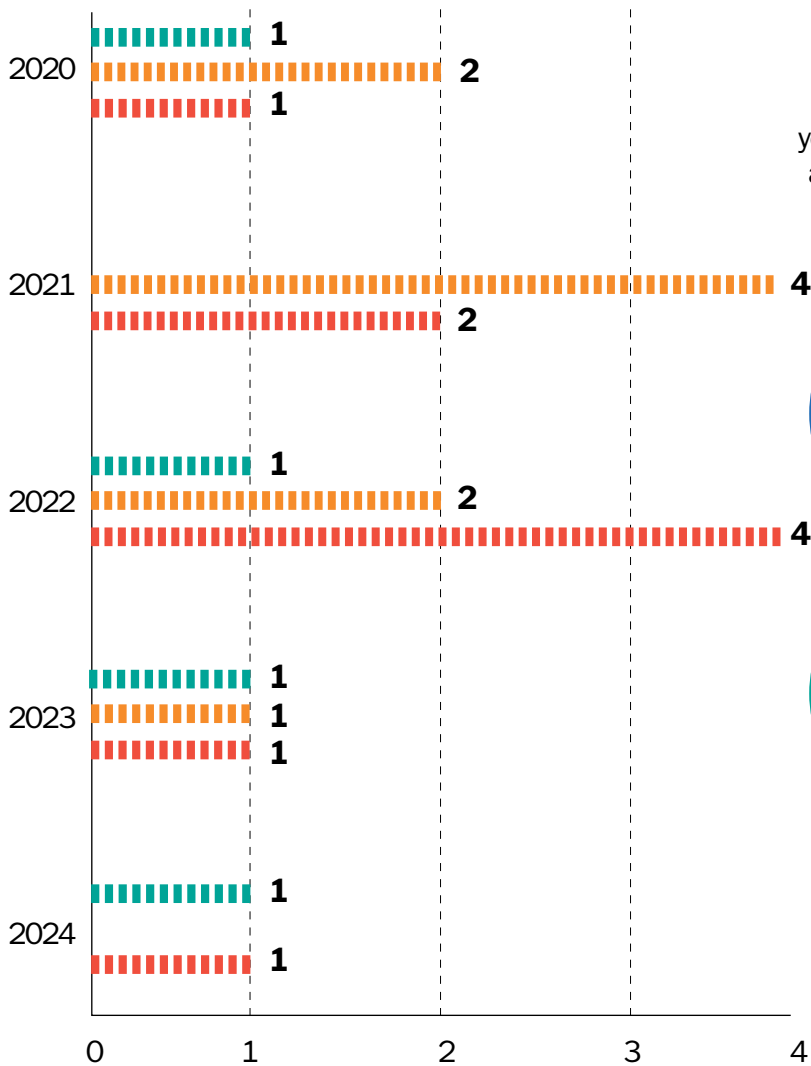
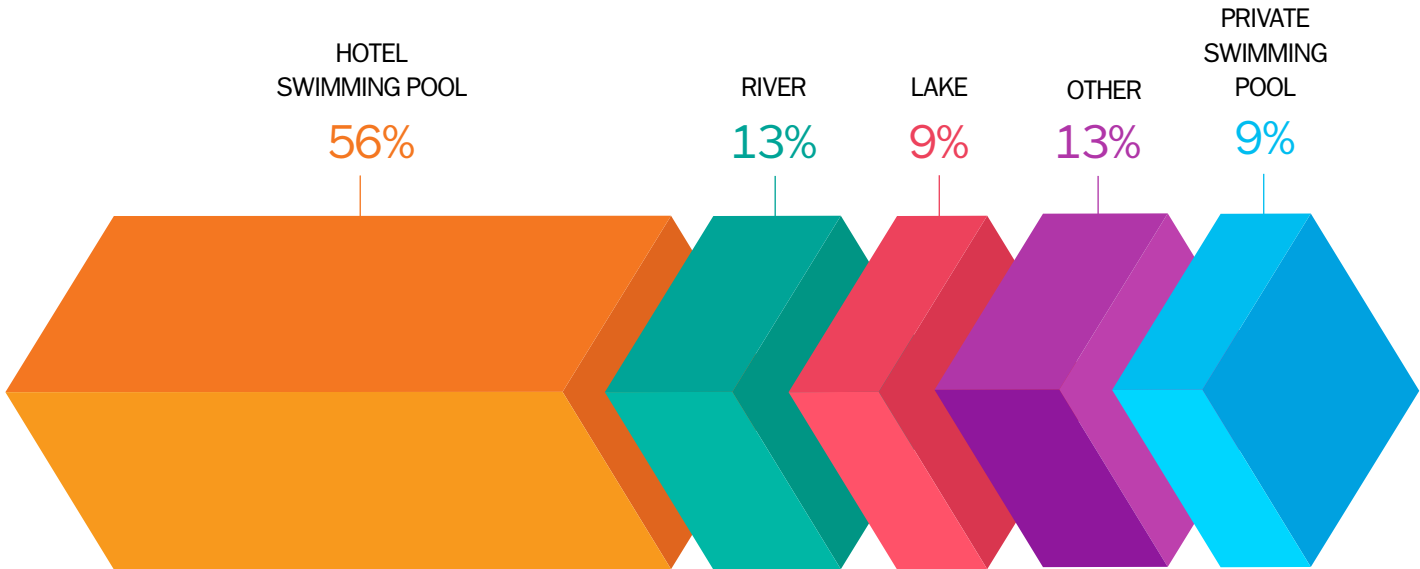
## TYPE OF FATAL ACCIDENT DURING A RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

