

Public or Commercial Swimming Pools: Fatal and Non-Fatal Drowning

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A LIFESAVER**

Working to reduce drowning and
turn everyday people into everyday
community lifesavers

For more information visit:
www.royallifesaving.com.au

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Types of swimming pools

Type of classification	Examples of types of swimming pools
Residential	Hotel/motel/resort/caravan park pool Apartment complex pool Retirement village pool Healthcare staff residential facility pool
Public or commercial	Aquatic facility (public pool) Water park School pool Health and fitness club pool

Inclusion criteria

Fatal drowning

- 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2015
- Royal Life Saving National Fatal Drowning Database
- Drowning as primary or contributory cause of death
- Derived from coronial files and media reports

Non-fatal drowning

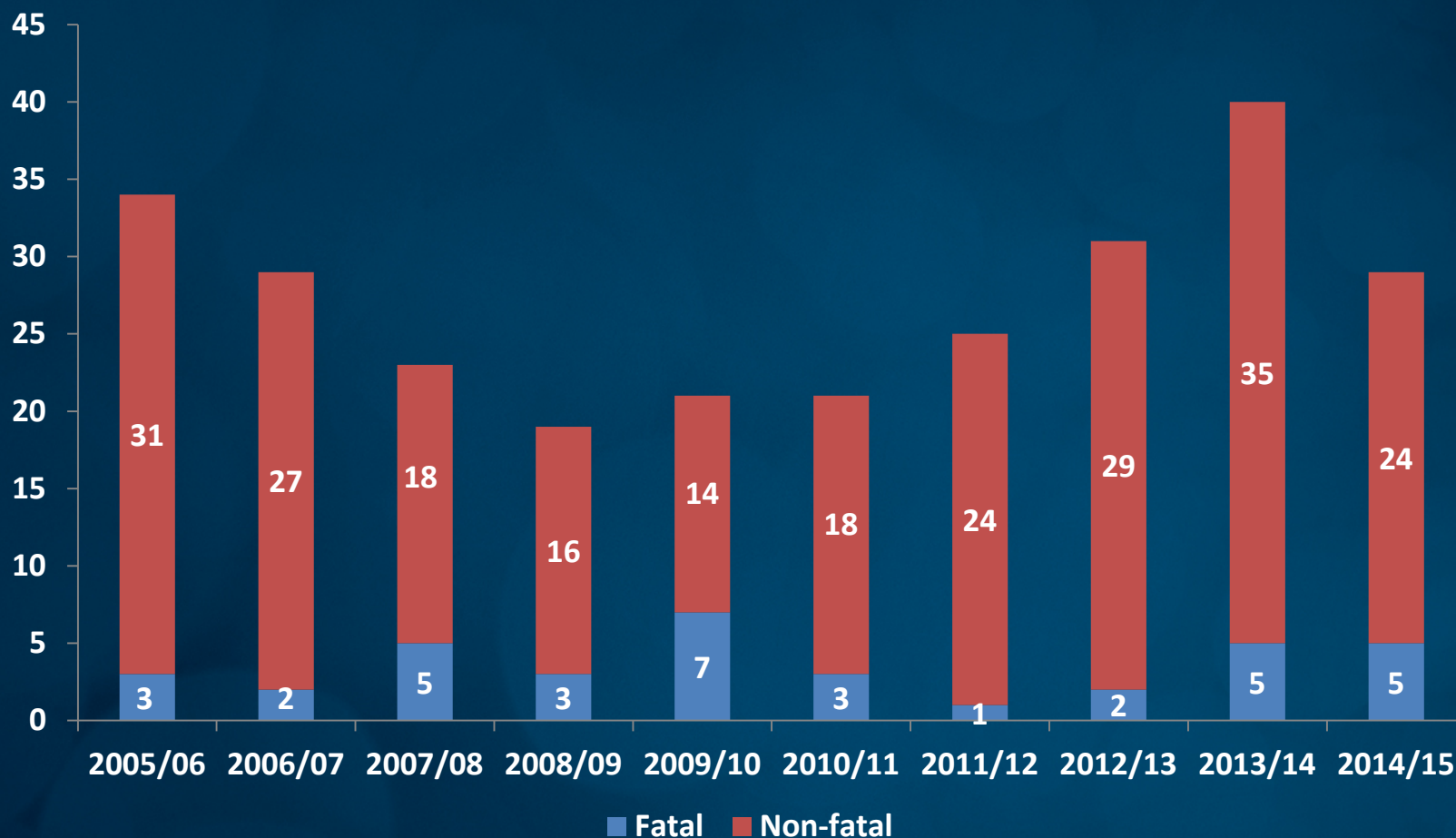
- 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2015
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)
- ICD codes W65-W74 (Accidental Drowning and Submersion)

