

2008 USA Swimming Survey Results

The results are in from a USA Swimming-sponsored survey of 1,772 children in six cities, ranging in ages from 6-16. The study found that 58 percent of African-American children and 31 percent of Caucasian children cannot swim. The study also found that African-American children drown at a rate of three times the overall drowning rate.

As fewer schools teach swimming due to liability and costs, camps are more likely to encounter youth, as well as staff, who cannot swim. Camps should consider the increasing number of non-swimmers when making decisions on new pool designs (favoring shallow water and zero-depth pools), and recognize the importance of swim tests and instructional sessions.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.