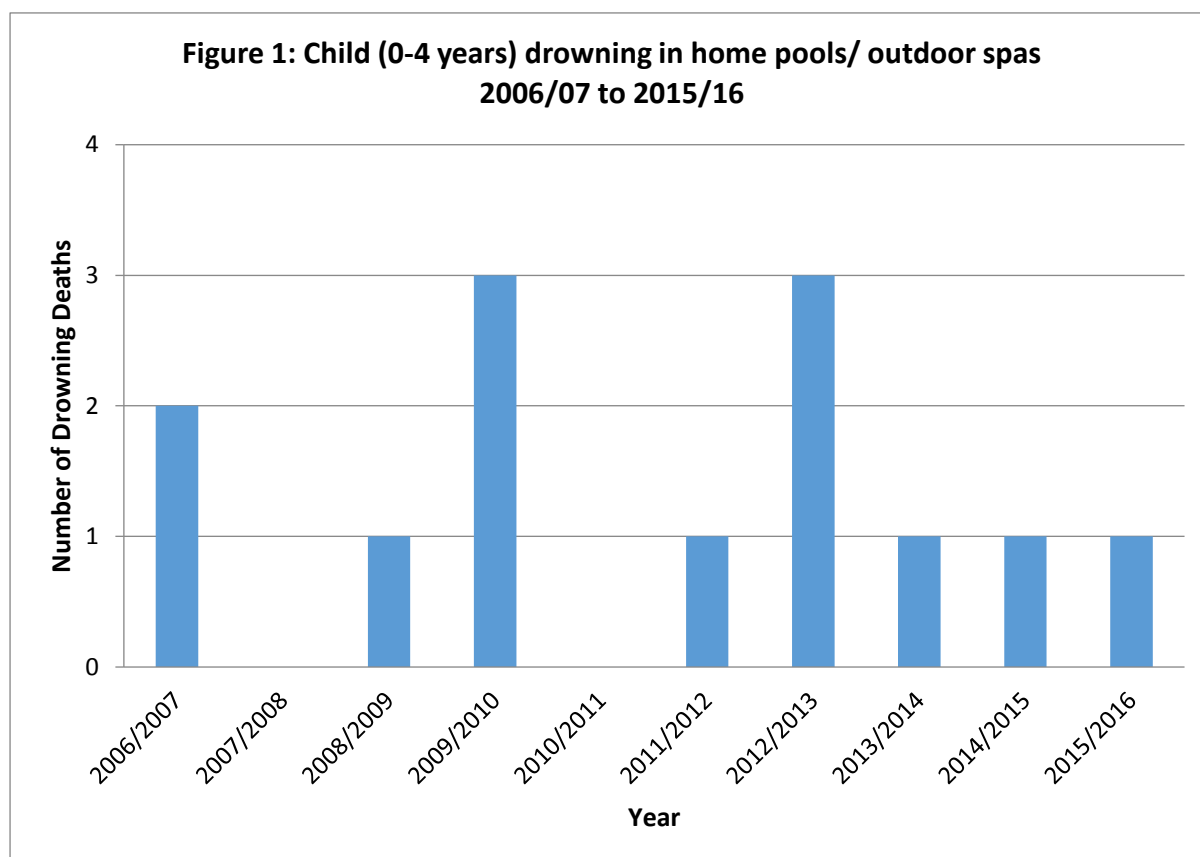


Drowning deaths of children 0-4 years of age in home pools, Victoria 2006/07 to 2015/16.

There were 13 drowning deaths of children aged 0-4 years of age in home swimming pools (and outdoor spas) in Victoria from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2016 (Figure 1). All drowning deaths occurred on a weekday (1 occurred on a public holiday), with 9 occurring in the afternoon. The majority of deaths (8) occurred in the summer and 10 occurred in Greater Melbourne.



Similar to previous reports, coronial records indicate that the deaths primarily resulted from a combination of inadequate carer supervision immediately prior to the drowning, lack of adequate safety barriers between the child and the pool/spa and availability of an entry point. Examples of inadequate safety barriers and available entry points include: safety barrier gate left propped open or door left open, faulty gate lock, safety barrier fence not maintained or adaptations to fence or surrounding area made so it no longer complied with the Australian Standards. There were also cases where a climbing point allowed access to the swimming pool.

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