Fatal and non-fatal drowning

36 fatal

236 non-fatal

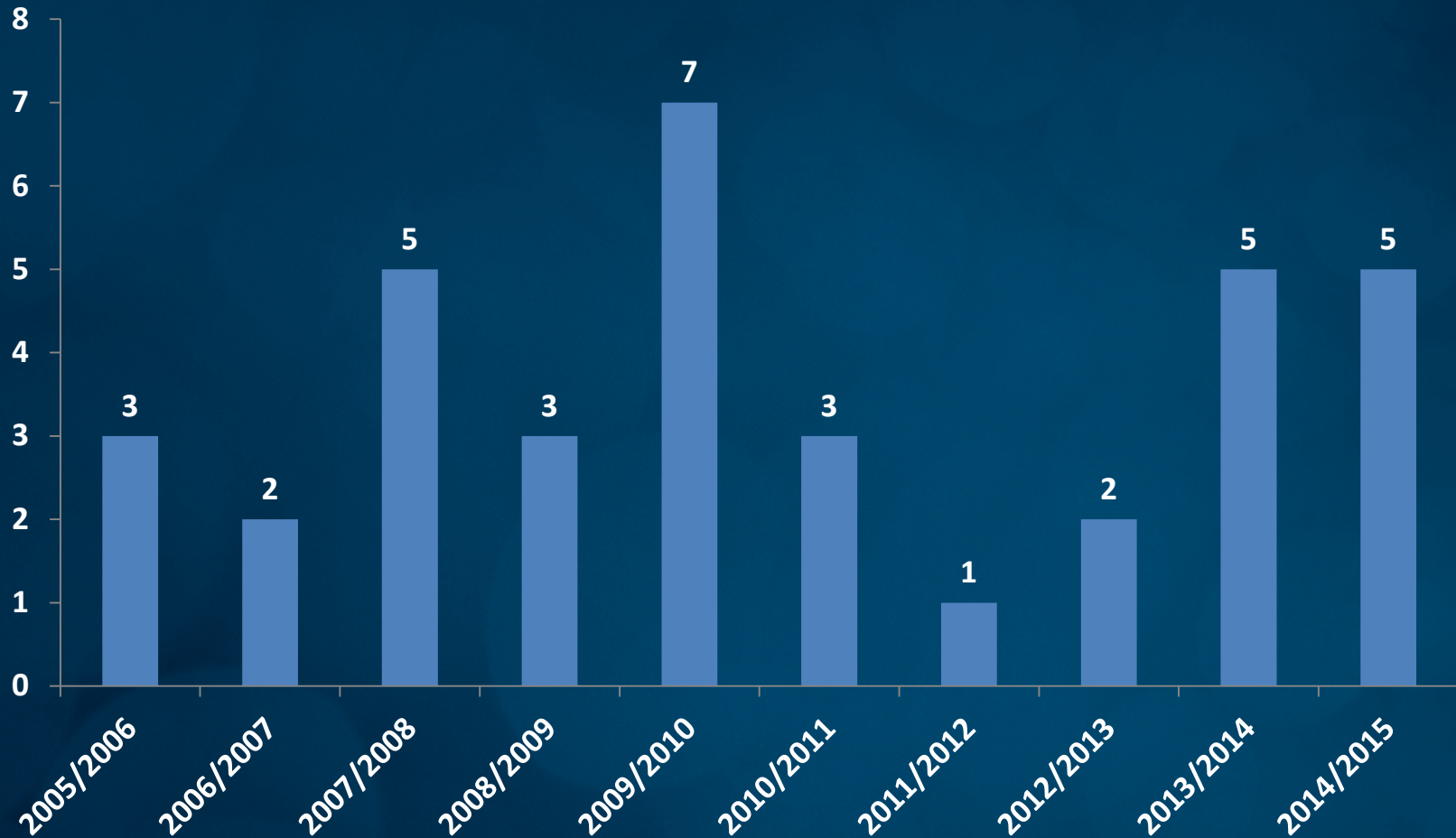
Fatal and non-fatal drowning



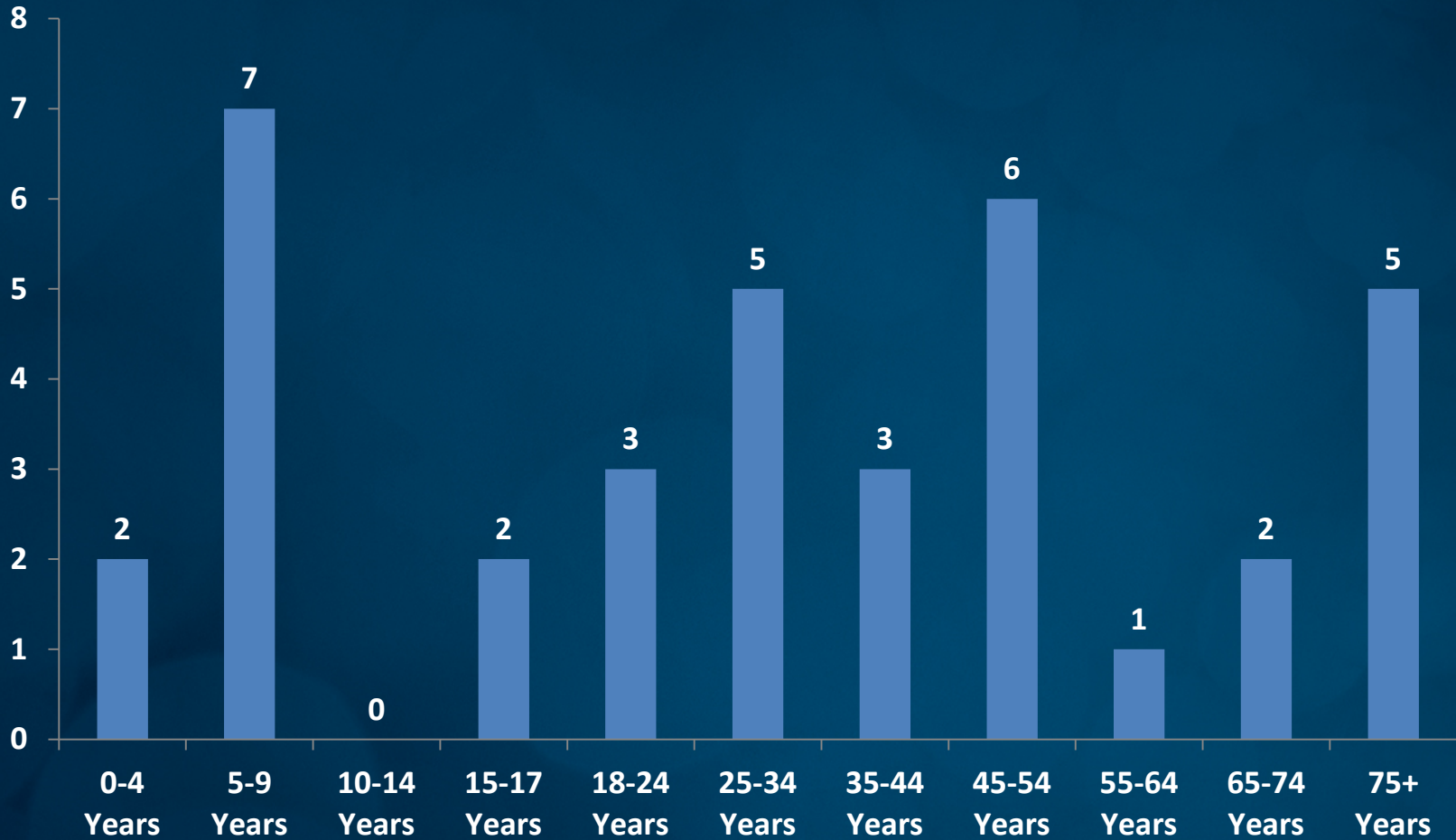
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Fatal drowning

How many?



Who?



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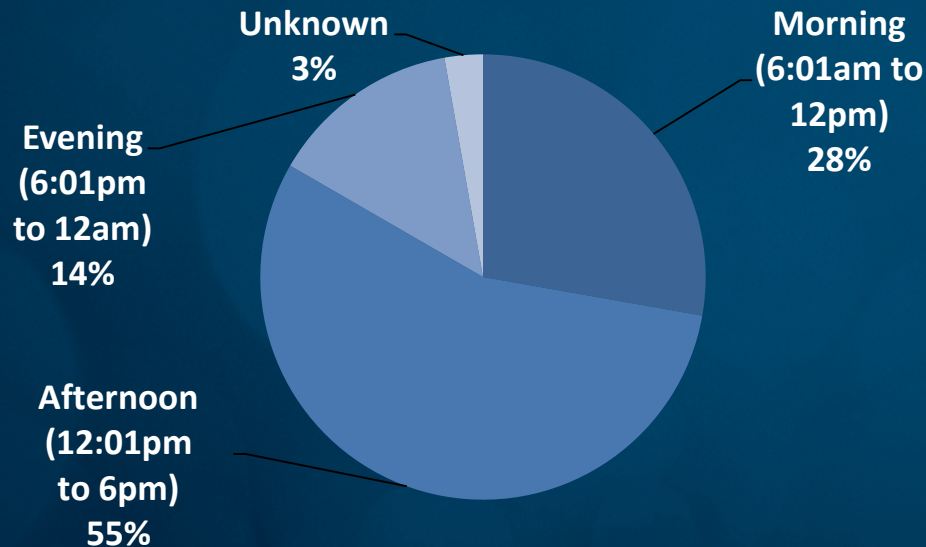
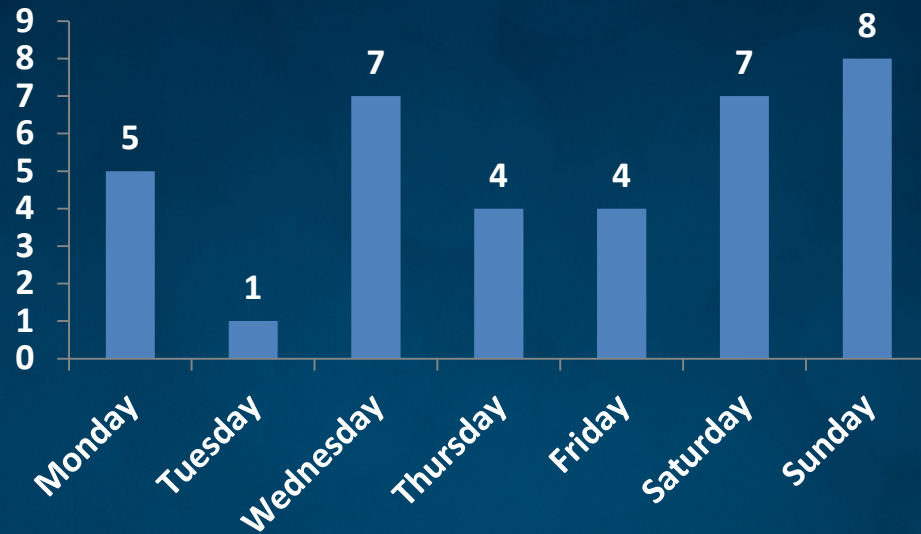
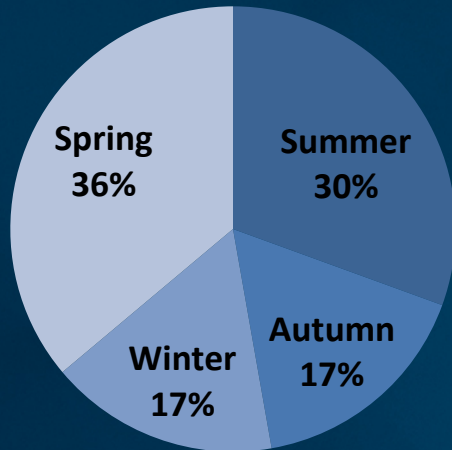
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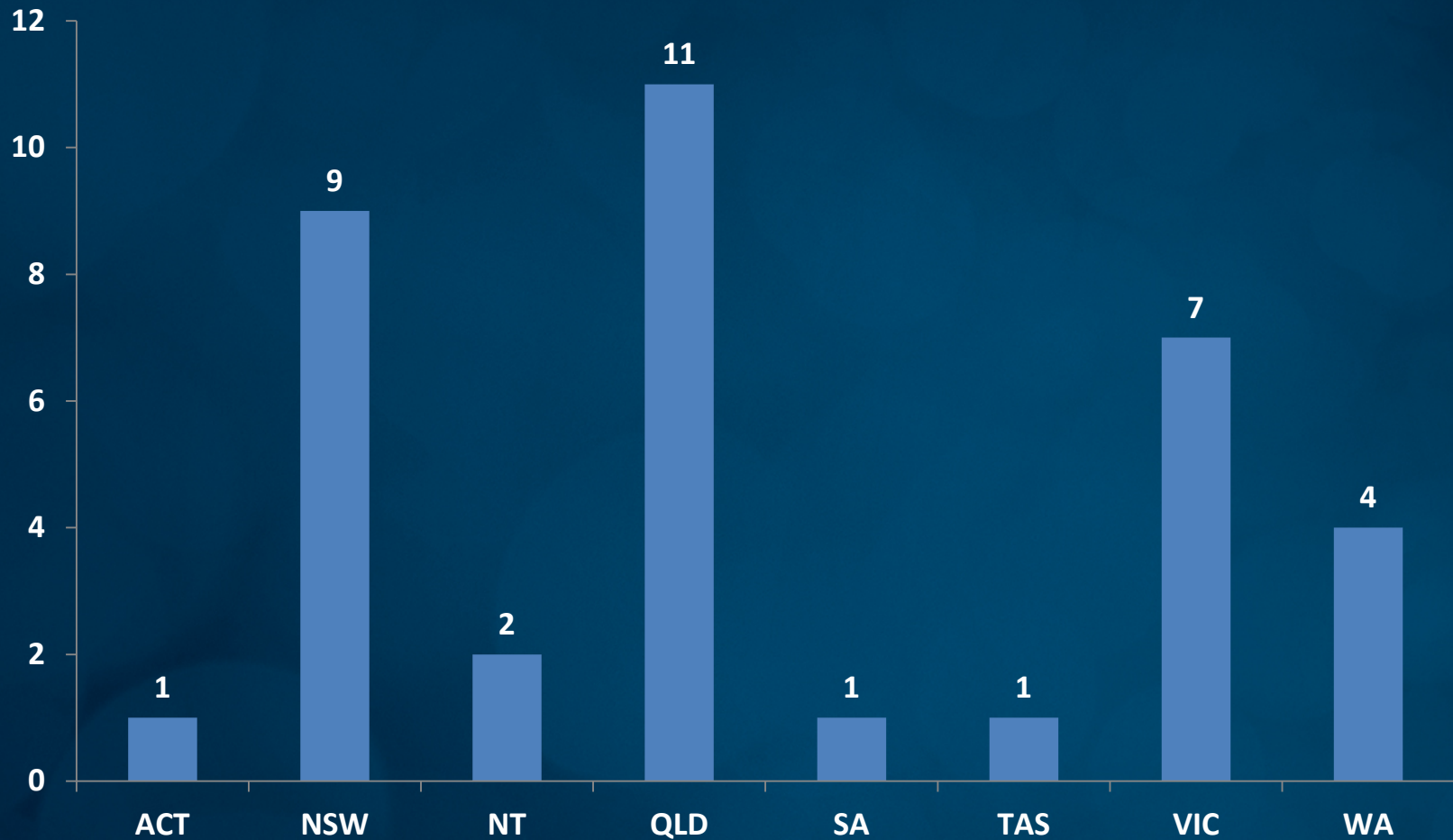
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When?

