Staying Safe at the Beach

This survey is voluntary. We will ask you a few questions about some dangers you might face when swimming at the beach, and how you stay safe. It focuses on some of the swimming-related hazards in the Great Lakes. The results of the survey will help federal and state officials provide information that will help keep everyone safe at the beach. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete.

Under 18	1.	What is your age?	
25 - 3435 - 4445 - 55Over 55 2. Have you visited any of the Great Lakes in the past 2 years, or do you intend to visit one of the lake this summer?YesNo. Thank you for your participation, but this survey focuses on beach safety at the Great Lakes. [End Survey.] 3. [If yes to Q2.] Which of the Great Lakes did you visit or do you plan to visit? (Check all that apply)Lake SuperiorLake MichiganLake ErieLake HuronLake Ontario		Under 18	Thank you for your participation, but we can only collect answers from people who are at least 18. [End Survey.]
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Lake ErieLake HuronLake Ontario		 .	
Lake Huron Lake Ontario			
Lake Ontario			

4.	On a scale from 0 – 5, where 5 is "very strong" and "0" means you don't swim at all, how strong a
	swimmer are you?

I don't swim	Not very strong swimmer		Somewhat strong swimmer		Very Strong swimmer
0	1	2	3	4	5
0	О	0	О	О	0

[If r	espondent cho	oses "U - I don	't swim" in Q3	., then skip to (Q6.]						
5.	When you go s	_	ere do you usua	ally swim? (Ple	ase check all th	nat apply)					
Gym pool											
Public pool											
	Stream or river										
	Beach (pond or lake)										
	Beach (Great Lake)										
	Beach	(ocean)									
6.	When you visit	t a Great Lakes	heach how of	ten do vou go	into the water?	>					
0.	Never	i a Great Lakes	beach, nov of	terr do you go	med the water.						
	Rarely										
	Someti	imes									
	Often	irres									
	Always	:									
		, not visited the	Great Lakes ve	o†							
		not visited the	Great Lakes ye								
7.	When you visit	t Great Lakes b	eaches, how o	ften do you vis	it the beach wi	th your childre	n?				
	I don't have children	Not sure	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always				
	0	О	0	О	О	0	0				
[If " 8.	[If "Sometimes," "Often," or "Always" for children in Q7., then ask Q8] 8. Under which of the following conditions do you allow your children to go into the water at the beach (choose all that apply): A lifeguard is present. The waves appear small. Flags on the beach indicate conditions are safe. An adult accompanies them into the water. They wear a life jacket or other type of personal flotation device (PFD) A beach safety station with life ring or flotation device is nearby Other (please describe): I do not allow my children in the water under any circumstances.										
[If "	'Sometimes," "(Often," or "Alw	ays" in Q6., th	en ask Q9]							
9.	Which of the fo	ollowing things	do you do to l	be sure you are	e safe in the wa	nter? (Please ch	neck all that				

apply)

Only swim when lifeguards are present
Always swim with another person
Seek out and pay attention to beach condition warnings
Wear a life jacket or other personal flotation device
Only swim when conditions appear safe and/or calm
Other (please describe):
I do not swim at all or I swim very rarely

Risk Perception & Information Sources

10. How often do you check these sources of weather information before going to the beach?

Types of weather information sources	Not sure/not applicable	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Newspaper weather forecast	0	0	0	0	0	0
TV weather forecast	0	0	0	0	0	О
Radio weather forecasts	0	0	0	0	0	О
Surf Zone Forecast from the National Weather Service	0	0	0	О	0	0
Other weather forecast website	0	0	0	О	0	0
Beach website	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mobile weather app	0	0	0	0	0	О
Facebook, Twitter, or other social media	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotel desks or tourism agencies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other resource?	0	0	0	0	0	0

[If respondent indicates "Often" or "Always" for at least one source in Q10., then ask Q11..] [If respondent indicates "Often" or "Always" for "Other resource" in Q10., then ask Q.] [If neither condition above is met from Q10., then go to Q13.]

- 11. Please give specific examples of weather information sources you indicated that you use either "Often" or "Always" (e.g. a specific newspaper, website, or radio station, etc.).

 [Open response]
- 12. You indicated that you frequently use other weather information sources before going to the beach. Please describe what you use.

