

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

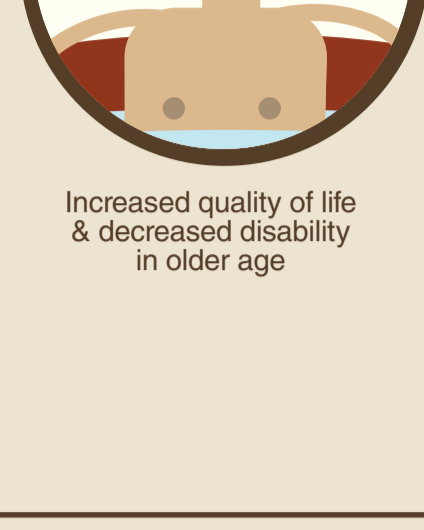
People who swim can enjoy



Increased physical & mental health



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



Increased quality of life & decreased disability in older age

The Problem

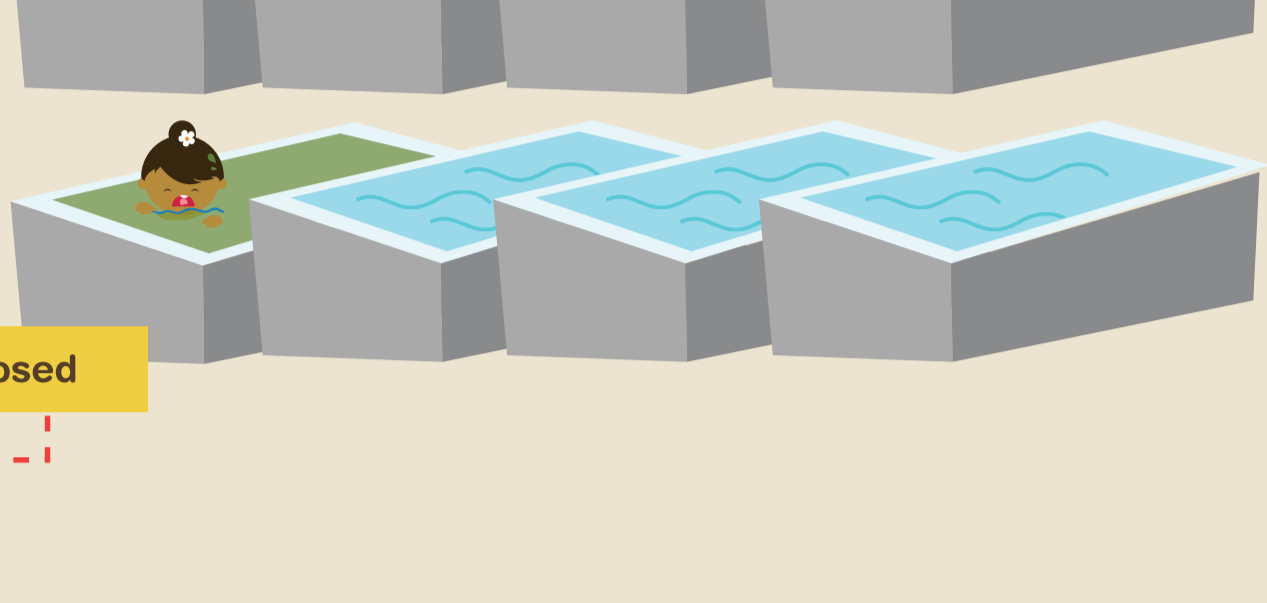
But some places we swim aren't clean or safe.