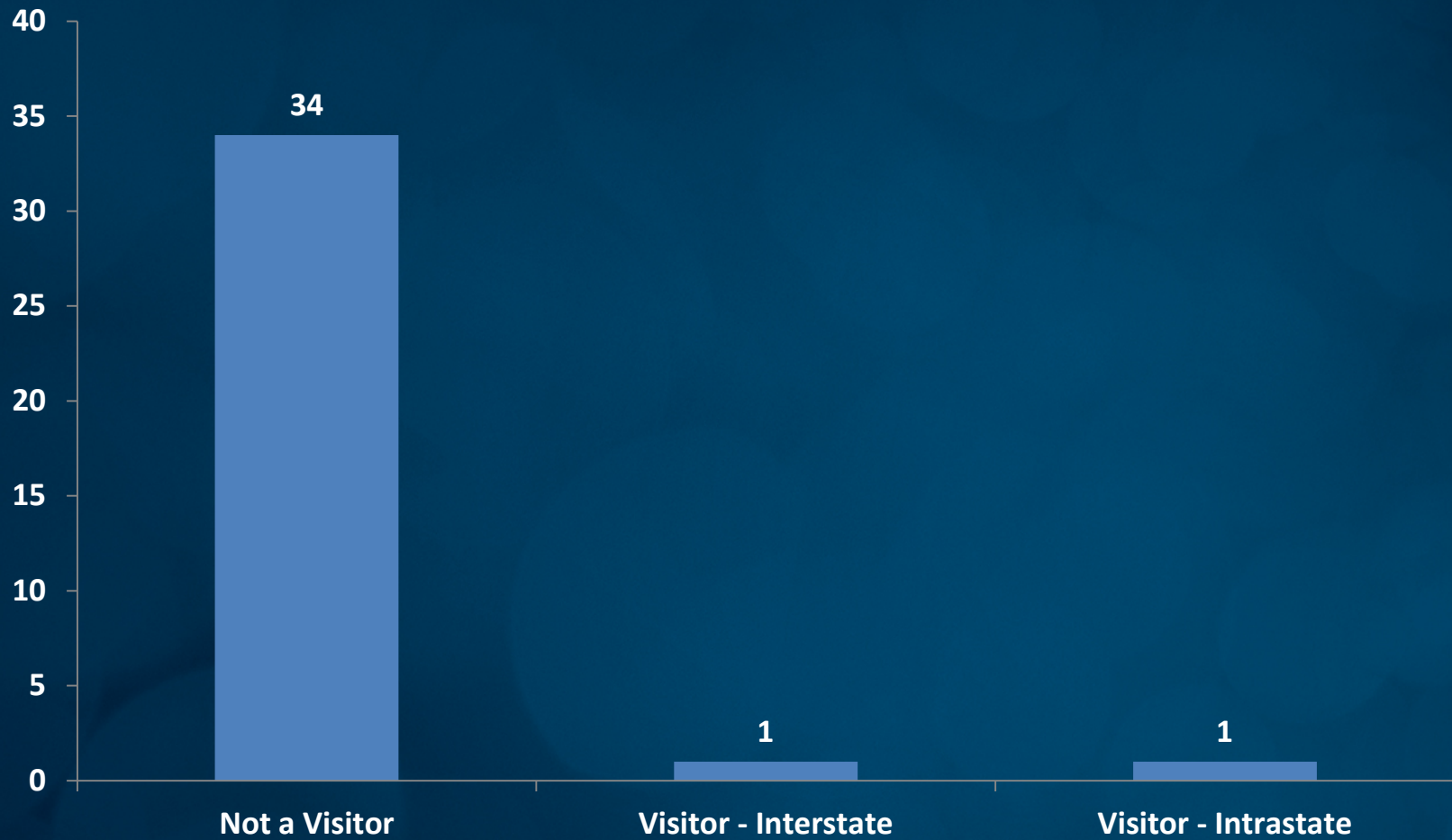


Where?

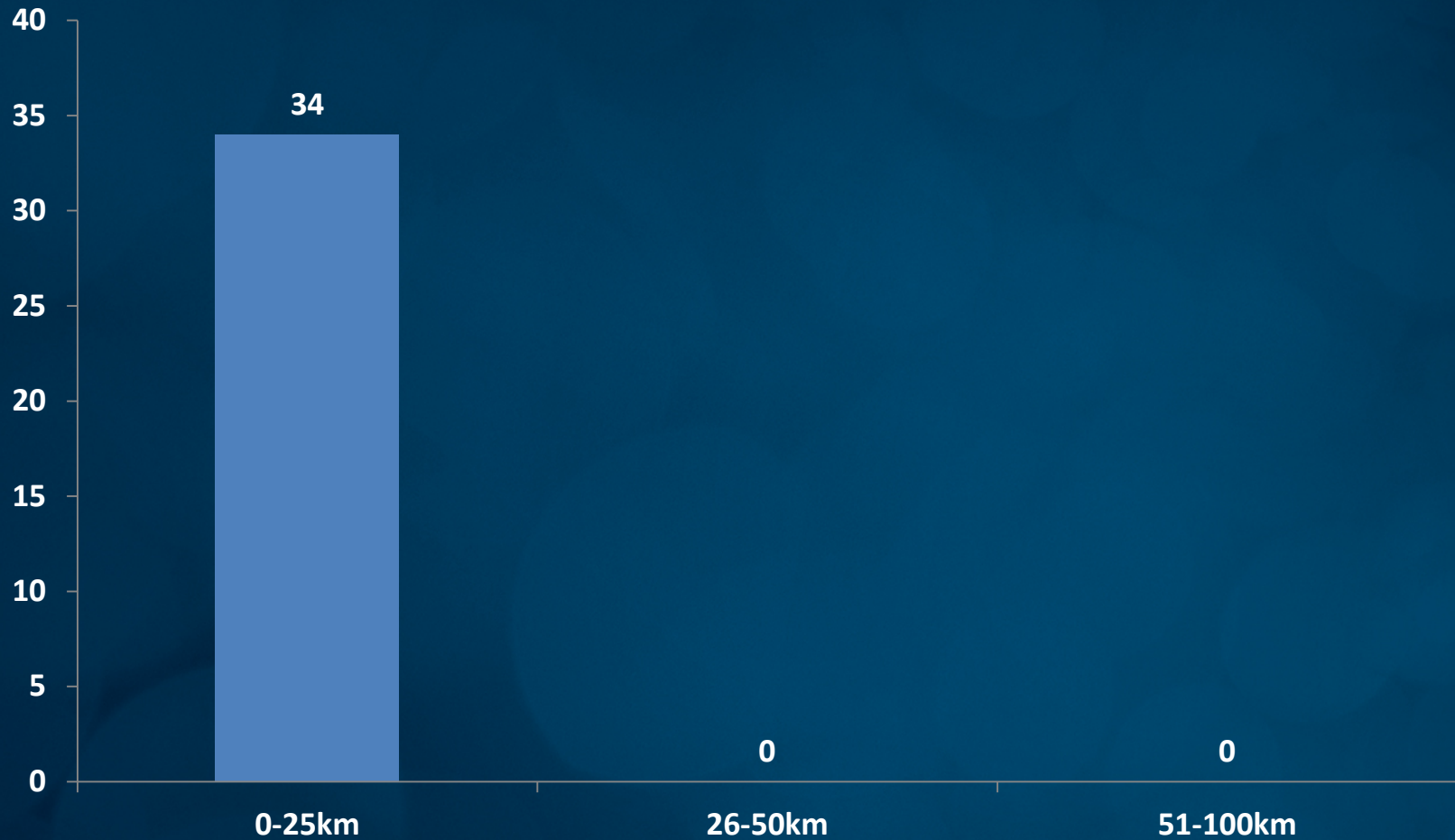


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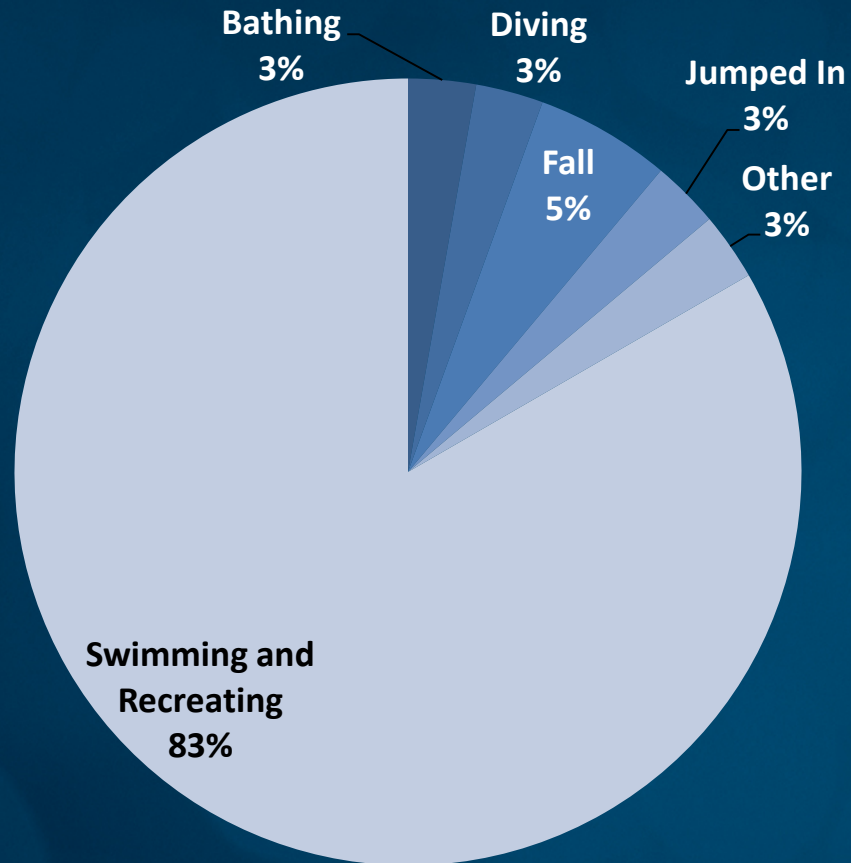
From?



Locals (within 100km)



How?



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Risk factors (medical conditions)

- Pre-existing medical conditions
 - 61%
 - Including cardiac conditions, degenerative conditions, epilepsy, dementia, diabetes, mental health disorders, neurological disorders

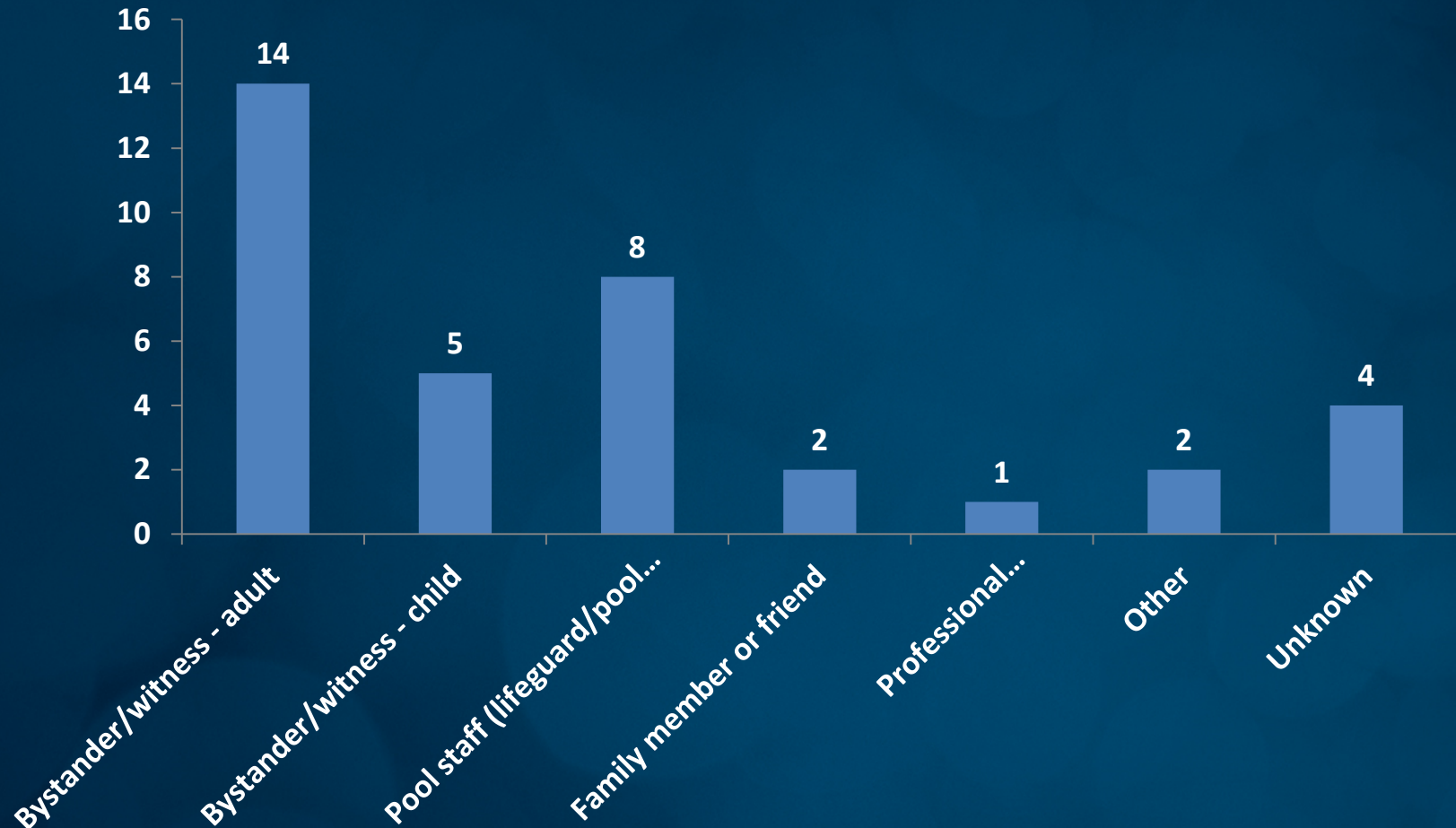
Risk factors (alcohol & drugs)

