Understanding Water Risks 衛生署 衞生防護中心 **Centre for Health Protection Department of Health** Prevent Drowning Accidents

Even a bucket of water can cause drowning. With the right knowledge and safety precautions, accidents can be prevented.

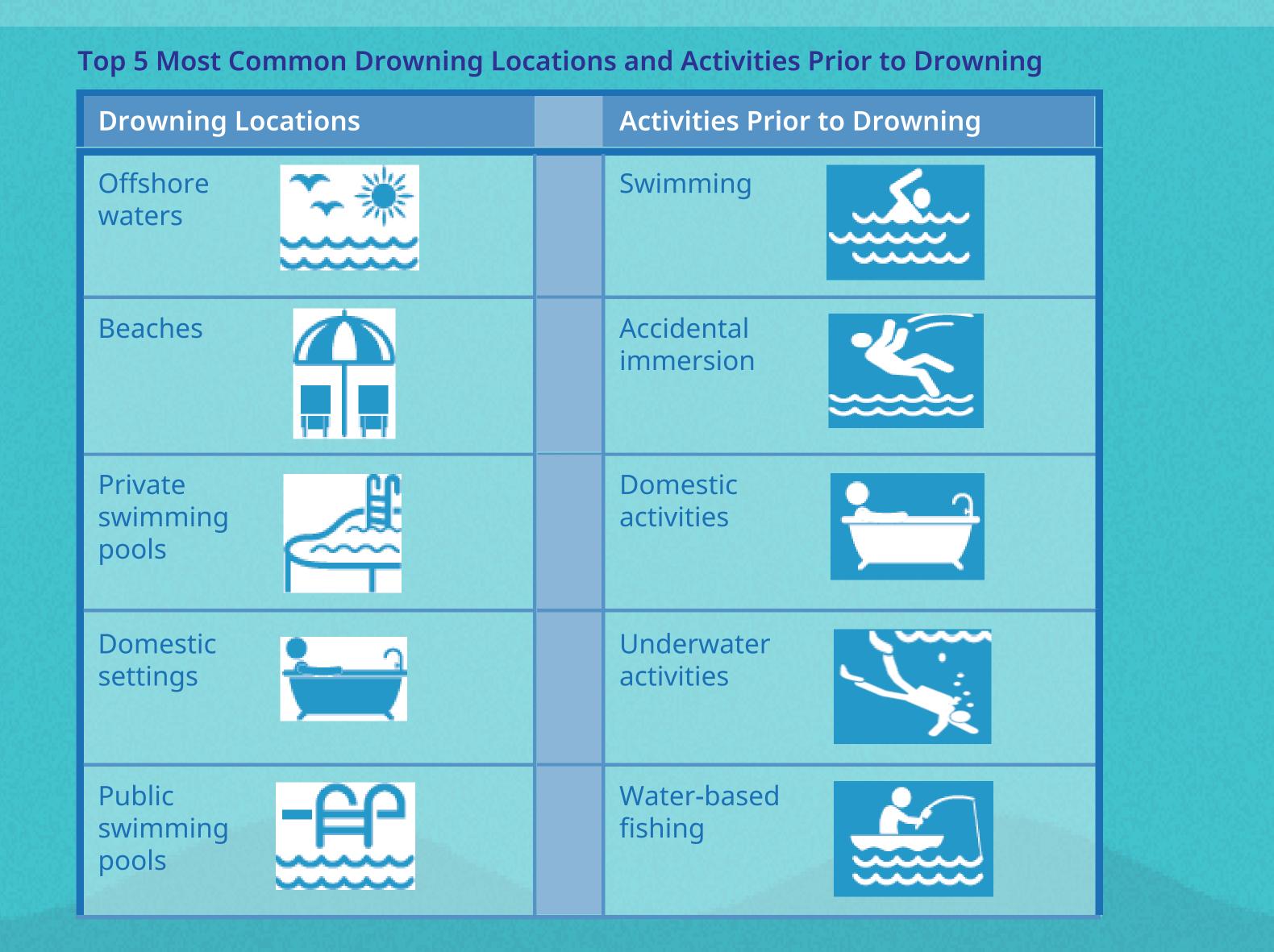
In 2019, the Department of Health released the Hong Kong Drowning Report, which analyses the cases of deaths due to unintentional drowning registered in the Coroner's Court from 2012 to 2016. This report aims to understand the demographic characteristics and the risk factors of these cases, including the locations where these drowning incidents occurred and the activities leading up to them, and also provides recommendations.

