

Expecting the Unexpected

Why fatalities happen to responsible, normal people
Run Time: 5 minutes

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Raystown Lake

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US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®



Expecting the Unexpected!



assumptions



experience



pride

Goal: to understand how our everyday assumptions, experience and pride...

Expecting the Unexpected!



can lead to injury and death on the water

... can lead to injury and death on the water

Expecting the Unexpected!



If someone dove into shark infested waters we'd say he's pretty dumb. A sane person would take precautions in this dangerous situation, like using a cage.

Expecting the Unexpected!



We do this for our kids. We know water (shark infested or not) is dangerous so we make sure they wear life jackets and we keep an eye on them.

Expecting the Unexpected!



And we know the dangers inherent with water don't change... So where's the disconnect in our brain that tells us water is less dangerous for us as adults?

Victims assume accidents won't happen to them.
Let's take an honest look and ask ourselves...

Am I at Risk?

Assumptions

can lead to injury & death

■ Am I at risk?

- From 2005 – 2009, there was an annual average of 3,880 unintentional drownings. Of those, four out of five were over the age of 14.(CDC)
- Most adult drownings occur in natural water settings. (CDC)

Adults who visit lakes
are most at risk!



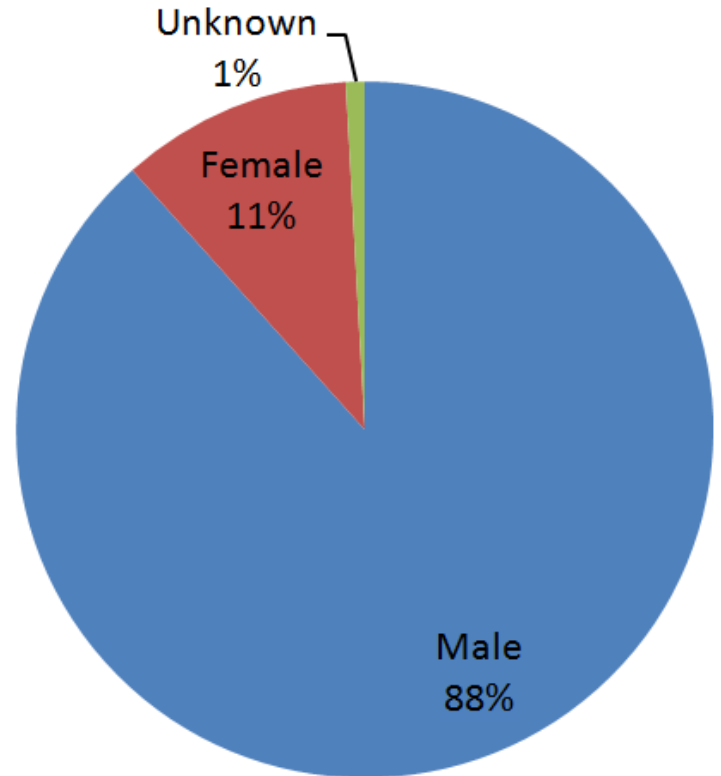
People assume kids or people that don't know how to swim, are drinking, or aren't familiar with boats are most at risk... Let's see if these assumptions are true?

Assumptions

can lead to injury & death

- Am I at risk?
 - Beginning in 1998 and over the course of 12 years: 2,290 drownings occurred at Corps of Engineers lakes
 - Mostly Male

Raystown Fatalities by gender



People assume accidents happen to people who are weak or inexperienced like kids, teens or women. Let's see if this assumption is true...