- Alcohol
 - 8%
 - Contributory ($BAC \geq 0.05\%$) in 1 (of 3) case
- Drugs
 - 39%
 - Illegal drugs in 2 (of 14) cases
 - Mainly prescription medication

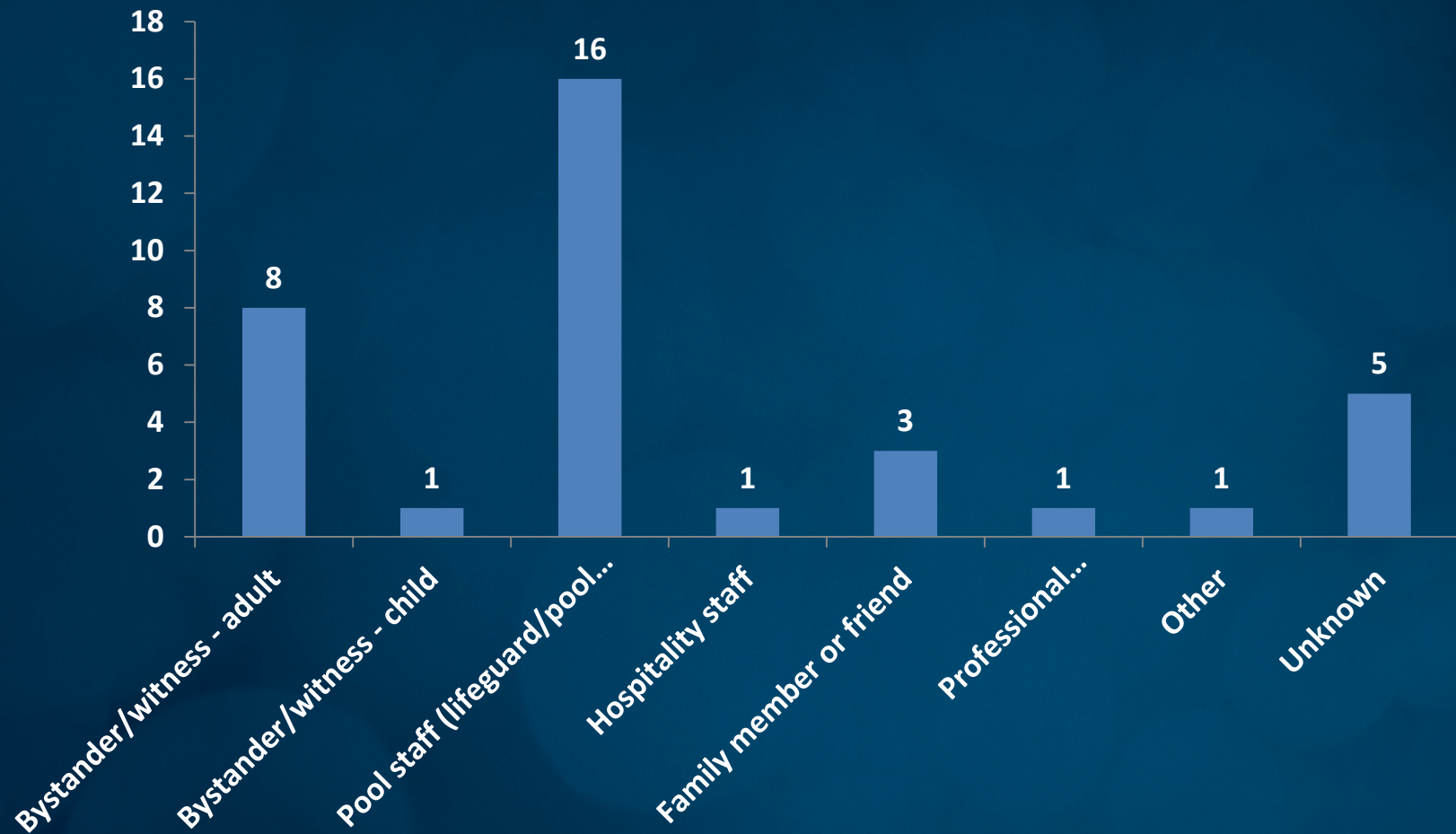
Supervision

- 9 children aged 0-14 years
- 78% no supervision (7 cases of 9)
 - Entirely absent in 2 cases
 - Indirect in 5 cases
- 11% inappropriate supervisor (older child)
- 11% unknown