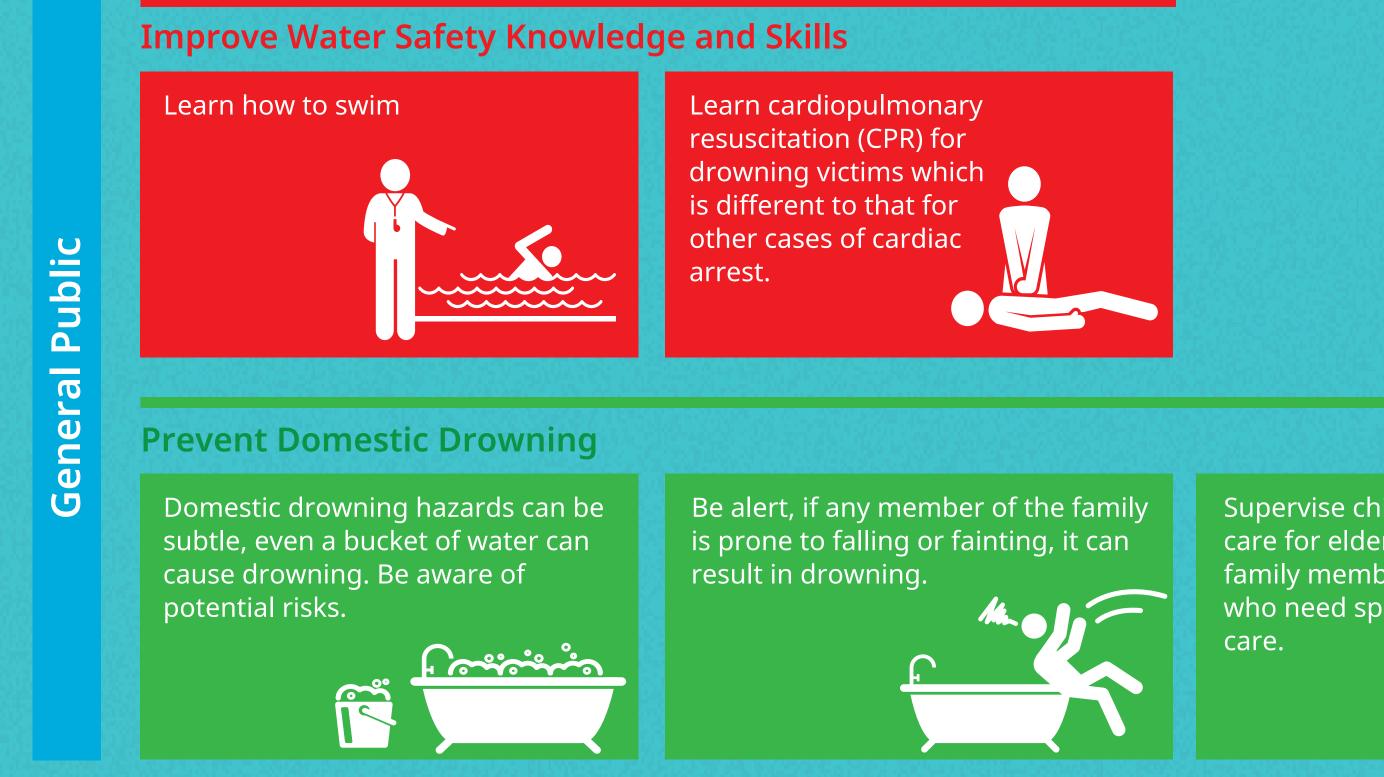
Drowning Locations and Related Activities

Drowning Prevention Recommendations

From 2012 to 2016, there were 193 deaths from unintentional drowning. In addition to the expected water activities, domestic settings and domestic activities are listed among the top five most common locations where drowning occurs and activities prior to drowning. It is therefore crucial to raise awareness of the drowning risks at homes.

It only takes a few minutes for a person to go into cardiac arrest from submersion once drowned. To ensure safety and avoid drowning, the following measures should be taken:





Be Prepared

Supervise children & take extra care for elderly persons and family members who need special

Risky Behaviours

From the report, we know more about the risk factors leading to drowning. Most drowning cases result from various complicated reasons, but the following risky behaviours were repeatedly reported.





stream.

Engaging in water activities under adverse weather conditions

Swimming in the absence of a lifeguard



25th July is World Drowning Prevention Day.

Anyone can drown, but over 90% of drowning cases occur in low- and middle-income countries.



World Drowning Prevention Day

According to the World Health Organization, over 230,000 people died from drowning around the world every year, which is 26 people per hour! Some of them drowned due to calamities, fishing, or gathering food, whereas some drowned while playing in river water, in home swimming pools, or even when showering. Many of them were children. Drowning is preventable. In 2021, the World Health Organization set 25th July as the World Drowning Prevention Day to raise awareness of the impact of drowning on families and communities, as well as to provide drowning prevention recommendations.

For more local information about drowning, please visit the following website:

