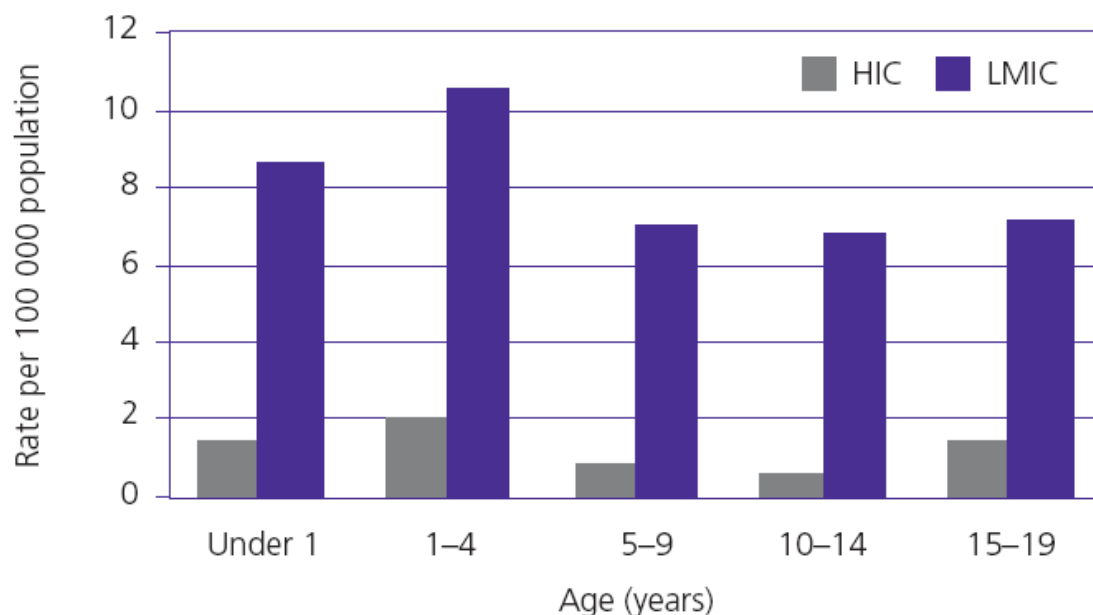


Drowning is the leading cause of child death in many countries in the Western Pacific and some countries in South-East Asia

More than 175 000 children and teenagers die from drowning each year – that is approximately 480 children per day. Children under the age of 5 years are most at risk. Most child drowning events happen in and around the home. In low-income and middle-income countries drowning usually occurs in open bodies of water or water collections systems during everyday activities like playing, washing or collecting water. In high-income countries most drowning occurs during recreational activities in swimming pools or the sea.

Fatal drowning rates per 100 000 children by age and country income level, World, 2004



HIC = High-income countries; LMIC = low-income and middle-income countries.

Source: WHO (2008), Global Burden of Disease: 2004 update.