Observation

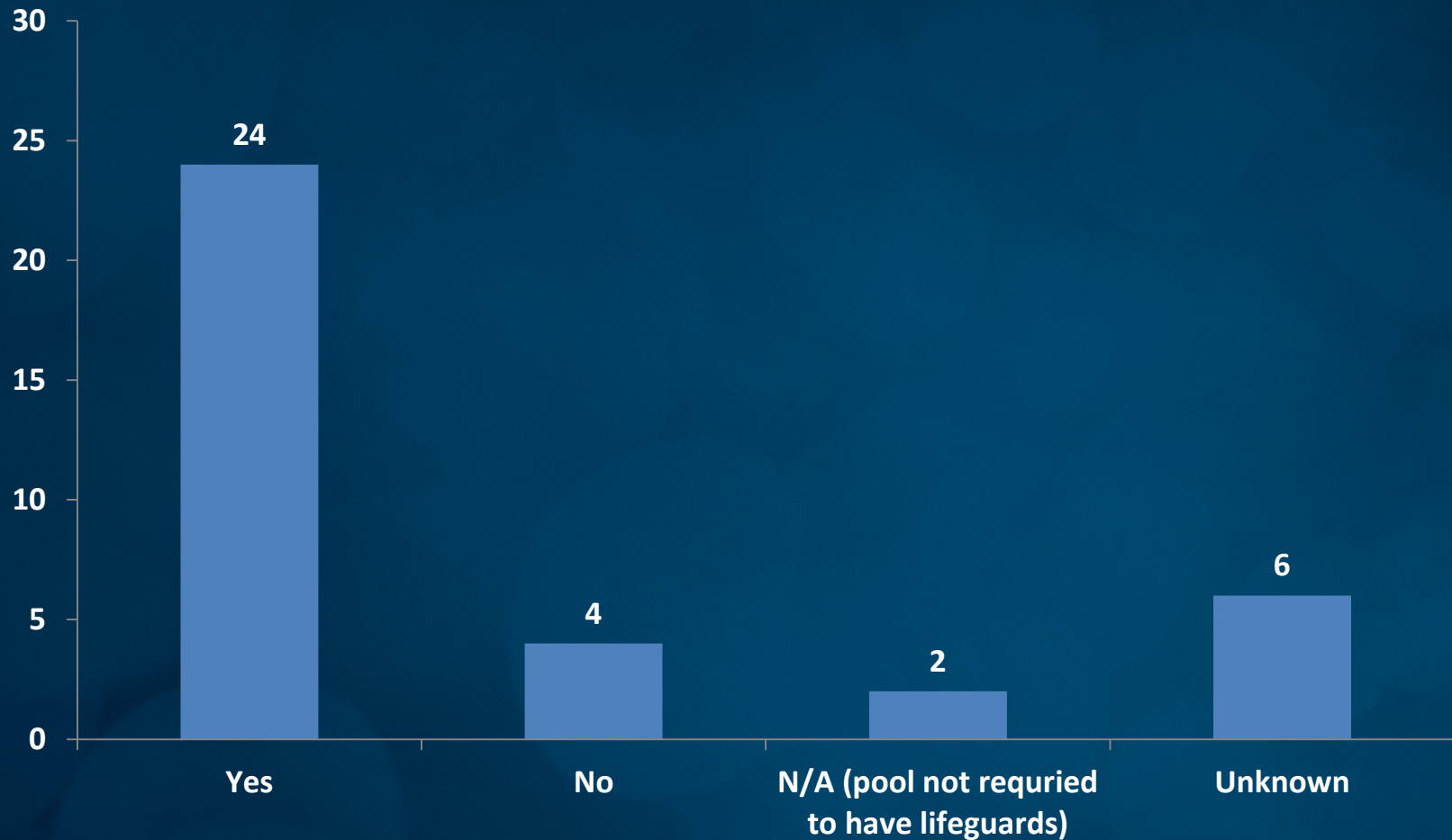


Retrieval



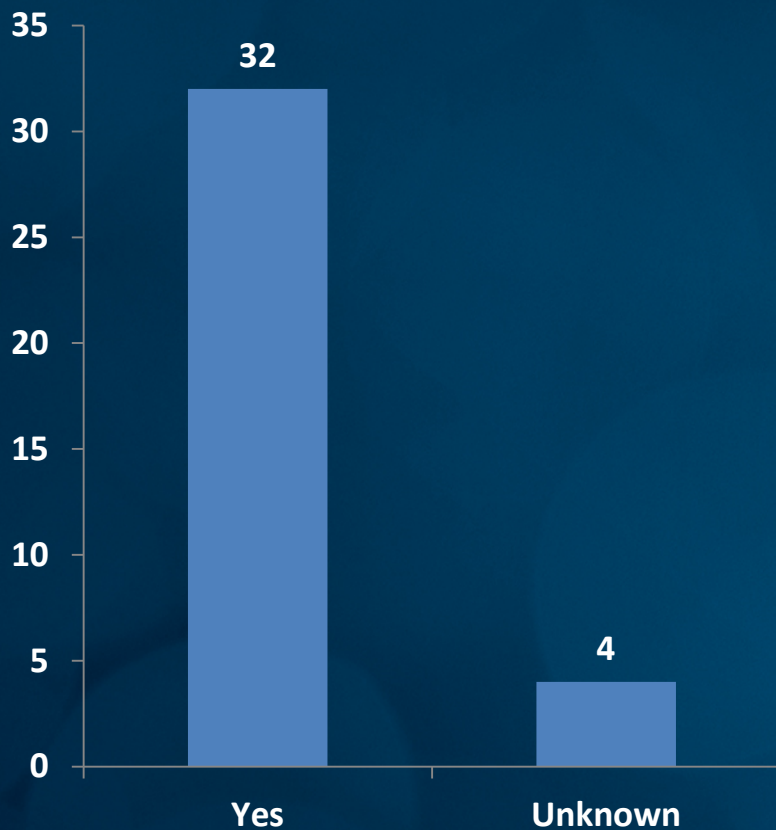
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Presence of lifeguards

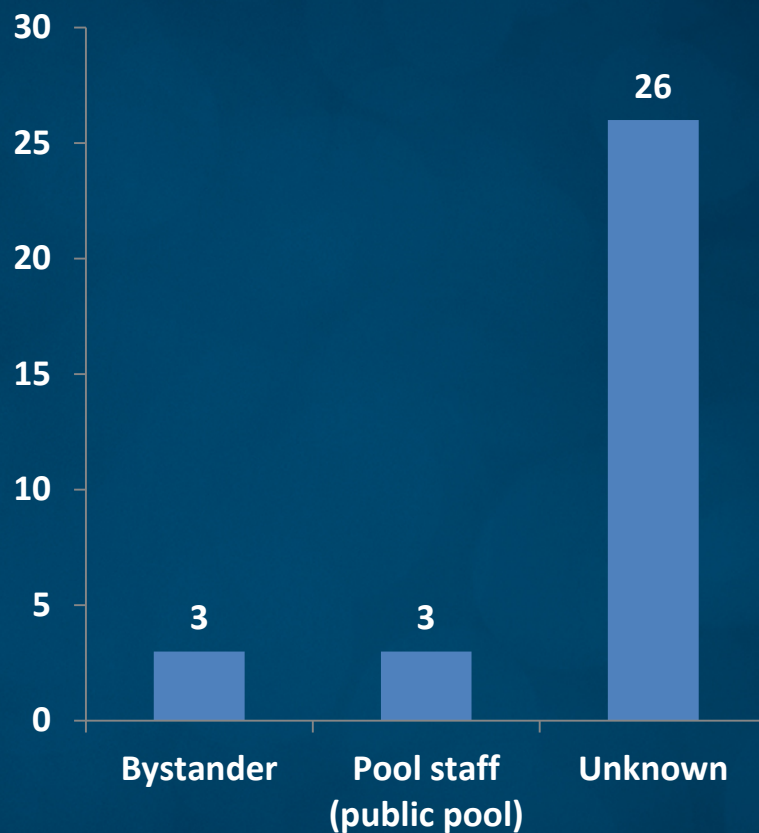


Emergency response

Emergency services contacted?

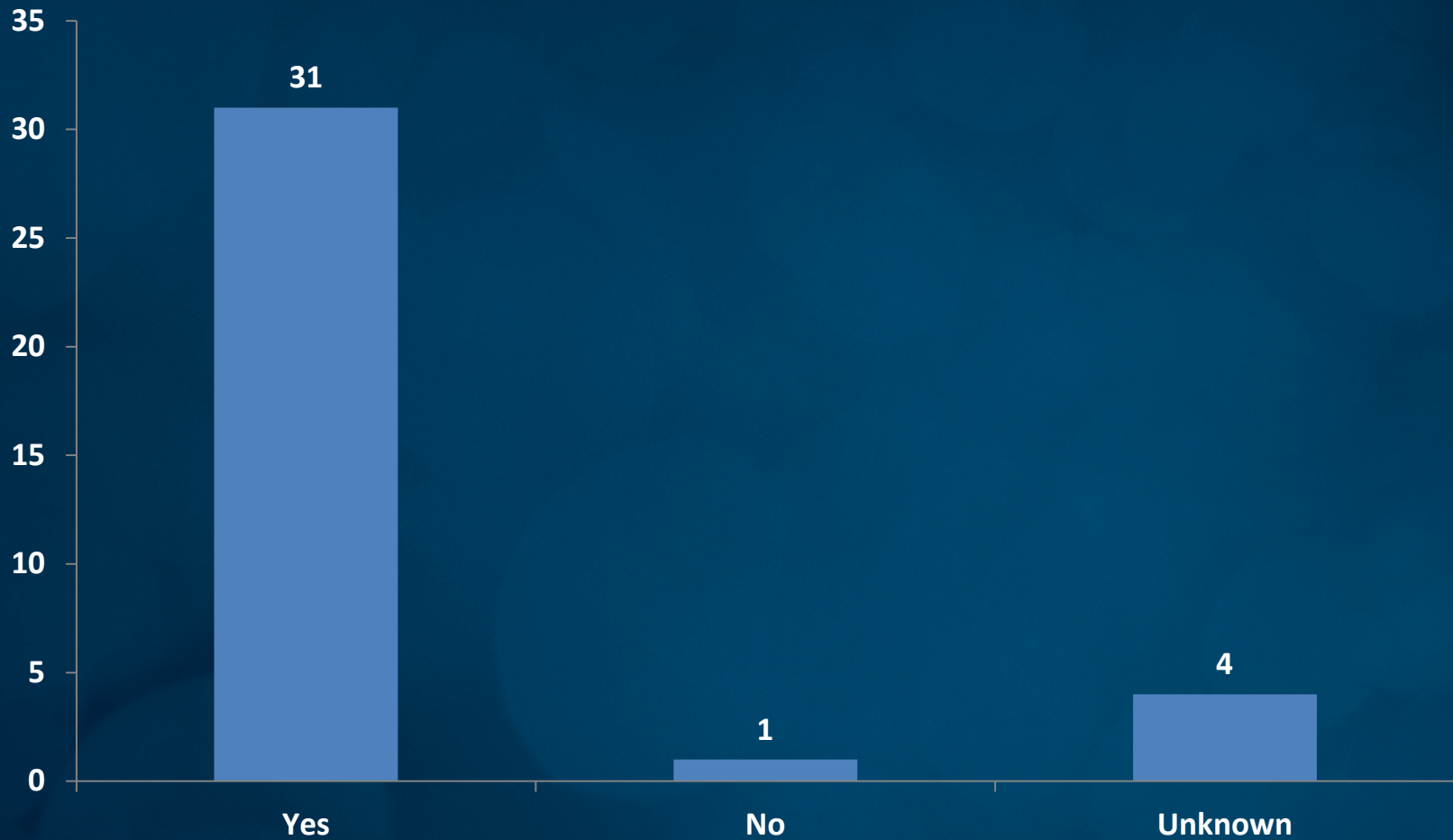


By who?

