Evaluation of a community-based drowning prevention programme in northern Islamic Republic of Iran

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluated the feasibility of a drowning intervention package in northern Islamic Republic of Iran. A quasi experimental design used pre- and post observations among residents and tourists in water recreation beach areas of intervention and control regions by the Caspian Sea and in residents near the Caspian Sea coastline. The fatal drowning rate in the studied resident population in the provinces fell from 4.24 per 100 000 residents at baseline to 3.04 per 100 000 residents at end line. The risk of death from drowning in the intervention areas in the water-recreation area was greater during the pre intervention (OR = 1.15, 95% CI: 0.66–2.01) than the implementation period (OR = 0.24, 95% CI: 0.15–0.37). The risk of drowning can be reduced by implementing increased supervision and raising community awareness.