

NATIONAL DROWNING REPORT IN SPAIN

STATISTICS TO HELP IN DROWNING PREVENTION MEASURES

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Background

According to the World Health Organization, WHO, every year 372.000 people die through drowning in the world, and it is the third cause of mortality and represents 7% of the world total.

In response to the absence of official records in Spain that collect information on the magnitude of the problem or the national peculiarities of deaths caused by drowning, Royal Spanish Lifesaving Federation (RFESS), since 2015, carries out a National Report of Drowning that counting the number of drowned and making a classifications for its subsequent analysis and elaboration of measures to be adopted in the different spaces. In this way, data collection is elaborated as an important method to gain knowledge about the preventive measures must be taken in order to reduce the number of fatal water accidents in our country.

Objectives

- To know and report about the number of deaths caused by drowning in Spain.
- To rank the factors and areas of risk, unfavorable age ranges, exposure levels and type of accidents that take place in water spaces of our country.
- To establish a classification of guidelines to be adopted as timely prevention measures to prevent deaths through drowning.
- To make a comparison over the years to check the effectiveness of the preventive measures taken and to develop new considerations.

Methodology

Information is collected from written and digital press cutting through internet search engines, and using the followings keywords: drowning, drown death, missing and corpse.

Collecting data are ranked according to a parameters needed to make the statistic and to prepare the timely analysis. These parameters are as follows: age, date of the accident, time, sex, nationality, place of the accident (beach, river, ocean, lake, pool...), regions, existence of lifeguard service, developed activity, and type of space (public or private).

All these collected data are shown in tables and statistical graphs in numbers and percentages of each variable.

Results

Results of the National Report of Drowning, in 2015 and 2016, show that every year we exceed 400 deaths by drowning.

The highest number of deaths by drowning is in Spanish males over 45 years of age on unguarded beaches in Andalucía, Canarias, Cataluña, Galicia, Comunidad Valenciana y Baleares. In addition, specific data from other interior areas of Spain with different characteristics are offered too.