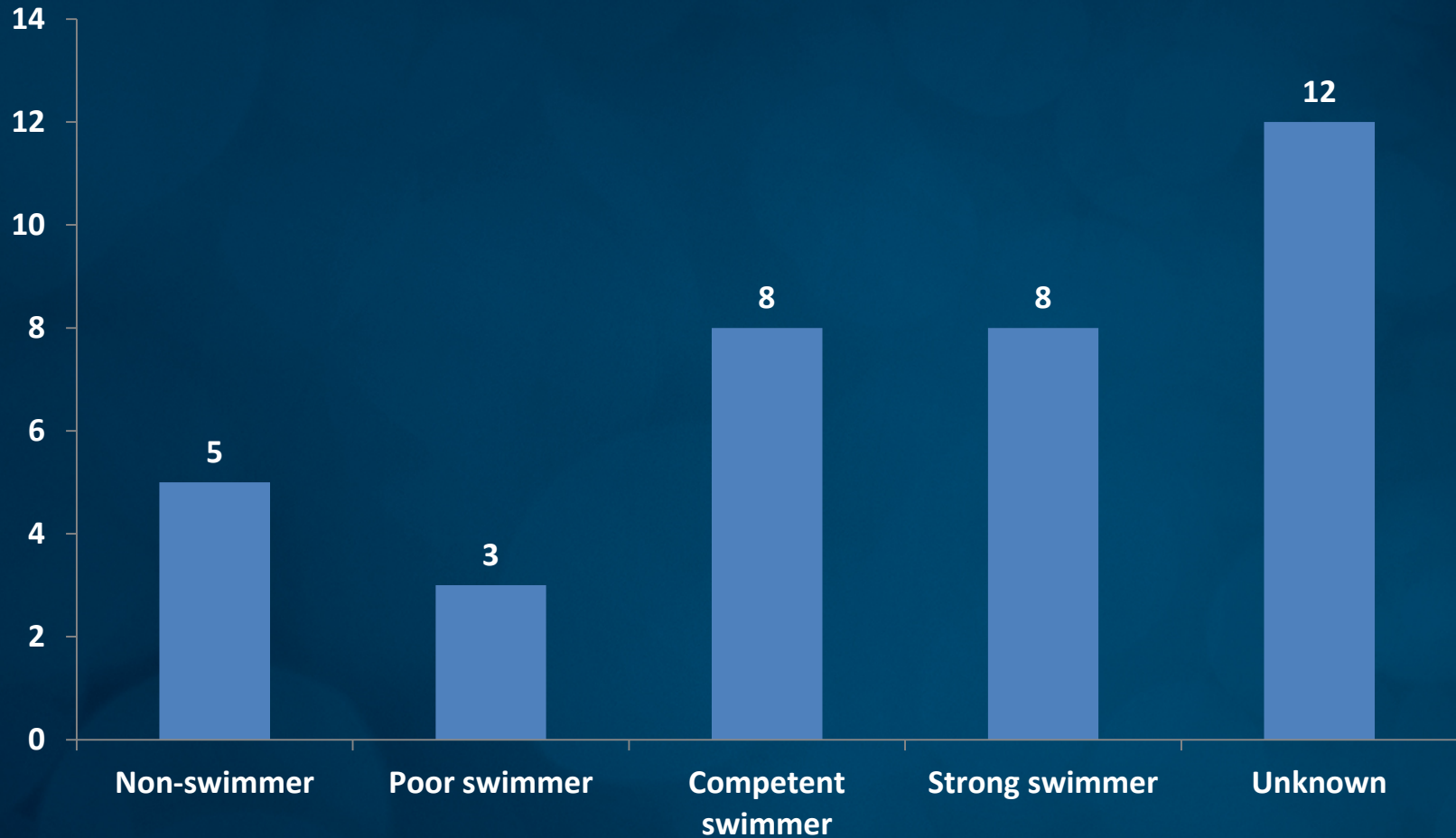


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Treatment administered



Swimming ability

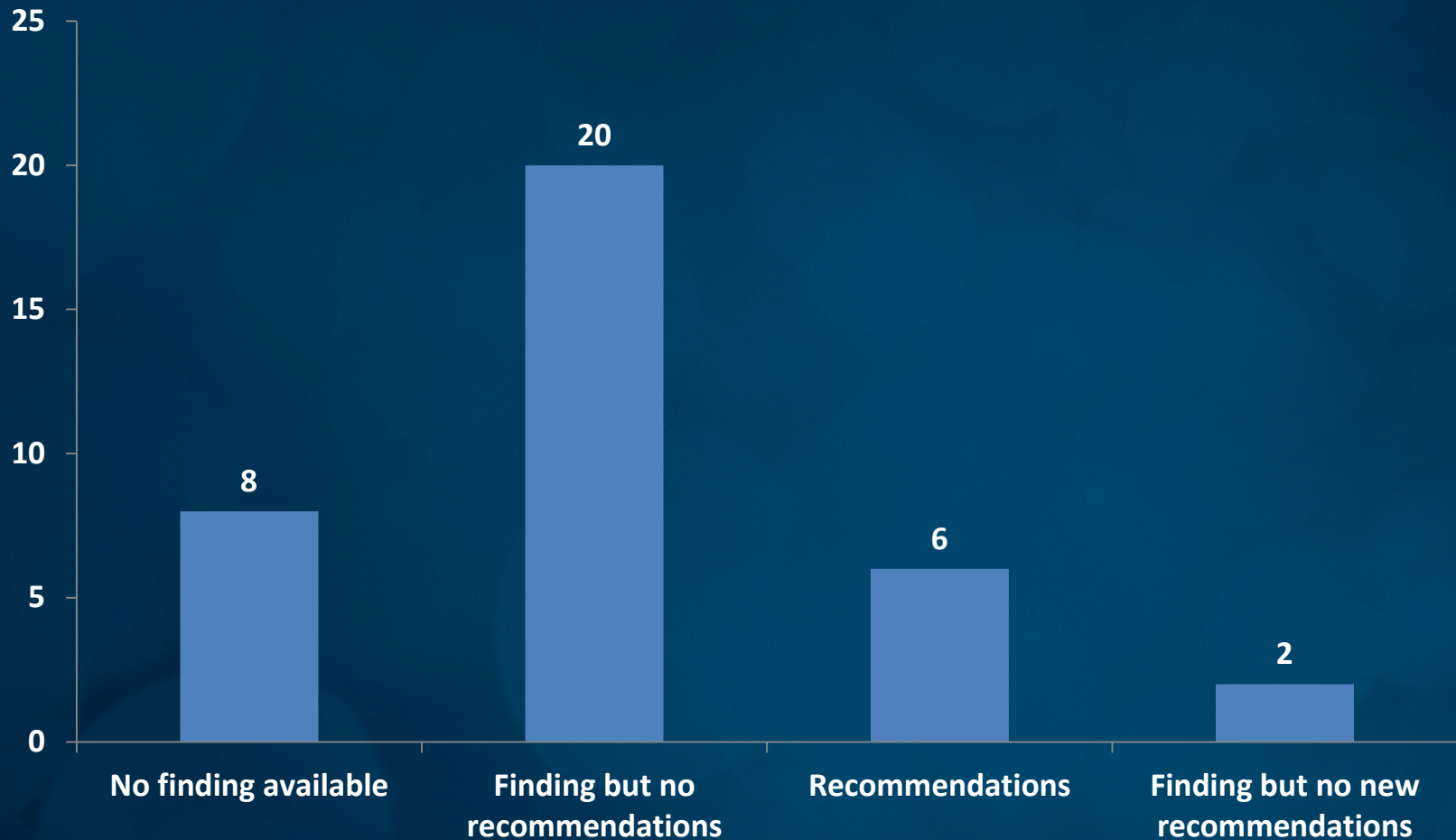


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Swimming pool characteristics

