

Decoding the MAHC

The Model Aquatic Health Code

The MAHC is a free resource, based on science and best practices, to help state and local health professionals make swimming and other water activities healthier and safer.

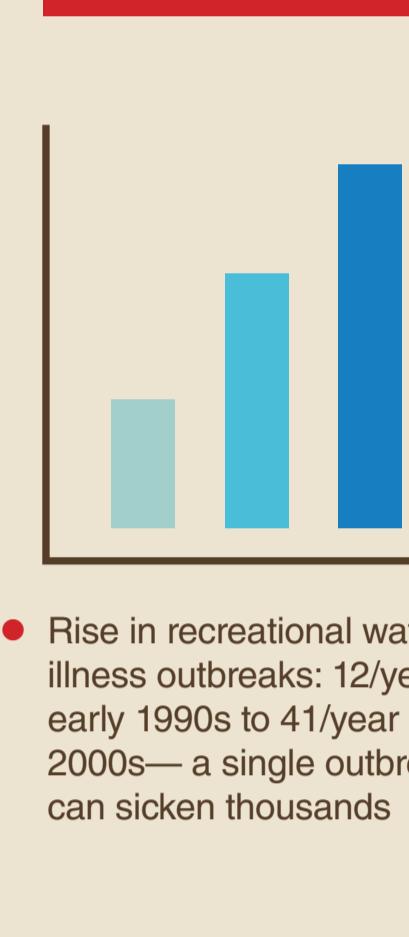
300 million

Trips people in the U.S. make to pools and other swimming areas each year

People who swim can enjoy



Increased physical & mental health



Lower risk for chronic diseases,



Increased joint & muscle pain, death

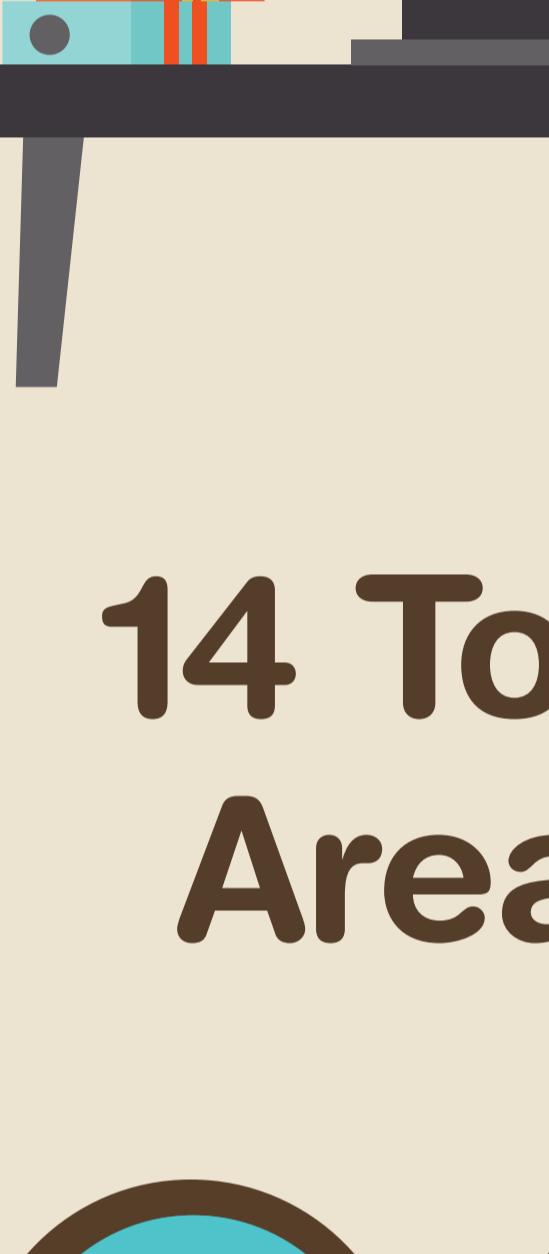
Increased quality of life & decreased disability in older age