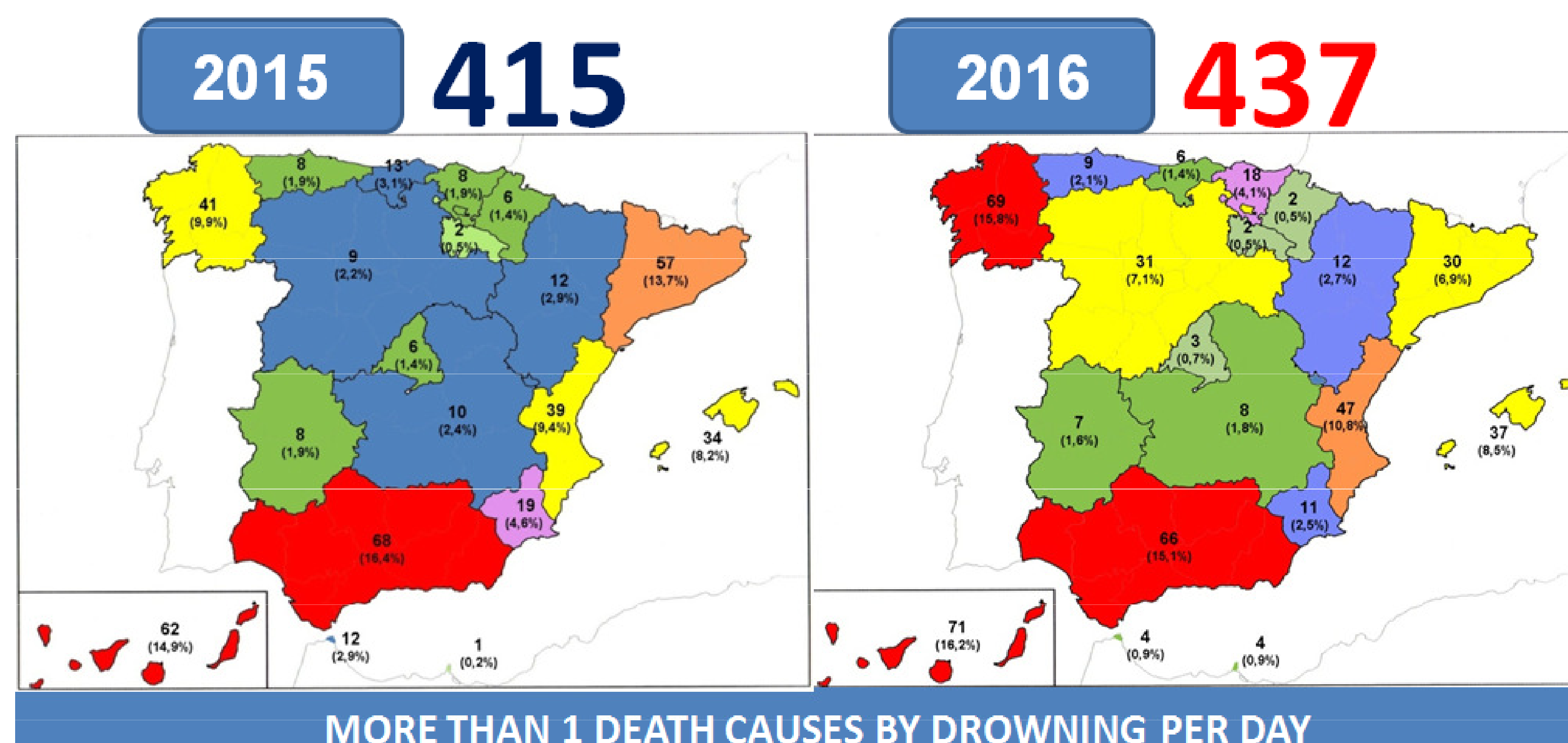


Figure 1. Number and percentage of drowning in Spain between January 1 and December 31, 2015 and 2016, depending on the region where the incident took place.

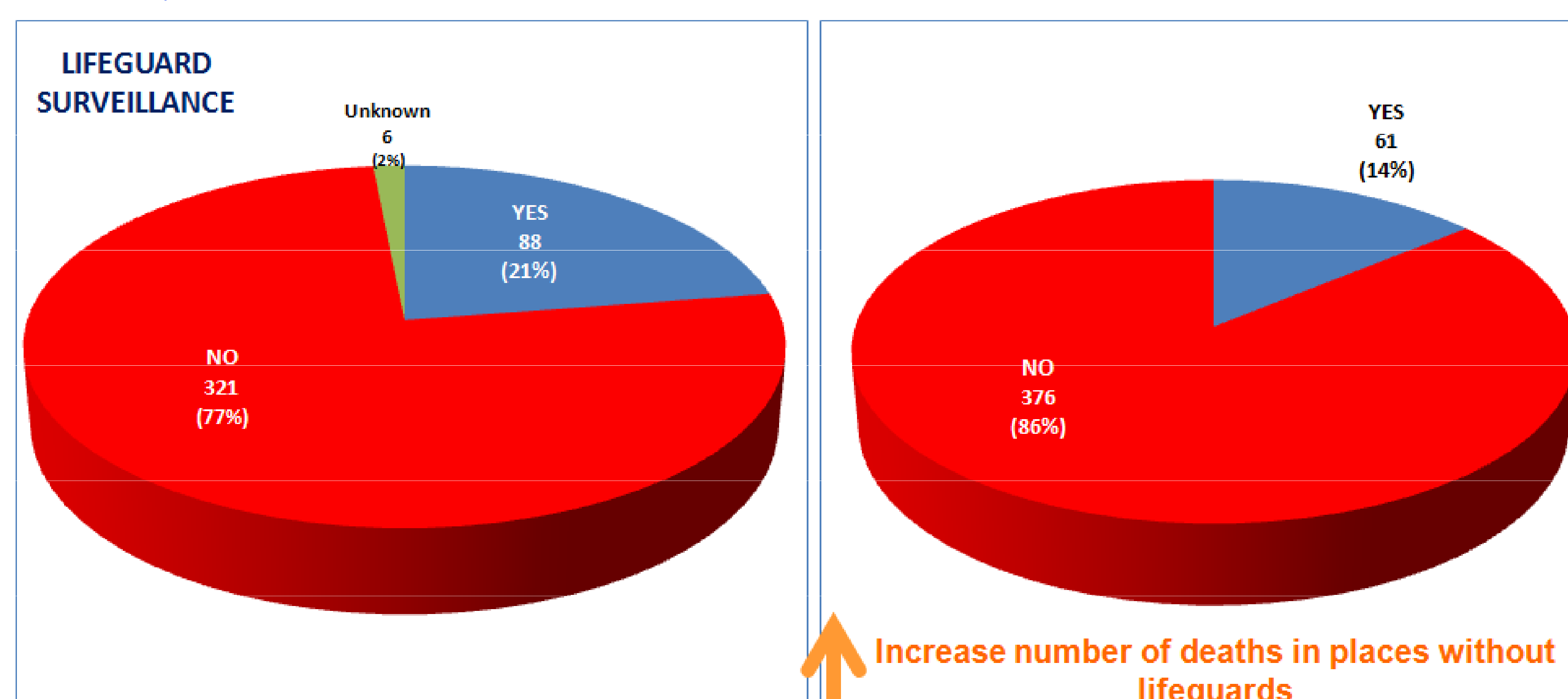


Figure 2. Number and percentage of drowning people in Spain between January 1 and December 31, 2015 and 2016, depending on whether or not there were lifeguards at the time of the incident.

