RCH NATIONAL Child Health POLL



Survey questions

Water Safety and First Aid

- 1. Different children have different swimming skills. Select the statement that best describes your child. Please answer separately for each child {All ages BY CHILD} {Select one only}
- No skills at all
- Beginner swimmer they can't swim or float without help, can only doggy paddle over a very short distance and don't have any recognised strokes
- Intermediate swimmer they can float without help for up to one minute, and can swim for up to 25 metres without stopping or touching the bottom.
- Advanced swimmer they can float without help for two minutes or more and swim for at least 50 metres without stopping or touching the bottom
- 2. Different families have different views on swimming and safety around water. Please rate your level of agreement with the following {Present in random order}
- Strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, not sure
- It is okay to leave a child on their own in water as long as they are wearing floaties or a swim vest
- A lilo or inflated toys in a pool will prevent a child from drowning
- Toddlers are safe in the bath as long as an older child is there to keep an eye on them
- If young children have had swimming lessons, they don't always need adult supervision in the water
- Children who are struggling in water usually thrash about and make a lot of noise
- As long as children are swimming between the red and yellow flags at the beach, parents or carers don't need to supervise their child
- Children are never too young to start learning about water safety
- 3. Thinking now about water and children aged under 5 years. How close do you think an adult should typically be to a child who is in a pool, at a beach, at a river or dam etc.? Select one only:
- Within ten metres
- Close enough to hear them call out
- Within five metres
- Within three metres
- Holding hands

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- Within arm's reach
- Within eye sight
- None of the above
- Not sure
- 4. How long do you think it takes for a child to drown? Select one only
- 5 seconds
- 20 seconds
- 45 seconds
- One minute
- Three minutes
- Five minutes
- None of the above
- Not sure
- 5. Has your child ever had water safety or swimming lessons with a qualified swim instructor? {BY CHILD}
- Yes/No/Not sure

{BRANCHING to all who responded no to Q5}

- 1. Different families make different decisions about swimming lessons for their children.
- Why hasn't your child ever had swimming lessons with a qualified instructor? Please answer separately for each child and select all that apply.. {BY CHILD}
- It is too expensive
- Unable to travel to swimming lessons
- Unable to get lessons as classes booked out
- My partner and/or I have taught my child to swim
- A sibling, other family member or friend have taught my child to swim
- Our lives are too busy to fit in swimming lessons

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- My child doesn't want to attend lessons
- My child can swim well enough already
- We have not got around to organising them
- I don't feel comfortable going to the swimming pool
- 2. In 2020 and 2021, the pandemic meant there were lockdowns and related restrictions such as school closures and travel restrictions. Thinking now about your child, did lockdowns or restrictions including school or pool closures impact their chance to develop water safety skills? Select all that apply {BY CHILD}
- Yes, my child missed out on swimming lessons
- Yes, my child missed out on the chance to develop or practice their water safety skills
- No

{BRANCHING If selected Yes, my child missed out on swimming lessons to Q7 then offer Q8}

- 3. Do you think your child has caught up on swimming lessons that were missed due to the pandemic and related restrictions (lockdown, school closures, travel restrictions)? {BY CHILD}
- Yes, no, not sure