

Preliminary results for a 6-year review of nonfatal drowning in children and young people 0–19 yrs in Queensland (Australia) 2002–2008

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Literature exists on fatal drowning events; however incidence, mechanisms and consequences of nonfatal injuries in Queensland remain largely unexplored. The overall aims of this study are to: 1) determine morbidity and mortality of drowning in young people (0-19 yrs) in the Australian state of Queensland from 2002-2008; 2) describe injuries associated with nonfatal drowning incidents; and 3) examine risk factors.

Retrospective data on approx 800 nonfatal drowning events among children 0-19yrs are being collated from multiple sources (pre-hospital; emergency department; admitted patients). These data will be linked to, and supplemented by injury and trauma data where possible.

Preliminary analyses indicate that drowning episodes occur in pools and spas in more than half of (58%) nonfatal hospital admissions, followed by natural water bodies (12%) and bathtubs (10%). Additional preliminary analyses of nonfatal incidents are presented.

This poster provides the most accurate estimate possible of the incidence of nonfatal drowning episodes among 0-19 year olds in Queensland during 2002-2008, as well as information about risk factors for these events. These data will provide the impetus for informed policy, allow priorities to be set, and identify points where interventions can be most effective.

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