Assumptions

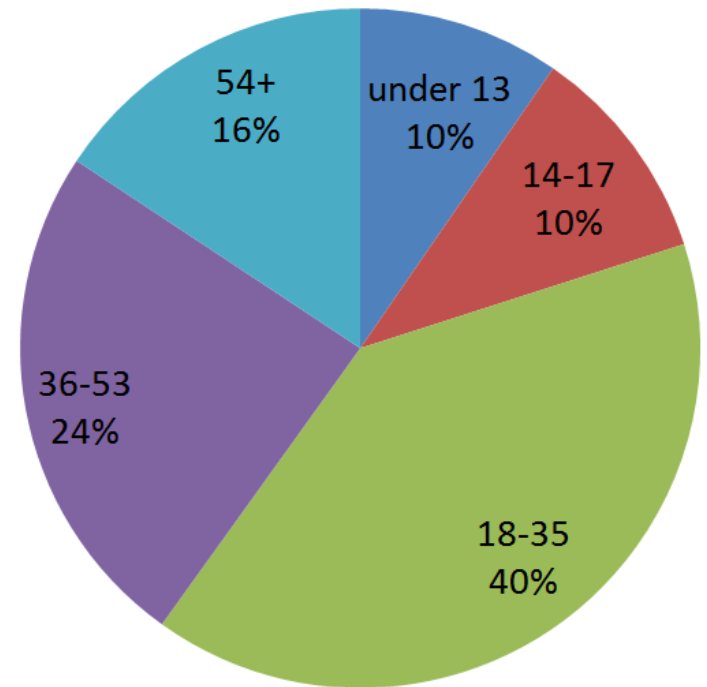
can lead to injury & death

■ Am I at risk?

- Beginning in 1998 and over the course of 12 years: 2,290 drownings occurred at Corps of Engineers lakes
- Mostly Male
- 3 in 4 fatalities are adults

Adult males are at risk!

Raystown Fatalities by age



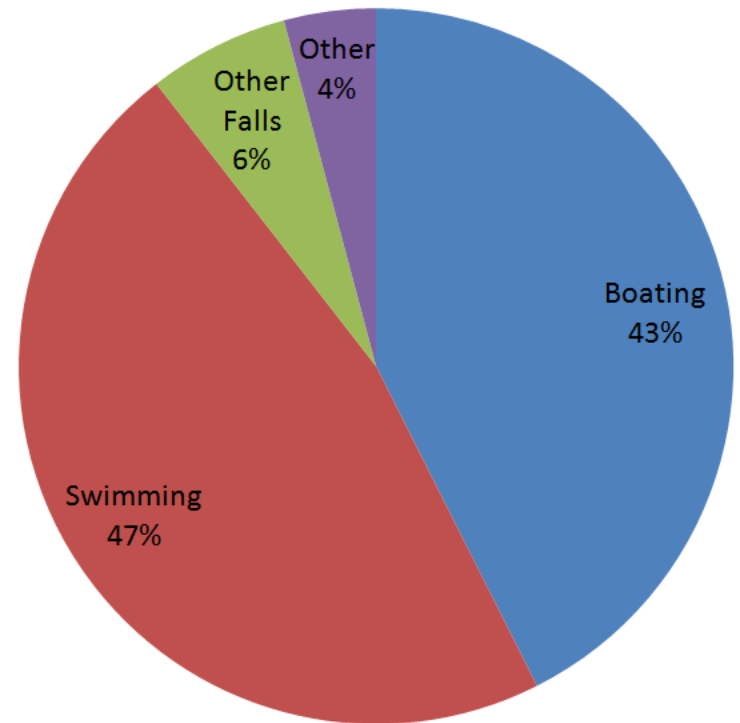
People assume accidents happen to people who are weak or inexperienced like kids, teens or women. Let's see if this assumption is true...

Assumptions

can lead to injury & death

- Am I at risk?
 - Evenly split between boating and non-boating

Raystown Fatalities by activity



People assume accidents only happen to people who are engaged in dangerous activities like open water swimming or drinking. Let's see if this assumption is true...

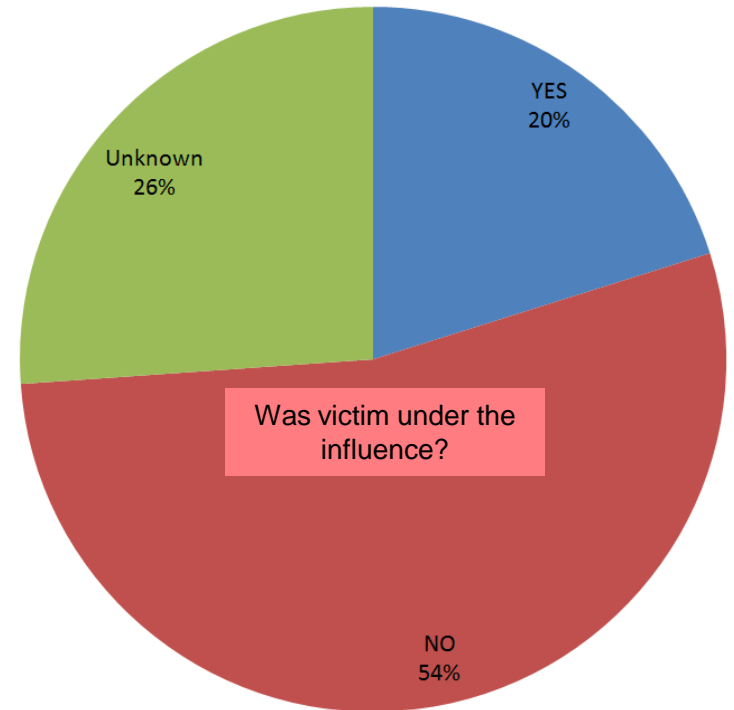
Assumptions

can lead to injury & death

- Am I at risk?
 - Evenly split between boating and non-boating
 - Most are sober

Risk is a factor in all water based activities.

