



IMGH WATER SAFETY GENERAL ADVISORY

Hidden Dangers: Water Safety in Germany

Preventing drowning in public spaces, open water reservoirs, and local swimming pools.

Indisch-Muslimische Gemeinde Hamburg e.V.
General Advisory and Information

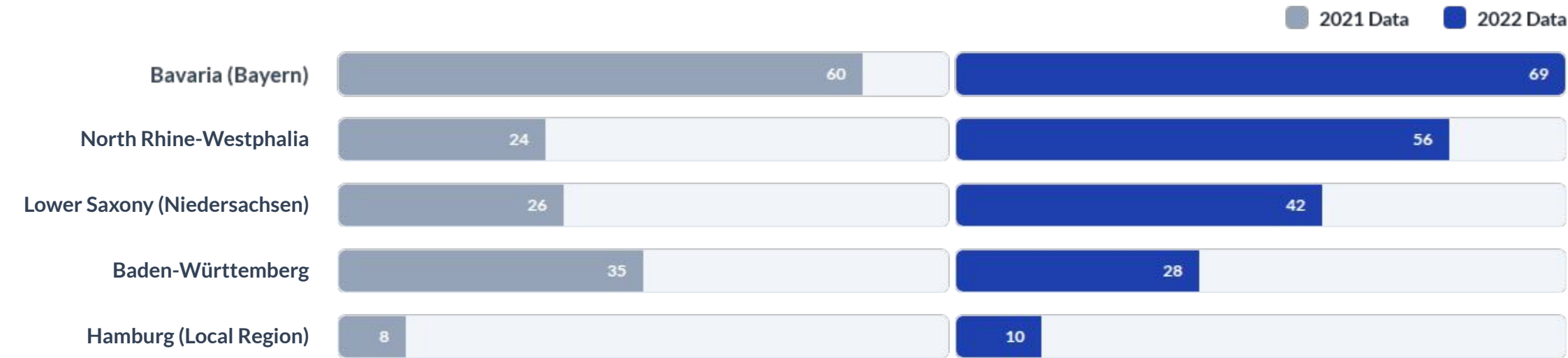




German Drowning Statistics

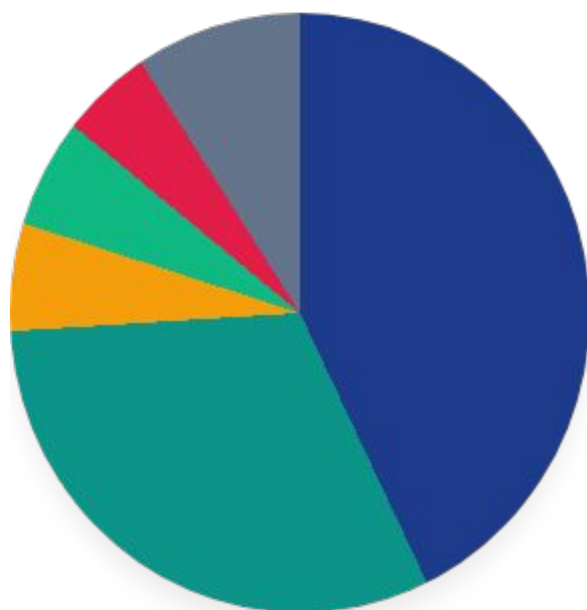
An evidence-based overview of recent water-related incident statistics across Federal States.

Drowning Incidents by German State



Note: Figures based on validated national registry data. Regional water profiles dictate typical risks.

Drowning Hazards by Water Type



-  **Lakes (147):** Static depths, cold undercurrents
-  **Ponds (22):** Sudden drop-offs & thick vegetation
-  **Sea/Oceans (18):** Massive undercurrents & rip tides

-  **Rivers (105):** Active strong currents & sweeps
-  **Canals (19):** Hard slopes, industrial barge wakes
-  **Other areas:** Public/Private Pools, streams

Seasonal Drowning Trends (2024)

Season	Month	Incidents	Environmental Indicators
Winter	Jan / Feb	3 - 4	Risk limited to cracking lake ice.
Spring	Mar / Apr	7 - 12	Early unsupervised outdoor waterside activity.
Early Summer	May / Jun	20 - 35	Water remains cold. High risk of physical shock.
Mid Summer	July	42	Peak leisure season; high activity levels.
Late Summer	August	28	Drop due to increased public alerts.



