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Dear to whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Injury Prevention Centre and the Lifesaving Society, we are writing to request data from your organization as part of an ongoing collaborative research project that will examine non-fatal drowning events in Albertan public swimming pools to develop more effective strategies for drowning prevention. We define a non-fatal drowning event as the process of respiratory impairment, due to being underwater, but stopped prior to death\*.

Initiated by the Lifesaving Society, the first goal for the project will be to calculate rates of non-fatal drowning events in Alberta. Secondly, we will analyze the characteristics of the non-fatal drowning events as well as the demographic characteristics of the individuals who suffered said event. We will also analyze the physical design features of the pool where non-fatal drownings have occurred. Lastly, the proposed project will compare incidents of non-fatal drownings in aquatic facilities across various neighborhood measures such as median income, education level, percentage single-parent families, and percentage of new Canadians. Please see Appendix A regarding what variables we are interested in collecting. Ethics for the proposed project has been approved by the University of Alberta. In order to effectively collect the data from your organization, we propose the following options:

**Option 1:**

We send an Excel spreadsheet to your organization where someone from your organization enters the data in the spreadsheet based on information from incident reports and/or other databases. Once the data has been entered accurately, your organization will then send the spreadsheet back to the Injury Prevention Centre where it will be stored and analyzed on a secure desktop computer.

**Option 2:**

Have your organization send all information outlined in Appendix A pertaining to all the non-fatal drownings that have occurred in your facilities in its original form (PDF, Excel file, etc) directly to the Injury Prevention Centre where the data will then be entered, cleaned, and analyzed.

If you are interested in participating in this research study, or you would like more information please contact Jakob Koziel at [koziel@ualberta.ca](mailto:koziel@ualberta.ca).

Sincerely,  
D. C. Voaklanderr, PhD  
Director - Injury Prevention Centre

Kelly Carter, BMgt  
Executive Director - Lifesaving Society Alberta & Northwest Territories

\* This is based on the working definition of non-fatal drowning as defined by the World Health Organization. More information can be found here [https://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/drowning/non-fatal-drowning/en/](https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/drowning/non-fatal-drowning/en/).

**Appendix A: List of Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Code</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>
Escalation*	<b>0 = EMS contacted, 1 = EMS not contacted</b>	This variable indicates whether the non-fatal drowning episode resulted in Emergency Medical Services being contacted (0) or not (1).
Type of Rescue*	<b>1 = Wet, 0 = Dry</b>	This variable indicates the type of rescue that the lifeguard(s) present on deck engaged in to rescue the victim (i.e. if the lifeguard had to enter the pool area to rescue the victim then this variable would be coded as 1, etc).
Level of respiratory impairment *	<b>0 = Mild Impairment, 1 = Moderate impairment, 2 = Severe Impairment</b>	This variable gauges the level of respiratory impairment of the victim immediately following the non-fatal drowning episode. (i.e. if the victim after being rescued was breathing and fully alert then this variable will be coded as 0, etc.
Context of the non-fatal drowning episode*	<b>0 = Swim lesson, 1 = Camp, 2 = Birthday party, 3 = Public swim, 4 = Sports Club, 5 = Lane Swim, 6 = Exercise Class, 7 = Other</b>	This variable describes what events were occurring during a non-fatal incident (i.e. whether the non-fatal drowning occurred during a birthday party, swim lesson, etc.)
Time of the incident	<b>Hour: Minute</b>	This variable outlines the time at when the event occurred
Date of the incident	<b>Year/Month/Day</b>	This variable outlines the date at when the event occurred
Aquatic Facility	<b>Name and address of Aquatic facility</b>	This variable details the name and address of the aquatic facility
Age	<b>Numerical Value</b>	This is the age of the victim at the time that they suffered a non-fatal drowning episode
Sex	<b>0 = Male, 1 = Female</b>	This is the sex of victim at the time that they suffered a non-fatal drowning episode
Victim required first aid treatment	<b>0 = No, 1 = Yes</b>	This variable indicates whether the victim required first aid treatment during the time they suffered a non-fatal drowning episode
Size of pool area	<b>0 = &lt; 400 m<sup>2</sup>, 1 = 401-500 m<sup>2</sup>, 2 = 501-600 m<sup>2</sup>, 3 = 601-700 m<sup>2</sup>, 4 = 701-800 m<sup>2</sup>, 5 = &gt; 801 m<sup>2</sup></b>	This variable details the size of the pool area where the non-fatal drowning episode occurred. This variable can be coded in square meters.
Pool area	<b>0 = Recreational Swimming Pool, 1 = Lap Pool, 2 = Lazy River, 3 = Tot pool, 4 = Diving pool, 5 = Other</b>	This variable details the category of the pool area where the non-fatal drowning episode occurred
Number of bathers	<b>Numerical Value</b>	This variable is the number of bathers who were present at the facility during a non-fatal drowning episode.
Number of lifeguards	<b>Numerical Value</b>	This variable is the number of lifeguards who were present on deck and providing surveillance during a non-fatal drowning episode.
Bather-lifeguard ratio	<b>Numerical Value</b>	Please provide information on what bather lifeguard ratios your facility utilizes.

\* More information on how to code this variable will be sent to you.