Raystown Fatalities by sobriety



People assume accidents only happen to people who are engaged in dangerous activities like open water swimming or drinking. Let's see if this assumption is true...

1. People that
don't know
anything



When it comes to experience people usually fall into two categories...

1. People that don't know anything
2. People that think they know everything



When it comes to experience people usually fall into two categories...

Victims either lack or rely too much on experience.
Let's ask ourselves...

Which group am I?

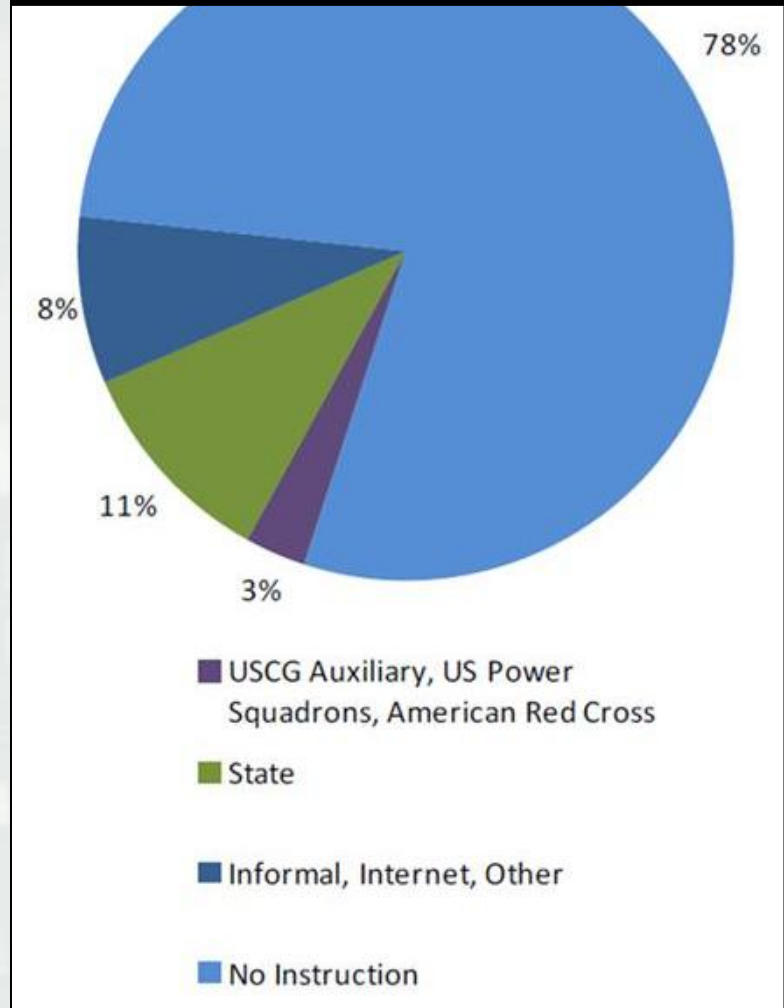
Experience

can lead to injury & death

- Which group am I?
 - Most boaters involved in an accident have no formal training (USCG)

Victims rely on a history of bad habits handed down from others or developed over time which is why they're most at risk.

