

492 fatal drownings in France since the beginning of Summer

Santé Publique France (Public Health France) published its interim results of its “2018 Drowning Survey” (1).

Their records show that there has been a sharp increase in fatal drownings compared to the last study undertaken in 2015 during the same time period. From 1 June to 30 August 2018 there have been 2,255 drownings reported (vs 1,092) of which 492 have been fatal (vs 398).

All ages and all regions are concerned. Of the 1,169 accidental drownings, the age group most affected is under six years of age.

The study will finish on 30 September 2018 and the definitive results will be published at the beginning of 2019.

The Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation would like to reiterate several prevention measures communicated by Santé Publique France:

For children:

- Swim at the same time as them
- Designate a responsible adult to keep watch

For adults:

- Take into consideration your fitness level
- Swim in zones with lifeguards and gradually enter the water
- Avoid overeating and drinking alcohol before and during swimming

The risk of discomfort is greater if the water is cold or after long exposure to the sun.

To access the brochure “Se baigner sans danger (Bathing without Danger)” and for more information, click on the link (in French):

<http://inpes.santepubliquefrance.fr/CFESBases/catalogue/pdf/1533.pdf>

The Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation has been committed to fighting this scourge since 2012. “Learn to Swim” and “Water Safety” programmes have been implemented so far in 33 countries. More than 500,000 people, mostly children, have been given water safety lessons or have learned how to swim.

(1)To access the report “Enquêtes NOYADES 2018” (2018 Drowning Survey), click on the following link (in French):

<https://santepubliquefrance.fr/Actualites/Quatriemes-resultats-de-l-enquete-NOYADES-2018-en-France>

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