The Problem

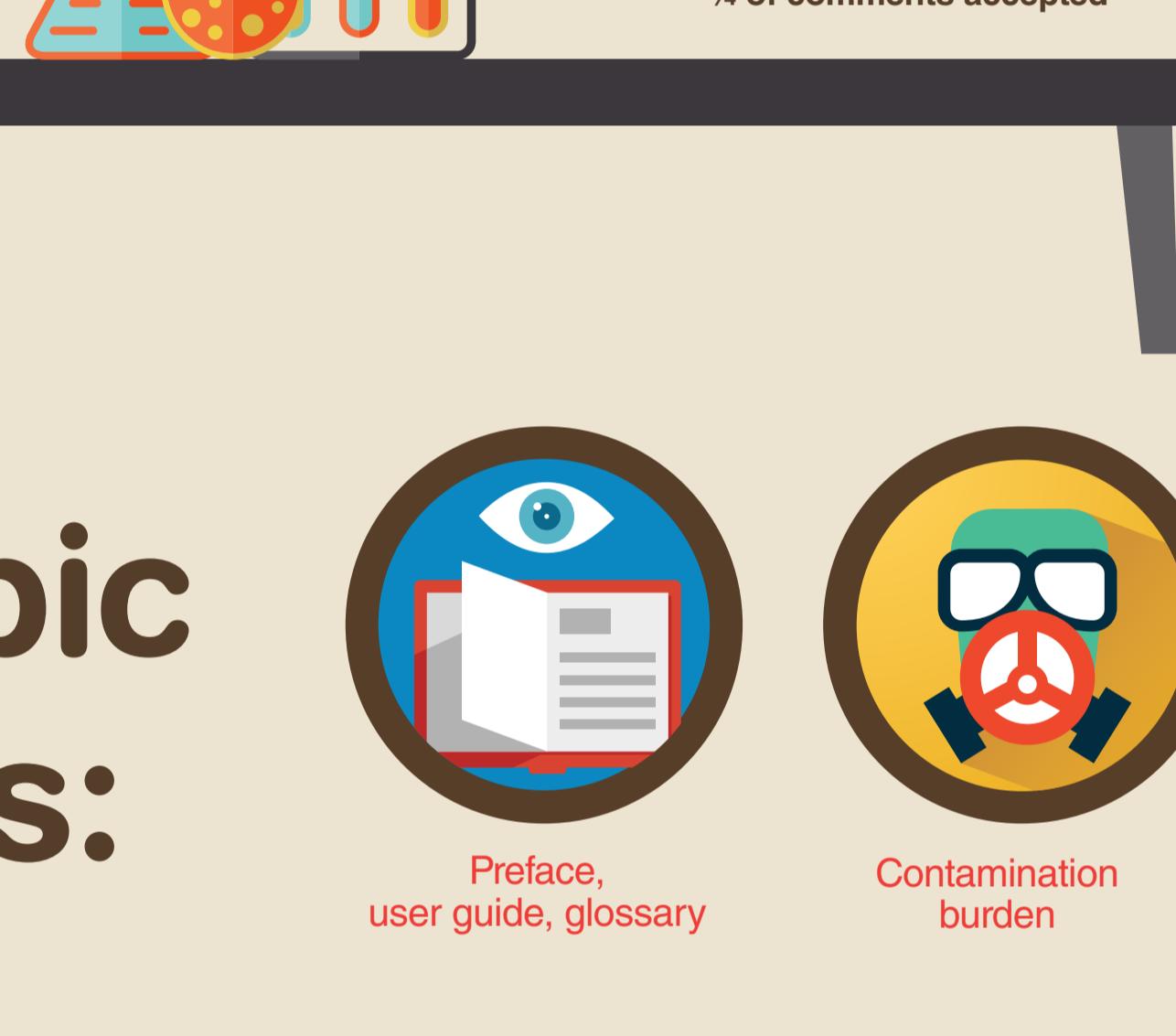
But some places we swim aren't clean or safe.

1 in 8

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



Pool Closed



Problems can lead to

Drowning



- A leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1-14, second only to motor vehicle crashes

Outbreaks



- Rise in recreational water illness outbreaks: 12/year in early 1990s to 41/year in late 2000s—a single outbreak can sicken thousands

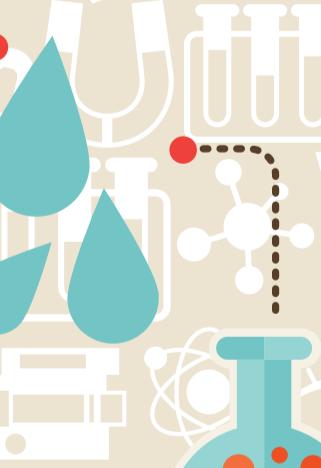
Chemical Injuries



- Almost 5,000 people visited the ER in 2012 for an injury from a pool chemical—almost half of visits were among kids

The Process

7 years



12 technical committees



140 people



Input and consensus from public health, aquatics, academia

2 rounds of public comment

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