KEYWORDS

Data
Drowning
Information
Prevencion
Factor of risk

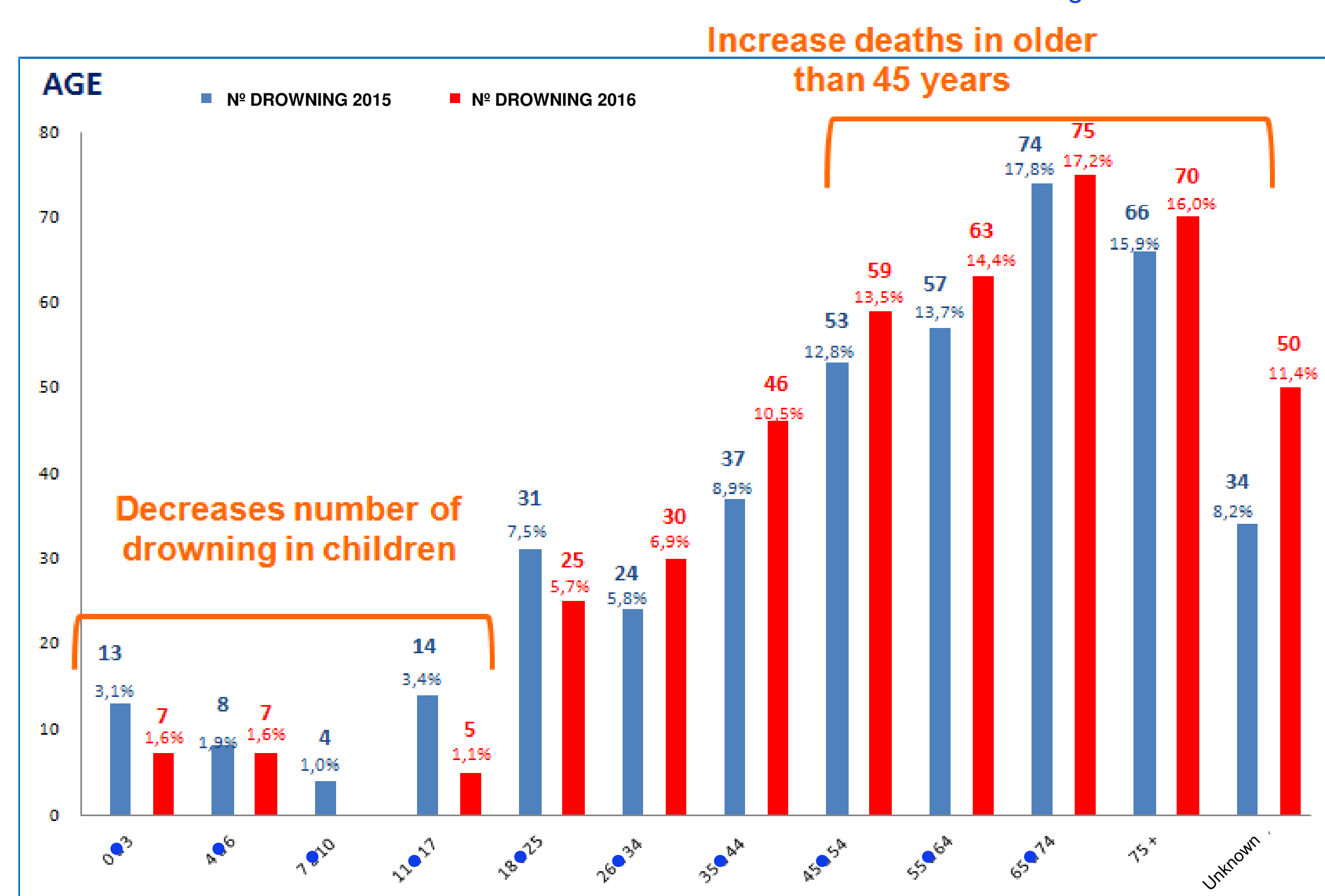


Figure 3. Number and percentage of drowning in Spain between January 1 and December 31, 2015 and 2016 depending on the age of the subject.

