

## **AUTHOR'S REPLY**

Dear Sir,

Although the focus of the study was meant to be on the more recent years, I am grateful to the writer for his comments.

The question raised is a good one. It is not easy to make an accurate comparison of the differences in the drowning patterns in the 1970s and now because of certain factors. For example, the earlier study used figures that were consolidated instead of annual figures and also used some different categories. A rough comparison indicates that the current drowning rate in Singapore is lower than in the past, but males are still much more at risk of drowning than females. Furthermore, it would also appear that swimming pools have displaced ponds and joined the sea and river as the locations with the highest number of drownings.

Yours sincerely,

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