Out of a total of 22 fatal accidents that occurred in inland waters during recreational activities, 82% (3.6) were drownings during swimming, and 18% (0.8) were fatal accidents involving individuals participating in a recreational/sport activity (fishing, rafting, etc.). In the remaining sections of this study, we will analyze only the data relating to the average for recreational activities.



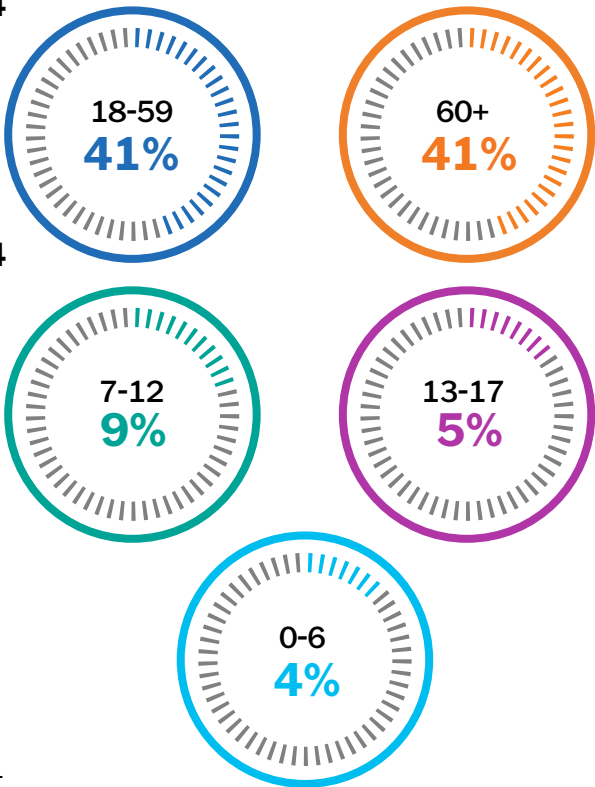
LOCATION

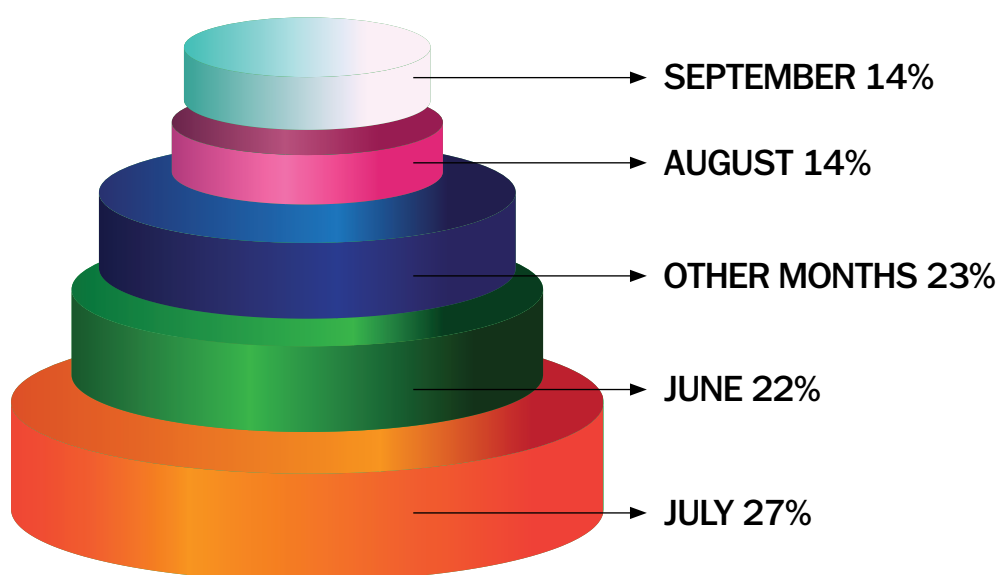
For the five-year period 2020–2024, the largest percentage, 56% (3 on average), of deaths occurred in hotel swimming pools.



AGES

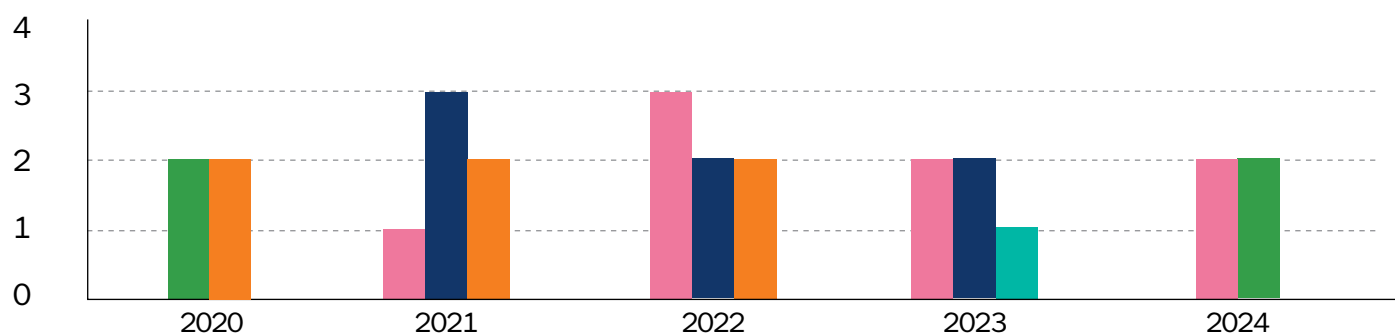
Of the 4 fatal accidents that occur on average each year during recreational activities, 41% of the victims are aged 18–59, another 41% are over 60, and the remaining 18% are aged 0–17 and 60–69.





### ΧΡΟΝΙΚΟ ΔΙΑΣΤΗΜΑ (ΜΗΝΑΣ)

In the five-year period 2020–2024, of the 4 fatal accidents that occur on average annually in inland waters, 27% (1 on average) are recorded in July, 23% in June, 14% in both August and September, and 22% in the remaining months.



### TIME PERIOD (HOURS)

The time period between 12:00 and 18:00 is when most fatal accidents are recorded, accounting for 59% (3 on average) for each time period accordingly.