1 in 8

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



Pool Closed



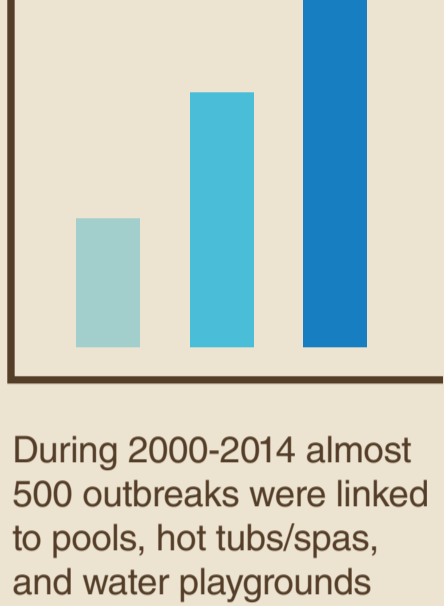
Problems can lead to

Drowning



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

Outbreaks



During 2000-2014 almost 500 outbreaks were linked to pools, hot tubs/spas, and water playgrounds

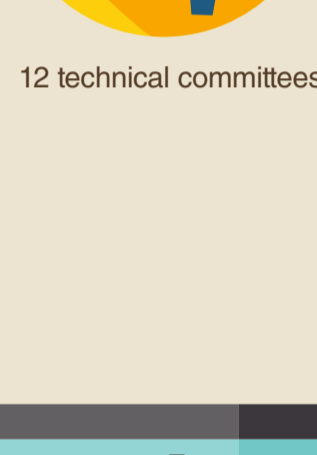
Emergency Department Visits



Between 3,000 - 5,000 people visit the ER each year for an injury from a pool chemical — almost half of visits are among kids