National fatalities by education



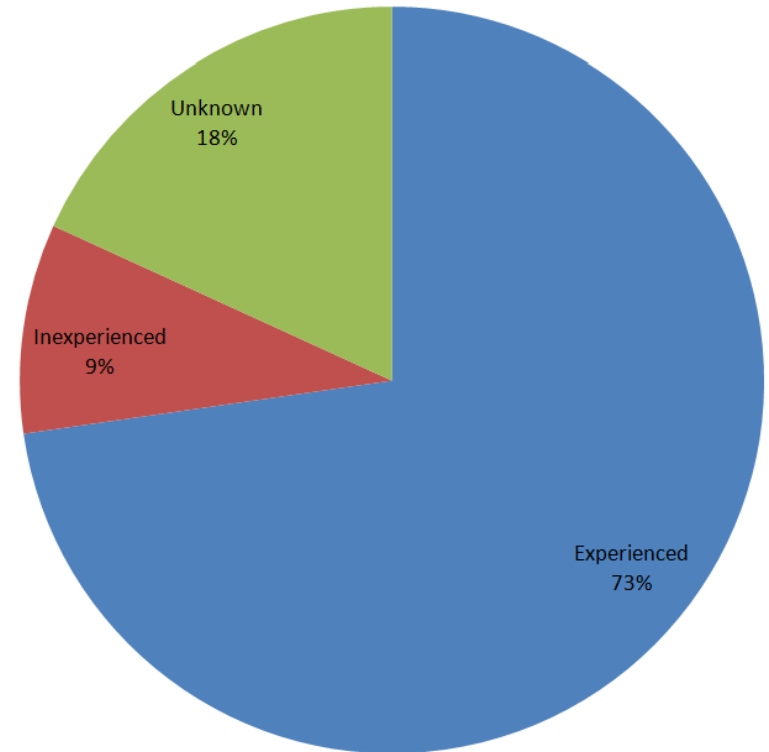
Experience

can lead to injury & death

- Which group am I?
 - Most boaters involved in an accident have no formal training (USCG)
 - Most boaters involved in an accident are experienced (PAF&BC)

Relying on
experience won't
save your life.

PA Fatalities by experience



Experience is not a replacement for basic safety precautions like wearing a life jacket anytime you're around water.

Assumptions and Experience are related to the same basic concern...

**Will your ego
get someone killed?**

Pride

can lead to injury & death



This is a simple, but accurate graph that explains the danger involved with pride...

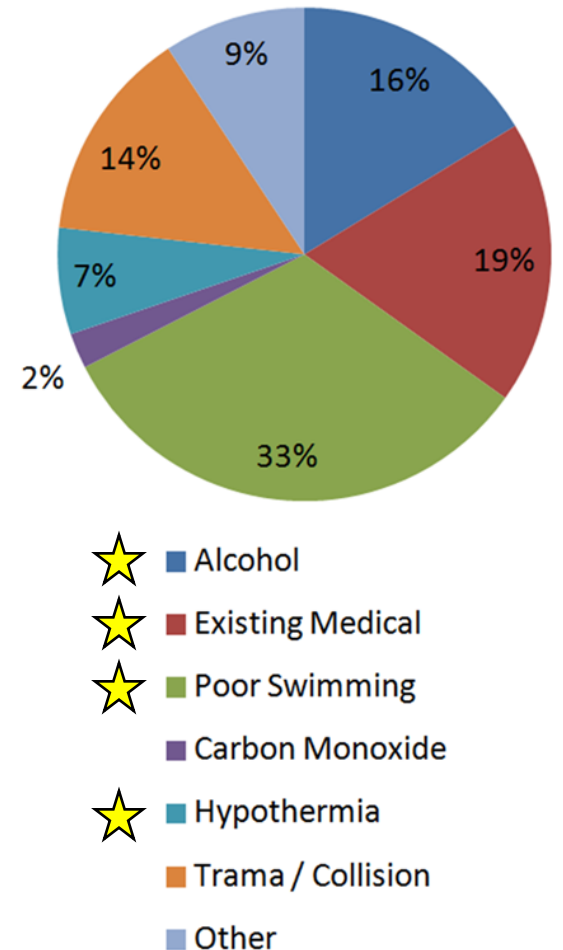
Pride

can lead to injury & death

■ Influence on decisions

- Alcohol & overconfidence have a direct relationship
- Can't admit to our medical limitations
- Can't admit we're a poor swimmer
- Overestimate our swimming ability
- Too proud to wear a lifejacket

Contributing factors in Raystown fatalities



Pride influences our decisions and is directly related to these contributing factors.

Pride

can lead to injury & death

■ Influence on decisions

- Alcohol & overconfidence have a direct relationship
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Egos kill.

