

# Decoding the MAHC

## The Model Aquatic Health Code

The MAHC is a free resource based on science and best practices. Government agencies and the aquatics sector can use the MAHC to make swimming and other water activities healthier and safer.

# 300 million

Trips people in the U.S. make to pools and other bodies of water

People who swim can enjoy



Increased physical & mental health



Lower risk for chronic diseases, joint & muscle pain, death



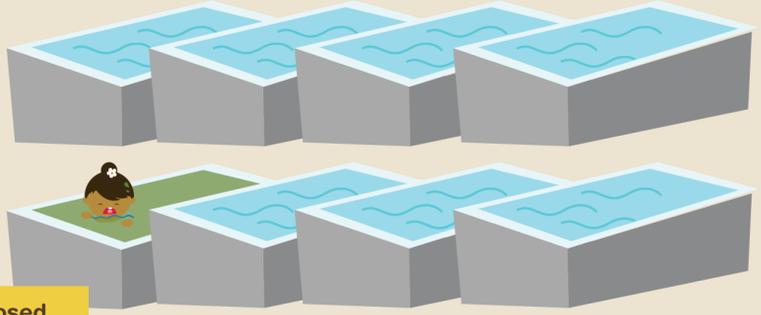
Increased quality of life & decreased disability in older age

## The Problem

But some places we swim aren't healthy or safe.

# 1 in 8

Pools closed immediately on routine inspection for critical health and safety problems



Almost 1/3 of local health departments do not regulate, inspect, or license public pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds at all.

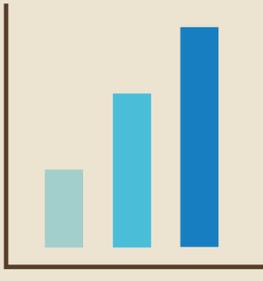
Problems can lead to

### Drowning



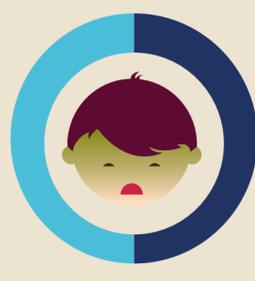
- A leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1–14 years.

### Outbreaks



- Recreational water illness outbreaks up from 15 a year (1993–2002) to 34 a year (2003–2012). A single outbreak can sicken thousands.

### Chemical Injuries



- Almost 5,000 people visited the ER in 2012 for an injury linked to a pool chemical. Almost half were under 18 years of age.

## The Solution: Use the MAHC



To update existing codes for public swimming pools and other aquatic venues



To incorporate guidelines into state and local aquatic programs



However you want: use or modify the entire MAHC or pieces of it

The MAHC is **NOT** a federal law. It's voluntary, model guidance to help reduce the burden on state and local pool programs that individually write their own codes.

## The Public Health Impact

The MAHC can help:



Prevent drowning, illness, and injury



Raise minimum standards and reduce inspection violations



Keep pools open for more summer and year-round fun

Help make swimming healthier and safer.



Learn more about  
The Model Aquatic Health Code:  
[www.cdc.gov/mahc](http://www.cdc.gov/mahc)

