
Drowning deaths – The estimated ratios between drowning, morbidity and no morbidity

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The presentation covers the research made in Denmark on drowning deaths statistics, and the span from a close encounter in the water to a permanent fatal drowning accident.

Methods of mapping and classification of drowning deaths are described in a number of cases.

The learning objectives to the audience are to understand the following issues:

1. Public awareness and understanding of drowning definitions, and drowning risks
2. Challenges in safe statistical identification of non-treated drowning accidents
3. Awareness of the scale of near-misses to drowning death. Drowning deaths and drowning morbidity are considered to be a major safety problem worldwide, and drowning is rated as one of the biggest primary causes of death.

Drowning accidents occur in all sorts of water habitats, ranging from the deep oceans, up on the shallow beaches and into the backyard pools and domestic bathtubs.

Reliable and valid drowning statistics are not easy to produce, and also not always easy to understand and interpret. The ICD 10 code is briefly described as the common standard in international drowning statistics, and some of the complexity in the codes are described.

The ratios of fatalities to morbidity to unregistered close encounters are described. Based on the references, estimates on the ratio of fatal drowning deaths to non-fatal drowning accidents in Denmark is described.

The presentation describes how preventive measures to all layers of the public in general, and to parents in particular is key to increase the knowledge of the peril, and thus to avoid many drowning accidents taking place.

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