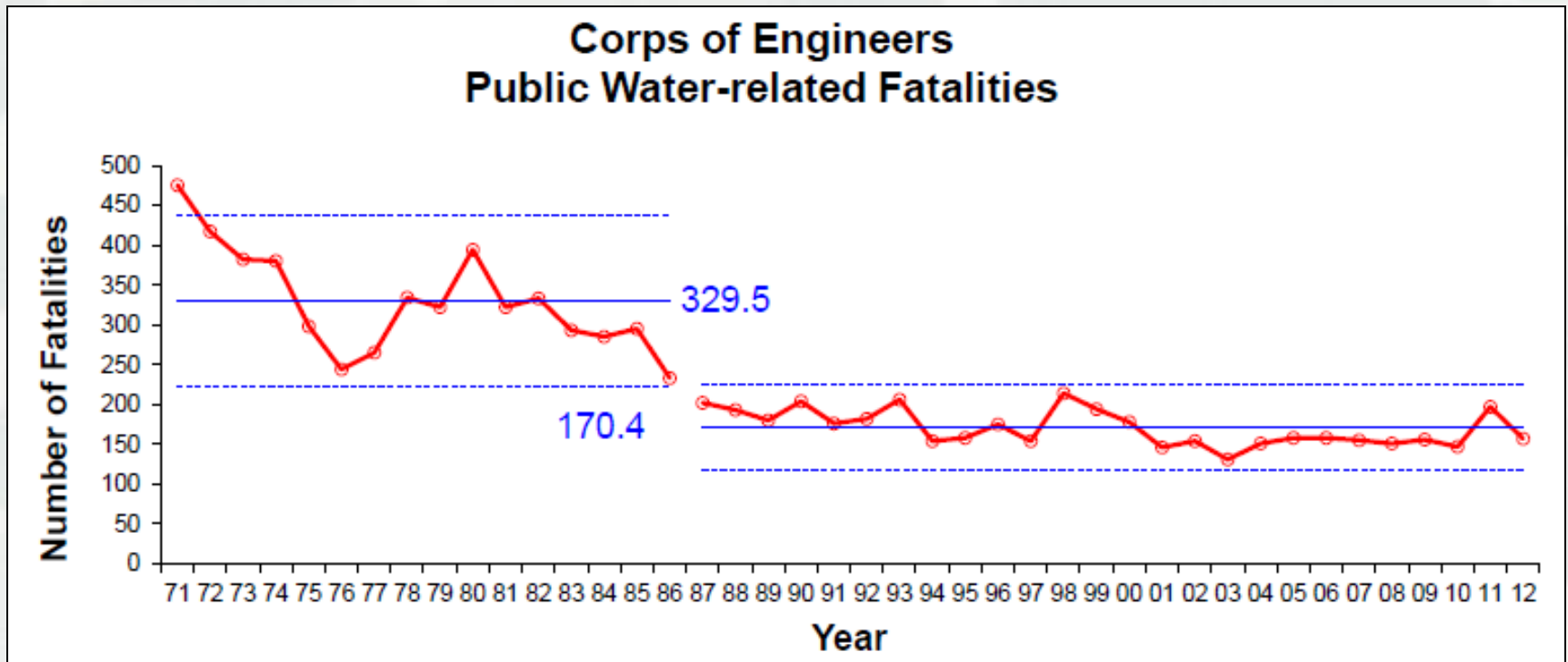
Pride influences our decisions and is directly related to these contributing factors.

You know the dangers...

Now what?

What We Can Do

- What the Corps & other agencies are doing:
 - Awareness Campaigns
 - Boater's Education
 - Swimming lessons
 - Tougher laws & penalties



Despite our best efforts, fatality rates have held steady for the past 20+ years...

What We Can Do

- We need...**YOU!**



We can only do so much. Staying safe around the water is a personal decision that impacts more people than you know...

What We Can Do

- We need... **YOU!**
 - Educate yourself



www.fishandboat.com

We can only do so much. Staying safe around the water is a personal decision that impacts more people than you know...

What We Can Do

- We need... **YOU!**
 - Educate yourself
 - Promote the water safety message to friends and family



We can only do so much. Staying safe around the water is a personal decision that impacts more people than you know...

What We Can Do

- We need... **YOU!**
 - Educate yourself
 - Promote the water safety message to friends and family
 - Develop good habits, like wearing a lifejacket anytime you're around water.



We can only do so much. Staying safe around the water is a personal decision that impacts more people than you know...



Protect your family ...



Protect your family ... by making sure you're around for them!



Don't put the lives of others at risk for your mistake...



And don't make family and friends endure a preventable tragedy.

Lost on the Lake

A Powerful
Testimonial



**“A must see that
could save your life
or the life of
someone you love.”**

Online Now

www.youtube.com/user/USACEwatersafety



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

www.CorpsLakes.us/watersafety

Produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
in cooperation with the Brian & Nathan Keese Family

If we can't convince you to make that personal decision, perhaps this man can.
(search “Lost on the Lake” at www.youtube.com)