[Open response]

13. In your opinion, how reliable are the following sources of weather information in correctly predicting beach conditions?

Types of weather information sources	Not sure	I don't use this	Unreliable	Somewhat reliable	Very reliable
Newspaper weather forecast	0	0	0	0	0
TV weather forecast	0	0	0	0	0
Radio weather forecasts	0	0	0	0	0
Surf Zone Forecast from the National Weather Service	О	О	О	О	0
Other weather forecast website	0	0	0	0	0
Beach website	0	О	0	0	0
Mobile weather app	0	0	0	0	0
Facebook, Twitter, or other social media	0	0	0	0	0
Hotel desks or tourism agencies	0	0	0	0	0
Other resource?	0	0	0	0	0

14. Have you ever seen or used any of the following?

	Yes	No
The NOAA Break the Grip of the Rip website	0	0
Beach flags that indicate wave or current conditions	0	0
Surf Zone Forecast from the National Weather Service	0	0
The MyBeachCast mobile app	0	0
"Break the Grip of the Rip" beach signs	0	0
"Break the Grip of the Rip" brochures	0	0
Information advising you to swim parallel to the shoreline.	О	О
Information advising you to swim out of the current	0	0
Information advising you to not fight the current	0	0

15. If you arrived at the beach and saw a yellow flag, that would mean:	
Water closed to public	
High hazard: high waves and/or strong currents	
Medium hazard: moderate waves and/or currents	
Low hazard: Calm conditions, exercise caution	
Dangerous marine life	
16. If you arrived at the beach and you saw a yellow flag, which of the following action:Make no change in my plans to swim that day.Seek out areas of slightly lower waves	s would you take?

Seek out areas of slightly higher waves
Only swim where lifeguards are present
Swim with another person
Wear a life jacket or other personal flotation device
Choose not to go into the water
Other (please describe):
I do not swim at all or I swim very rarely, regardless of posted warnings.

17. How dangerous are the following swimming-related activities or hazards to you:

	Not at all	Slightly	Moderately	Very	Extremely	Not sure
	dangerous	Dangerous	Dangerous	Dangerous	Dangerous	NOT SUITE
High waves	О	О	o	О	О	О
A current that pulls you quickly away from shore	0	0	0	0	0	0
A current that pulls you						
quickly toward	О	О	О	0	О	О
rocks/structures						
Lightning/thunderstorms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bacterial contamination	О	О	0	0	0	0
Swimming alone	0	О	0	0	0	0
Sunburns	О	О	0	0	О	О
Jumping off a pier	О	О	0	0	0	О
Motorized water vehicles (jet						
skis, powerboats, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake bed hazards (sharp rocks,						
fishing hooks, broken glass,	О	О	О	О	О	О
etc.)						

[If "Sometimes," "Often," or "Always" for children in Q7., then ask Q18..]

18. How dangerous would you say are the following swimming-related activities or hazards <u>to your children:</u>

	Not at all dangerous	Slightly Dangerous	Moderately Dangerous	Very Dangerous	Extremely Dangerous	Not sure
High waves	0	0	0	0	0	0
A current that pulls you quickly away from shore	0	0	0	0	0	О
A current that pulls you quickly toward rocks/structures	0	0	0	0	O	0
Lightning/thunderstorms	О	0	0	О	0	0
Bacterial contamination	О	О	0	О	0	0
Swimming alone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sunburns	О	О	0	0	0	0

Jumping off a pier	0	0	О	0	0	О
Motorized water vehicles (jet						
skis, powerboats, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake bed hazards (e.g., sharp						
rocks, fishing hooks, broken	О	О	О	О	О	О
glass, etc.)						

19. Are any of your c	hildren between 13 to 18 years old?
Yes	
No	[If no, Skip to Q21.]

20. How dangerous would you say are the following activities or hazards for a young person aged 13 to 18 when they go to the beach by themselves or with friends (without you or another adult)?