24:00-06:00

14 %



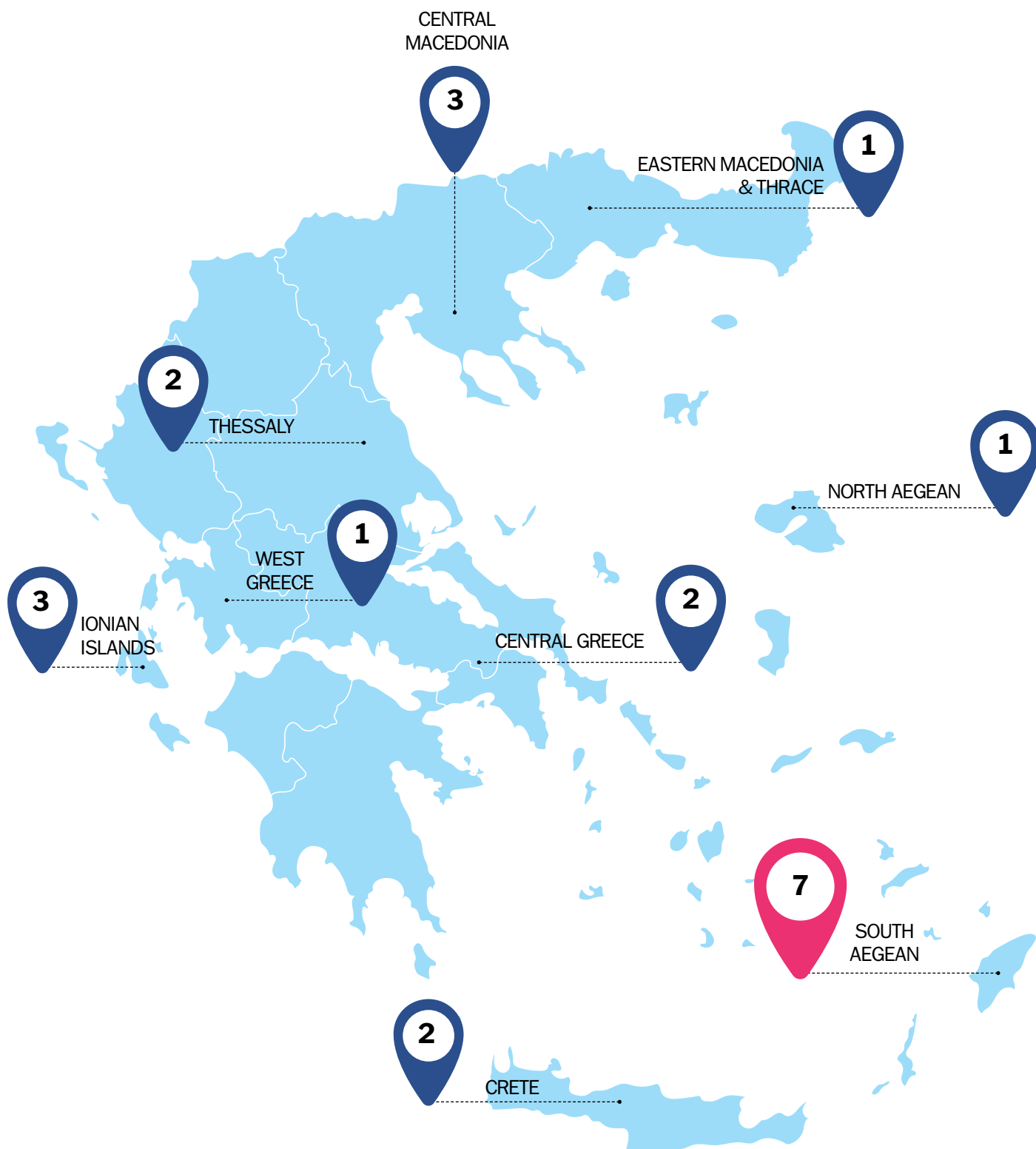
06:00-12:00

4 %



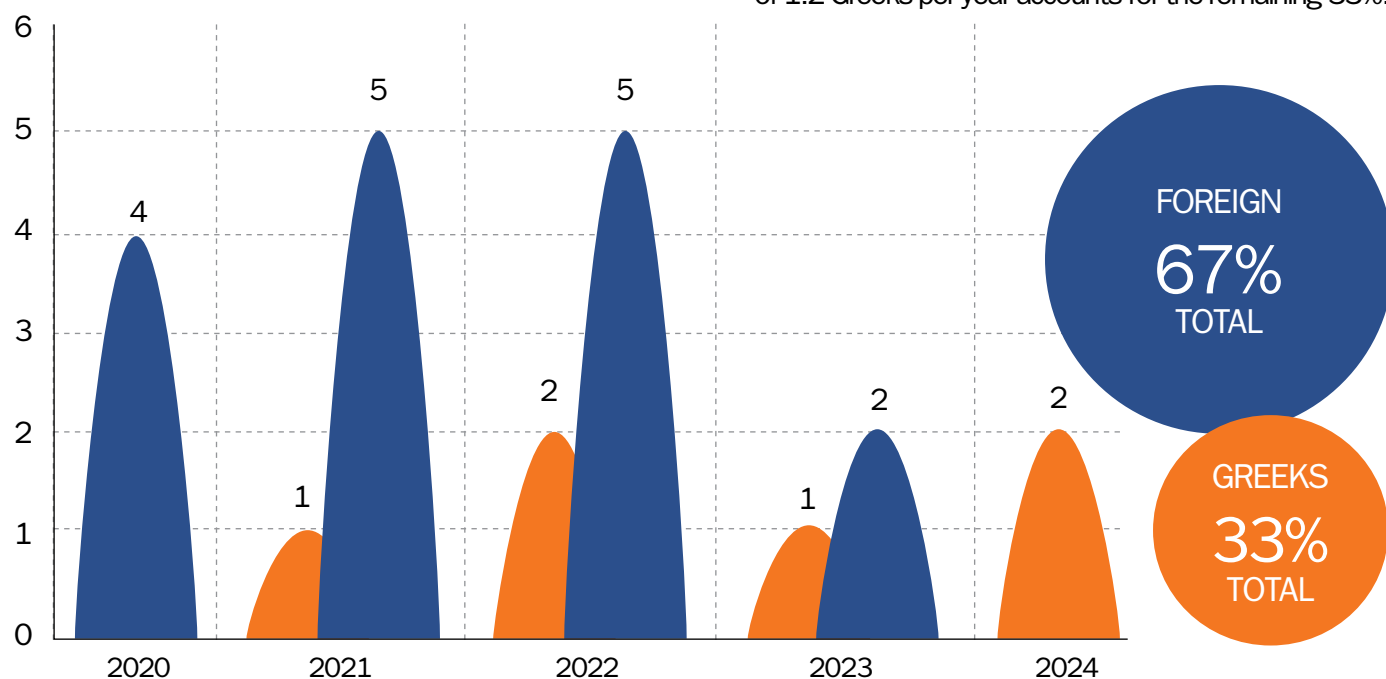
## REGION

For the five-year period 2020–2024, the Regions with the highest number of fatal accidents in recreational activities are the South Aegean Region with a total of 7, and the Ionian Islands Region and the Central Macedonia Region, each with 3.