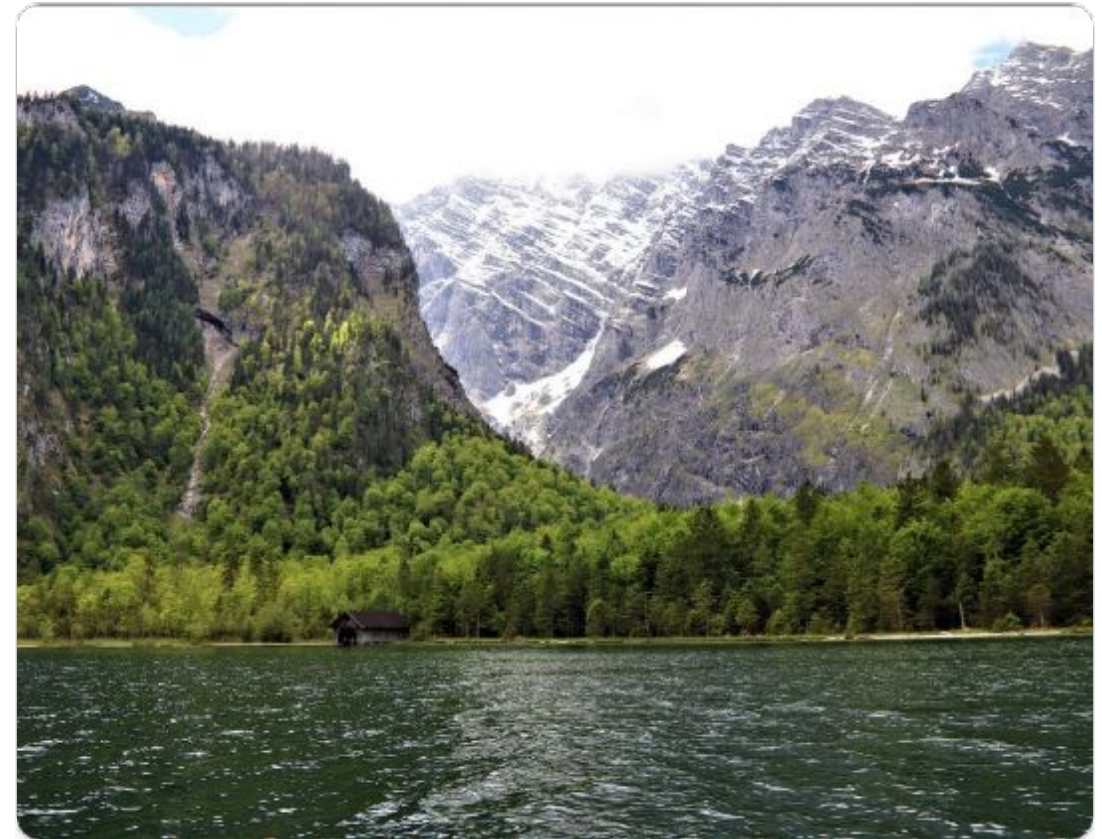
Understanding German Water Hazards

Rivers & Streams

Strong Undercurrents: Hidden eddies near locks, bridges, and ports. Rapid cooling near glacier-fed streams. Danger of floating debris and sudden barge wakes.

Lakes & Ocean Shores

Thermoclines: Seemingly warm top layers with dangerously cold undercurrents. Sandbars can shift unexpectedly. Heavy algae blooms present severe entanglement risks.



Core Guidelines for Swimmers

✓ Essential Do's

- ✓ **Swim Supervised:** Limit bathing to areas with active lifeguards.
- ✓ **Acclimate First:** Slowly splash cold water on your chest before entry.
- ✓ **Active Buddies:** Never enter any open water source alone.

✗ Critical Don'ts

- ✗ **No Alcohol:** Avoid any substance that slows your reflexes.
- ✗ **Avoid Storms:** Lightning and rough waves present fatal hazards.
- ✗ **Avoid Inflatable Toys:** Do not rely on floats in strong currents.



