



Canadian Red Cross  
Croix-Rouge canadienne



## Drownings in Canada—10 Years of Research Fast Facts – Lifejackets and PFDs

*In a landmark 10-year study, the Canadian Red Cross, together with its partners, has compiled critical information on drownings in Canada. One of the key factors identified in boating drowning deaths in Canada is not wearing a PFD or lifejacket.*

### What we have learned

- The main cause of boating drowning death is not properly **wearing** a PFD.
- **You should always wear a lifejacket or PFD. Close by isn't close enough.**

### The Facts

- On average, there are 180 boating drowning deaths each year in Canada
- Of those who drown, over 87% are not wearing, or are not properly wearing, a PFD or lifejacket.
- In a 10 year span, over 1,000 (60%) people drowned while powerboating and almost 700 (40%) while unpowered boating (canoe, kayak, sail boat, raft)
- 93 % of those who drown while boating are male.
- Men between the ages of 15 and 45 years old are at greatest risk for drowning.

### Based on known cases:

#### CANOE

88% of canoe drowning victims are not wearing, or not properly wearing, a flotation device.

#### KAYAK

67% of kayak victims are not wearing, or not properly wearing, a flotation device.

#### RAFT

55% of rafting and inflatable watercraft drowning victims are not wearing, or not properly wearing, a flotation device.

#### ROWBOAT

94% of rowboat drowning victims are not wearing, or not properly wearing, a flotation device.

#### SAILBOAT

70% of sailboat drowning victims are not wearing, or not properly wearing, a flotation device.

#### POWERBOAT

88% of powerboat drowning victims are not wearing, or not properly wearing, a flotation device.

### Prepare! Stay Safe! And Survive!

When aboard any water craft, make sure you and all passengers are **wearing** a properly fitted and Transport Canada approved PFD or lifejacket – it could save your life.

**For more information on lifejackets and PFDs, please visit:**

**[www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) or [www.wearalifejacket.com](http://www.wearalifejacket.com)**

**or contact your local Red Cross office**