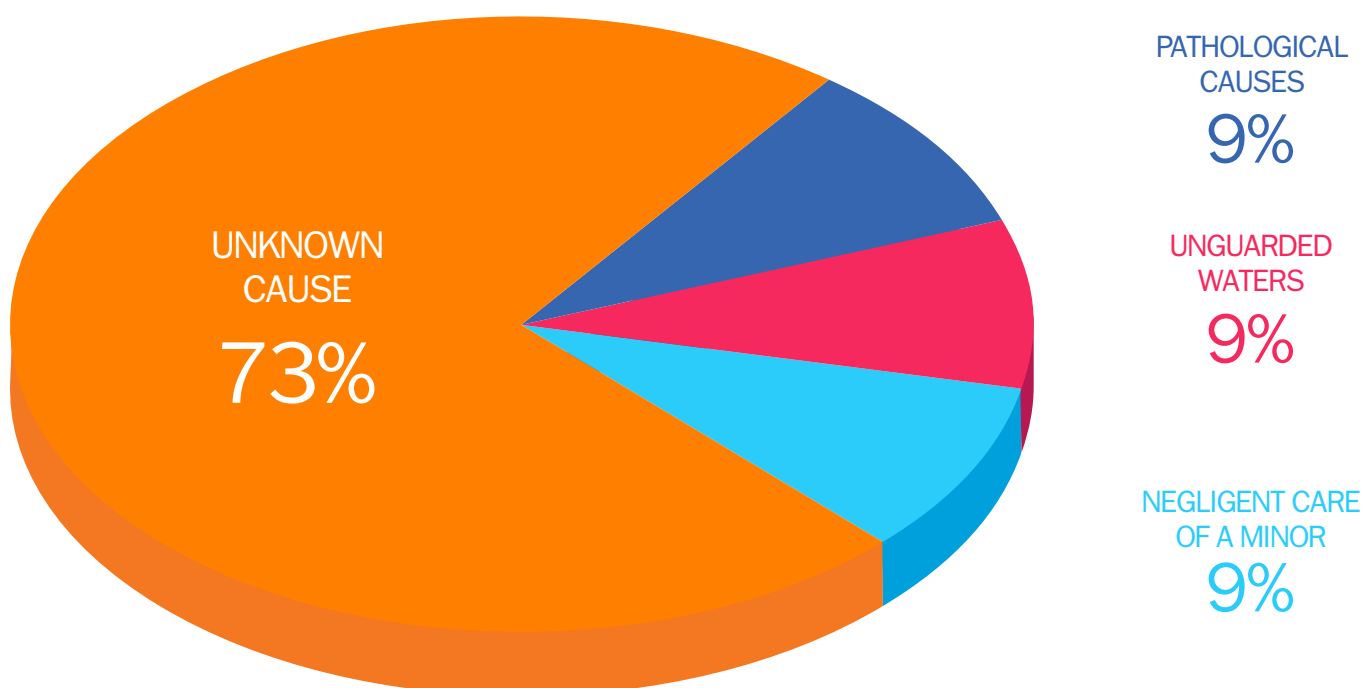
## NATIONALITY

For the five-year period 2020–2024, the data show that more foreigners lose their lives in inland waters, with an average of 2.4 per year, accounting for 67% of fatal accidents, while an average of 1.2 Greeks per year accounts for the remaining 33%.



## CAUSES OF THE INCIDENT

For the five-year period, on average, 9% of people who lose their lives in inland waters die due to pathological causes, inadequate supervision of a minor, and unguarded water, respectively, while the circumstances under which an average of 73% of people lost their lives remain unknown according to the Hellenic Police.





**BE INFORMED**  
**CHECK**  
**BE CAREFUL**  
**ENJOY**



SAFE  
**WATE**  
SPORT

# Let's eliminate the most dangerous “species” in our seas – **DROWNING!**



**Drowning remains the most life-threatening  
type of accident at sea in Greece**

On average,  
**353**  
individuals  
lose  
their lives  
each year  
in the sea

By following basic safety rules  
at sea we can reduce the number  
of drownings

- NEVER SWIM ALONE • AVOID SWIMMING  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER EATING OR CONSUMING ALCOHOL**
- USE LIFE JACKETS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED  
SWIMMING ABILITY • ENSURE CONSTANT SUPERVISION**
- SWIM PARALLEL TO THE SHORE**

**11**  
**MAY**

# **NATIONAL DAY FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEA-RELATED ACCIDENTS & DROWNINGS**

**Anyone  
can drown.  
No one  
should**



Be informed.  
Check.  
Be careful.  
Enjoy





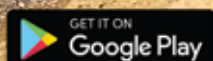
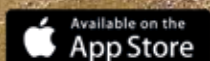


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