- Method of entry
 - Poorly reported
 - Jumped/dived in, steps/ramp, specialised disabled access, inflatable device/slide, fall
- Location of incident
 - Poorly reported
 - Deep/shallow end, middle/side of pool, other (e.g. spa)
- Patronage of pool
 - Poorly reported
 - 1, 2-5, 6-10, 11-100, 501-1000

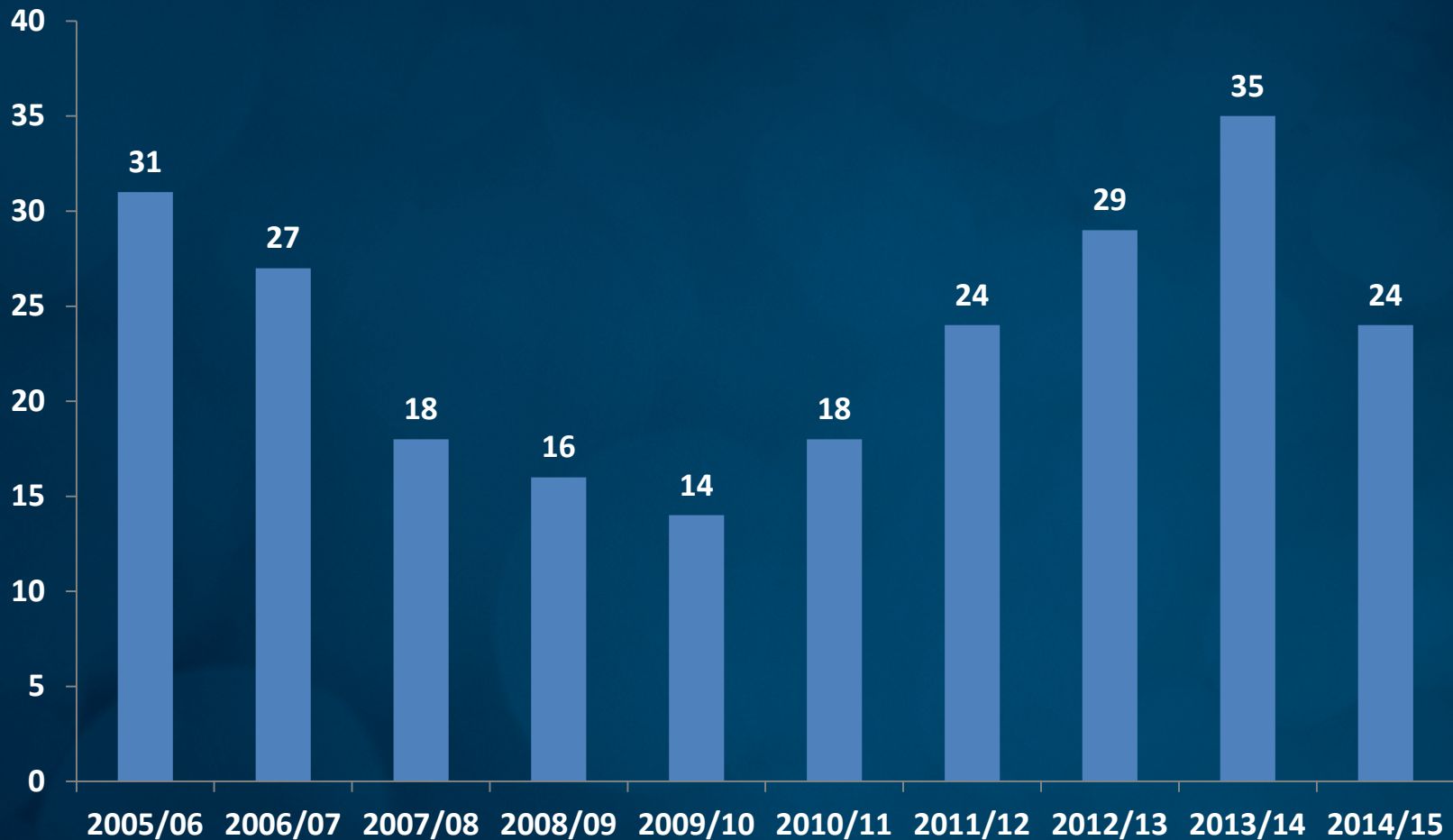
Coronial recommendations



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Non-fatal drowning

Non-fatal drowning by year



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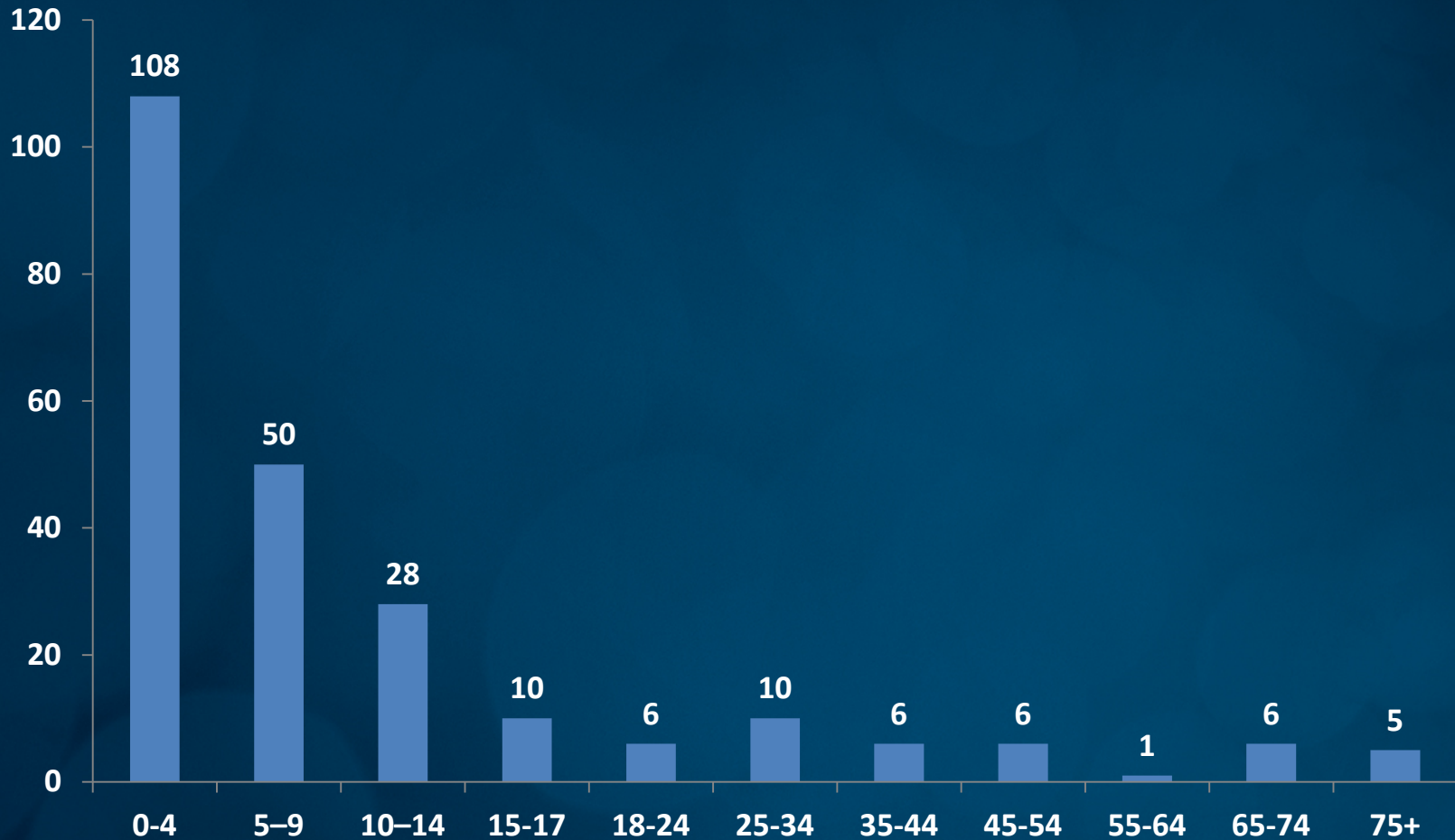
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Non-fatal drowning by age



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Summary

- Fatal drowning
 - Males & children 5-9 years
 - High risk days & times
 - All States and Territories
 - Locals, not visitors
 - Medical conditions & medications
 - Lack of adult supervision
 - Found by bystanders, retrieved by staff
 - All levels of ability
- Non-fatal drowning
 - Non-fatal majority children