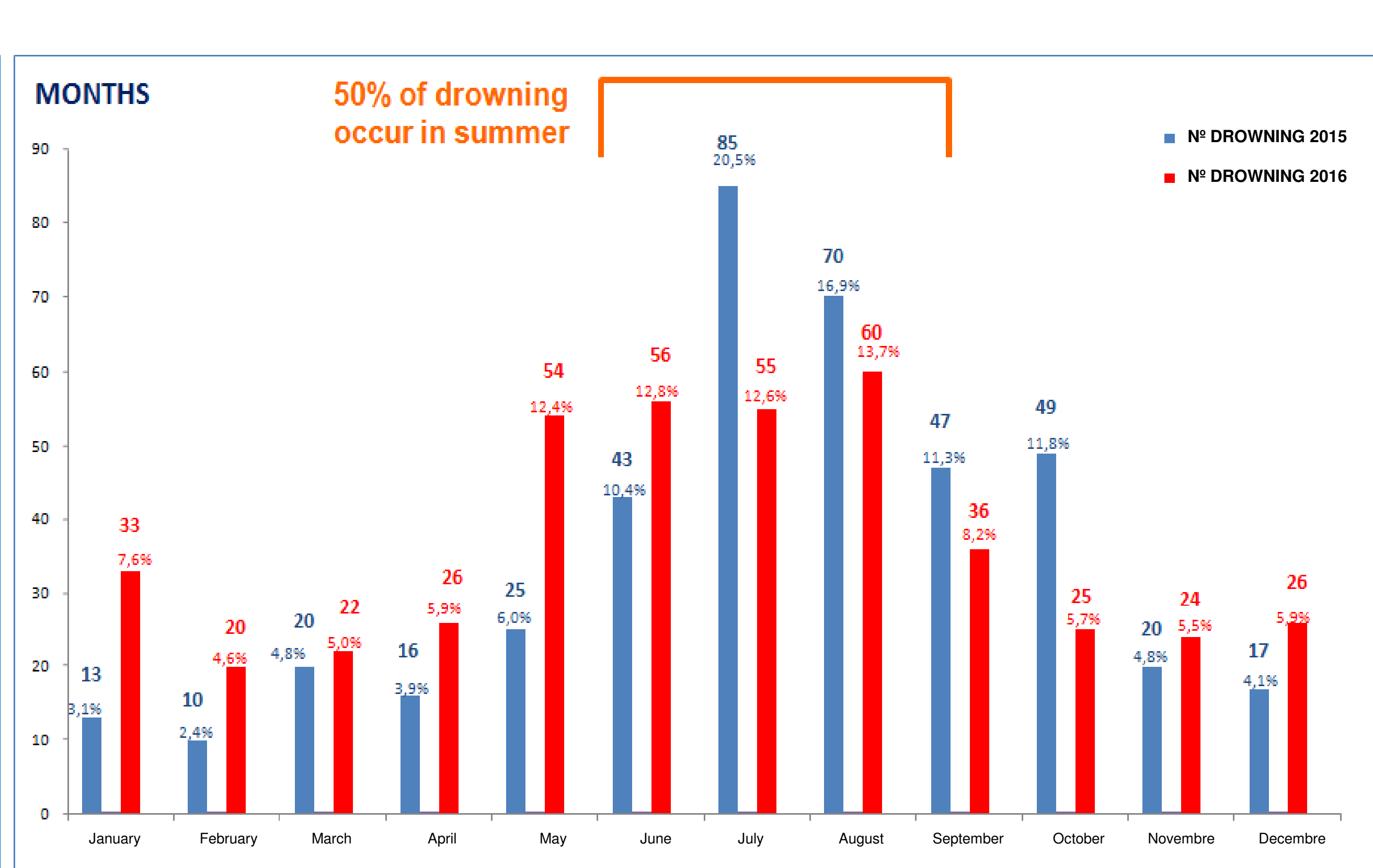


Figure 4. Number and percentage of drowning in Spain between January 1 and December 31 of the year 2015 and 2016 depending on the month in which the incident occurred.

Conclusions

The high number of deaths caused by drowning forces us to publish reports that raise awareness of society and involve public administrations to reduce the number of fatal water accidents in our country. An accurate count of the number of people death by drowning is very important, especially when it comes to involving government and citizens to prevent future fatal water accidents. It is impossible to manage what is not measured.

Therefore, data statistics help to know what the best preventive measure is in each moment, by counting accurate data that will help to analyze certain situations, develop specific programs or campaigns, monitor their success and help with the allocation of the resources at our disposal.