The Process

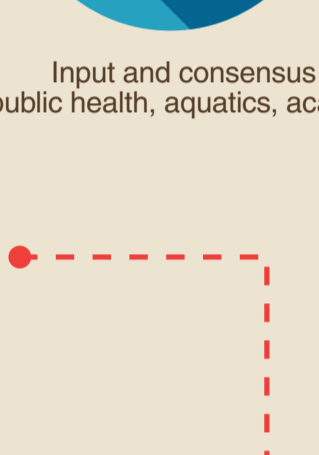
7 years



12 technical committees



140 people



Input and consensus of public health, aquatics, academia

2 rounds of public comment

4,407 comments

Received from partners, industry, public health, and interested public

almost 3/4 of comments accepted

14 Topic Areas:



Preface, user guide, glossary



Contamination burden



Disinfection & water quality



Facility design & construction



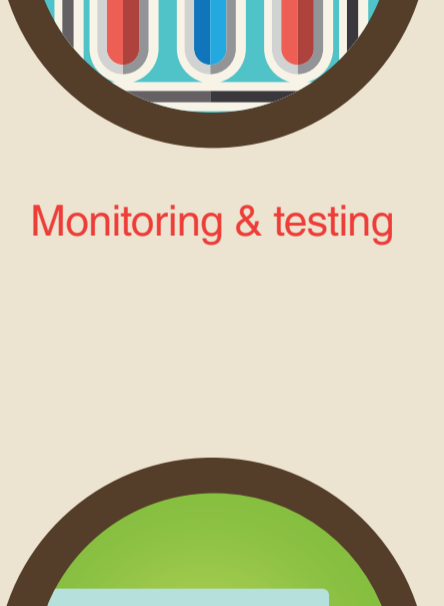
Facility maintenance & operation



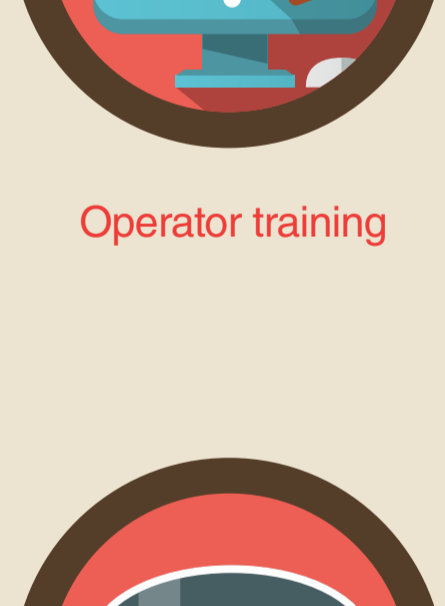
Hygiene facilities



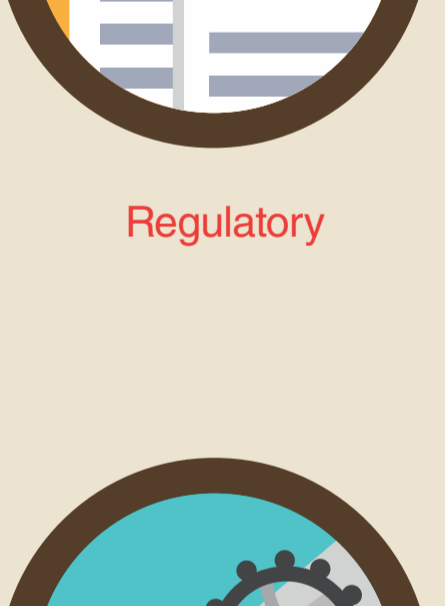
Lifeguarding & bather supervision



Monitoring & testing



Operator training



Regulatory



Risk management & safety



Ventilation & air quality



Fecal/vomit/blood contamination response



Recirculation systems & filtration

The Product

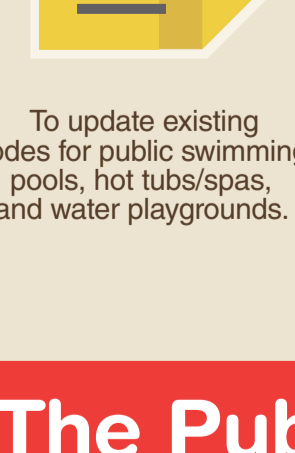
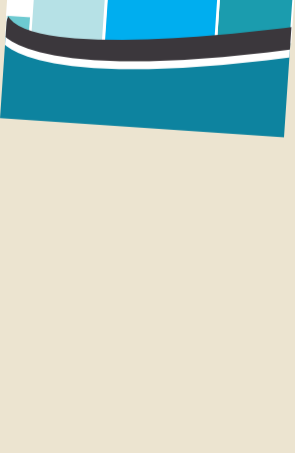
Guidelines—based on science and best practices—on how to optimally design, construct, operate, and maintain public pools and other aquatic facilities



68% of local health departments inspect public swimming pools and facilities.

The MAHC is NOT a federal law. It's model CDC guidance that states and local communities can voluntarily adopt to minimize drowning, illness, and injury linked to public pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds.

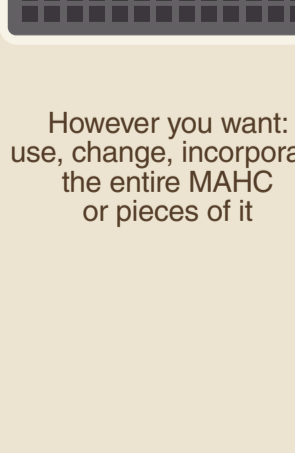
Use the MAHC



To update existing codes for public swimming pools, hot tubs/spas, and water playgrounds.



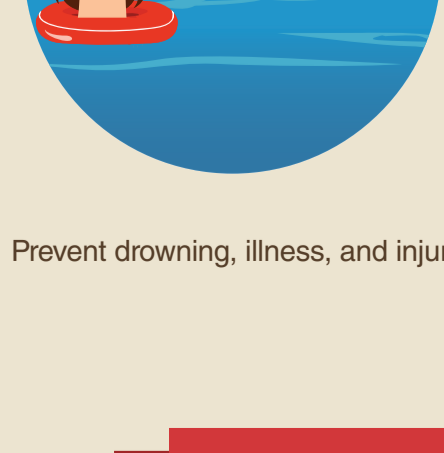
To incorporate guidelines based on science and best practices



However you want: use, change, incorporate the entire MAHC or pieces of it

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