The Perils of Elbe Beach

Dangerous Vessel Waves

The Elbe is a busy international shipping highway. Huge incoming container vessels displace massive amounts of water.

- 1. Sinking Tide:** As ships approach, the beach water level drops rapidly, pulling curious swimmers deep into the river bed.
- 2. Sudden Surge:** Moments later, a massive surge wave returns, washing children away in seconds. Keep a safe distance!



Active Supervised Child Safety



-  **Constant Eye Contact:** Never look away to read or use your phone while kids are in water.
-  **Touch Supervision:** Stay within arm's reach of infants and toddlers at all times.
-  **Certified Gear:** Rely only on fully approved safety jackets; do not use cheap inflatable toys.
-  **Early Swim Training:** Enroll children in swim classes (like Seepferdchen certificates in Germany).

How to Respond to Emergencies



1. Call 112

Dial 112 (European Emergency Line) immediately. Do not attempt hazardous swimming rescues without safety gear.



2. Perform CPR

Once the victim is safely on land, check breathing. Perform resuscitation/cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instantly if unconscious.



3. Use the 'W's

Answer clearly: Who is calling, Where are you located, What happened, and How many are injured.

Water Safety Implementation Plan

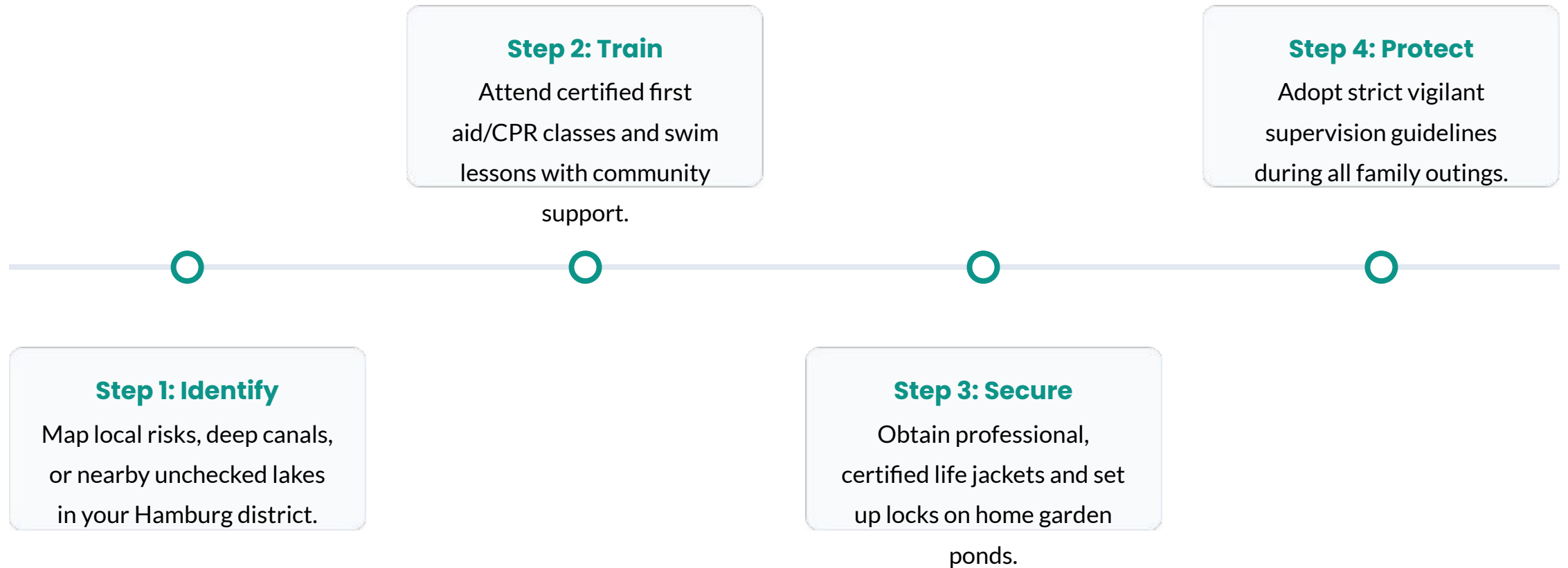


Image Sources



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