



# ***Drowning in children and youth: European Report on Child Injury Prevention***

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# Presentation overview

- ECSA introduction
- Burden of childhood drowning
- Risk factors
- Solutions
- Conclusion

The European Child Safety Alliance is an initiative of EuroSafe to advance child injury prevention throughout Europe.



# European Child Safety Alliance

## Countries:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- England
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- N. Ireland
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Scotland
- Slovenia
- Slovakia
- **Spain**
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Wales

## Affiliated organisations:

- European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standards
- European Academy of Paediatricians
- International Society for Child and Adolescent Injury

# Alliance Priority action areas

- Advocacy: advancing injury on the political agenda
- Good practice: advocating the use of what works
- Safety promotions: joint European level campaigning
- Capacity building: strategic development of national action plans



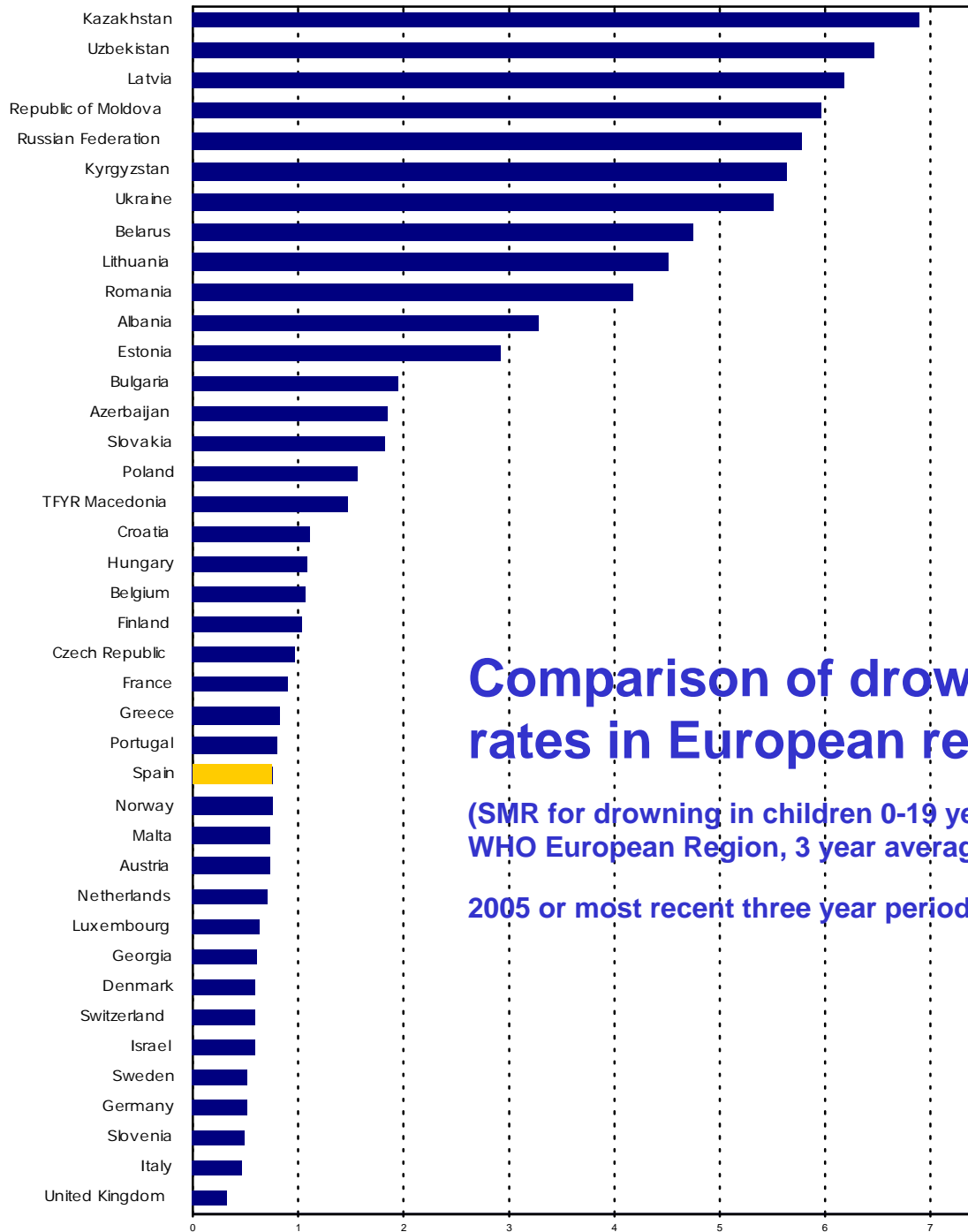




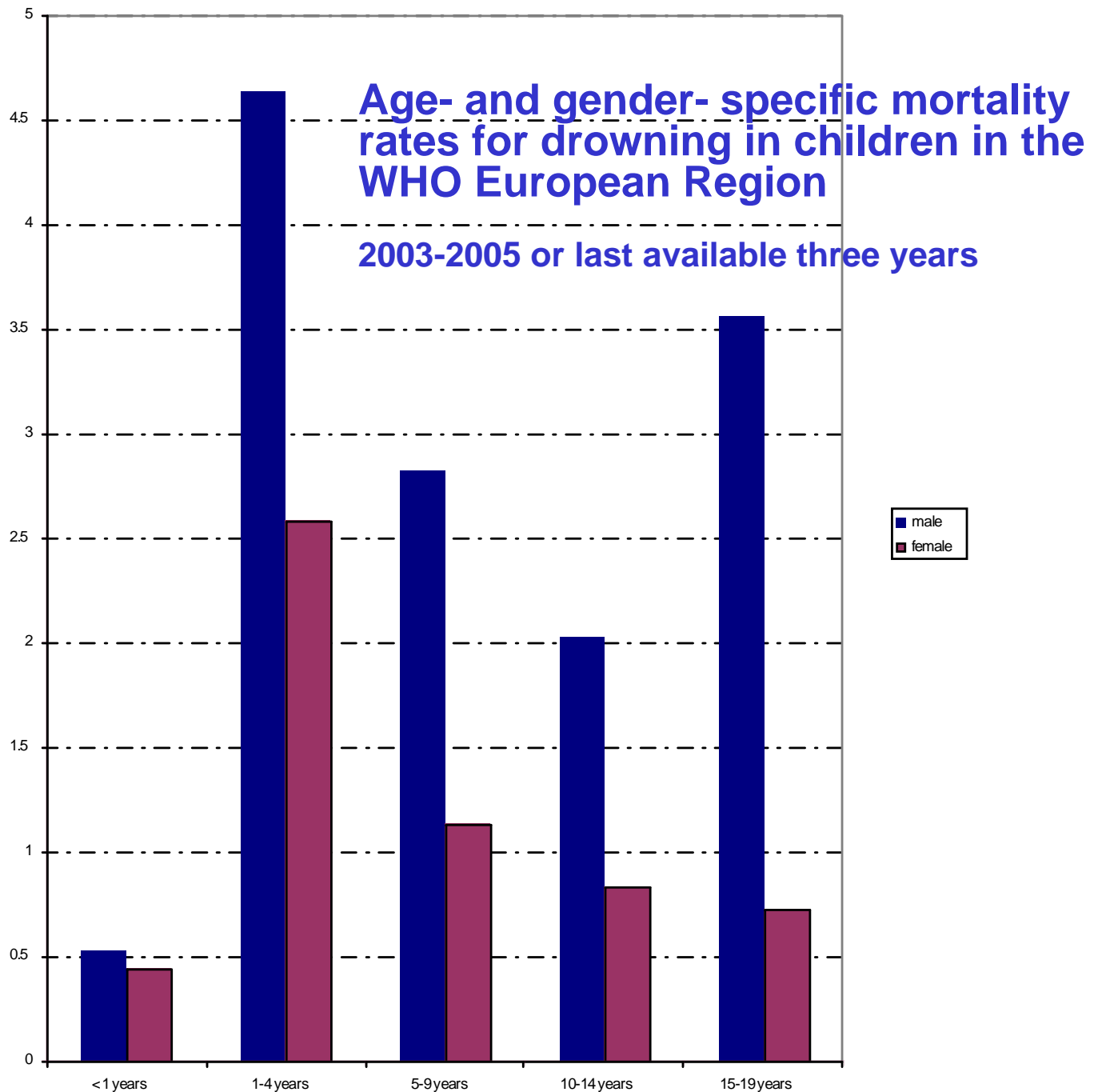
Drowning is the second leading  
cause of injury death to  
children and youth in Europe

## Rank of leading causes of death among children 0-19 years by age group in Europe

1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years
Lower resp. infections	Road traffic injuries	Road traffic injuries	Road traffic injuries
Diarrhoeal diseases	<b>Drowning</b>	<b>Drowning</b>	Self-inflicted injuries
Congenital anomalies	Lower resp. infections	Self-inflicted injuries	Violence
<b>Drowning</b>	Leukaemia	Leukaemia	Leukaemia
Meningitis	Congenital anomalies	Lower resp. infections	Poisoning
Road traffic injuries	Lymphomas, multiple myeloma	Congenital anomalies	<b>Drowning</b>
Fires	Upper resp. infections	Lymphomas, multiple myeloma	Cerebrovascular disease
Poisoning	Cerebrovascular disease	Violence	Congenital anomalies







# Where children drown



# Where children drown and associated risks

Fallece una niña de cuatro años ahogada en el Aquópolis.

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Foto: ARCHIVO

Al parecer, la niña sufrió un mareo en la piscina de olas. (ARCHIVO).

# Where children drown and associated risks

Muere ahogado en el parque Juan de Austria

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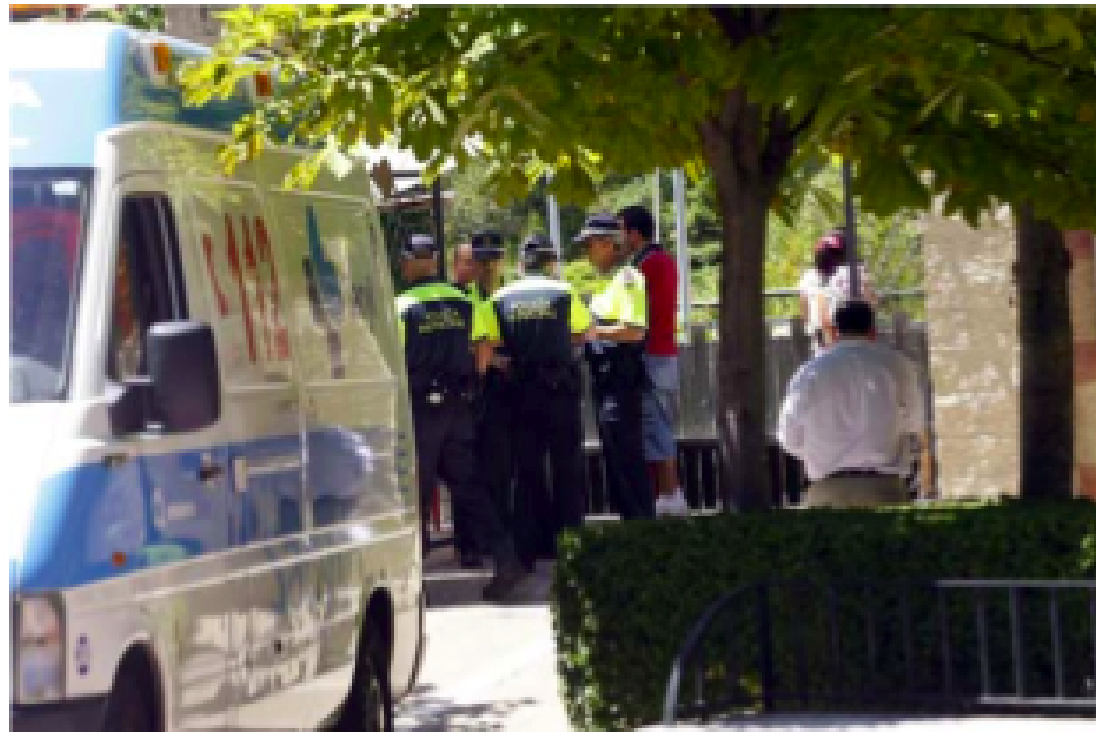


Foto: Pablo Elias

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Agentes de la Policía en la puerta del parque Juan de Austria tras conocerse el fallecimiento de un niño.

# Where children drown and associated risks





# Summary of drowning risks

- Socioeconomic class and poverty
- Economic change
- Tourism
- Medical conditions
- Supervision
- Alcohol
- Transport
- Climate change



# Prevention strategies

Implementing and enforcing proven prevention strategies is critical to reducing childhood drowning.

Protecting **Children** and **Youths**  
in **Water Recreation**

**Safety Guidelines for Service Providers**



## Evidence for key strategies to prevent drowning among children

	Effective	Promising	Insufficient evidence	Ineffective	Potentially harmful
Removing (or covering) water hazards	Effective				
Requiring isolation fencing (4-sided) around swimming pools	Effective				
Wearing personal floatation devices	Effective				
Ensuring immediate resuscitation	Effective				
Ensuring the presence of lifeguards at swimming areas		Promising			
Conducting targeted awareness-raising on drowning		Promising			
Teaching children older than 5 years to swim			Insufficient evidence		
Introducing laws on pool fencing			Insufficient evidence		
Introducing a law on the use of personal floatation devices			Insufficient evidence		
Promoting drowning prevention through doctors			Insufficient evidence		
Restricting access to areas unsafe for swimming			Insufficient evidence		
Teaching children younger than 5 years to swim			Insufficient evidence		
Introducing laws on blood alcohol content for swimmers			Insufficient evidence		
Conducting prevention campaigns, such as on advertising billboards, for drowning				Ineffective	
Promoting solar pool covers					Potentially harmful
Using baby bath seats					Potentially harmful

# European countries assessed on level of water safety/drowning prevention provided to children



# Key findings – water safety measures

Strategy (existing, implemented and enforced)	# out of 24	Spain?
National law requiring barrier fencing for public pools	5	No
National law requiring barrier fencing for private pools	3	No
National law requiring national recertification for lifeguards on a regular basis	8	No
National law stating min. number of lifeguards on beaches	10	Yes
National law stating min. number of lifeguards at public pools	12	Yes
National standard for public swimming pools that mandates water depth markings, onsite equipment, suction outlet covers, etc.	13	No
Policy making water safety education, including swimming lessons, a compulsory part of school curriculum	9	No
National law requiring use of personal floatation device/life jacket while on the water (not just presence but actual use)	1(7)	No



# Drowning can be reduced

The most effective prevention strategies are those which combine public health policies with well-designed products and environments, and are further supported by broad educational campaigns.



Associação para a Promoção  
da Segurança Infantil



# Conclusions

- Drowning is the 2nd leading cause of childhood injury deaths
- Drowning events are strongly linked to exposure
- Adopt, implement and enforce evidenced based strategies
- A collaborative approach is needed to address the diverse environments where drowning occur

**Muchas  
Gracias !**

**Questions ?**

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