	Not at all	Slightly	Moderately	Very	Extremely	Not sure
	dangerous	Dangerous	Dangerous	Dangerous	Dangerous	Not sure
High waves	0	О	0	О	0	0
A current that pulls you					•	
quickly away from shore	0	0	0	0	0	0
A current that pulls you						
quickly toward	О	О	О	О	0	О
rocks/structures						
Lightning/thunderstorms	0	О	0	0	0	0
Bacterial contamination	О	О	О	О	0	О
Swimming alone	О	О	0	О	0	О
Sunburns	О	О	0	О	0	О
Jumping off a pier	0	О	О	О	0	0
Motorized water vehicles (jet	_					
skis, powerboats, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake bed hazards (e.g., sharp						
rocks, fishing hooks, broken	О	О	О	О	О	О
glass, etc.)						

Risk Awareness

Next, we would like to ask you a few questions about how beach conditions and other factors influence your decision to swim at the beach.

21. How comfortable are you entering the water at the beach for the following conditions?

	Not sure/not applicable	Very uncomfortable	Uncomfortabl e	Comfortable	Very Comfortable
High waves with dangerous currents	О	0	0	О	О
Low waves with weak currents	О	О	О	0	0
Frequent high waves	0	0	0	0	0

Lifeguards on duty	0	О	0	0	0
Safety equipment available and nearby	O	O	o	o	o
No lifeguards or park personnel on duty	O	О	О	o	o
Flags indicating safe beach conditions	O	O	О	o	o
Posted warnings about unsafe beach conditions	0	0	0	0	0
Consuming small amounts of alcohol	0	0	o	o	o
Consuming large amounts of alcohol	O	O	o	o	o
News reports about recent drownings in the Great Lakes region	0	0	0	0	0

Next, we'd like to ask a few questions about how to escape from dangerous currents that may occur at beaches on the Great Lakes that you did not anticipate or want to be in.

[If the respondent selected "I don't swim" for Q3., skip to Q28..] [Photo with line showing current direction]

[
22. You are swimming near a pier and experience a current that pulls you swiftly away from shore (parallel to the pier), towards open water. Which of the following describes the best way to est this current? Swim toward shore	саре
Swim toward shore	
Swim parallel to shore	
Get the attention of a lifeguard or someone on the pier or shore	
Ask someone on the pier or shore to throw a life-ring	
Float on my back until the current weakens, then swim to shore	
I don't know	
23. Which of the following best describes this type of wave or current?	
Rip current	
Channel current	
High wave conditions	
Structural current	
Seiche	
Longshore current	
Normal wave action	

	I don't know
[Photo with	line showing current direction]
parallel 	swimming and experience a current that pulls you swiftly between the shore and a sand bar to shore. Which of the following describes the best way to escape this current? Swim toward shore Swim away from shore Swim parallel to shore Get the attention of a lifeguard or someone on the pier or shore Ask someone on the pier or shore to throw a life-ring Float on your back until the current weakens, then swim to shore I don't know
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[Photo with	line showing current direction]
water. V	swimming and experience a current that pulls you swiftly away from shore, towards open Which of the following describes the best way to escape this current? Swim toward shore Swim away from shore Swim parallel to shore Get the attention of a lifeguard or someone on the pier or shore Ask someone on the pier or shore to throw a life-ring Float on my back until the current weakens, then swim to shore I don't know
	of the following <i>best</i> describes this type of wave or current? Rip current Channel current High wave conditions

	Seiche Longsho	al current re current wave action now			
[Em	bedded video of	current or wave	condition]		
	Looking at the v		nditions, how co	mfortable would	
	Not sure	Very uncomfortable	Uncomfortable	Comfortable	Very Comfortable
	0	0	0	0	0
29.	How comfortabl Not sure	e would you fee Very uncomfortable	l letting your chi Uncomfortable	Idren enter the v	water here? Very Comfortable
	0	0	0	0	0
Fina		for additional vince to ask you a formal vince to ask you a formal vinder:		_	ch conditions]
	Male Female	at to anguer			
31.	—— What is your zip	ot to answer. code? list of zip codes o	or Open]		
32.	What language of the control of the		read in?		

	Arabic
	Vietnamese
	Polish
	French
33.	What is the highest level of education that you have completed?
	High School or GED
	Associates degree
	Trade, technical, or vocational education
	Bachelor's degree
	Master's degree
	Ph.D.
	Prefer not to answer.
34.	Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish background? Yes, I am of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent.
	No, I am not of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent.
35.	What is your race? (Please select one or more.)
	American Indian or Alaska Native
	Asian
	Black or African American
	Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
	Black or African American

You have completed the survey! Thank you for your participation!

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