Predictors of swimming pool supervision for caregivers of toddlers

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Abstract:

\textbf{Background:} In the U.S., drowning is a leading cause of death for toddlers. One effective way of protection against submersion injuries and fatalities is parent or caregiver supervision.

\textbf{Methods:} The purpose of this study was to explore current supervisory behavior of caregivers, determine factors that influence their ability to supervise, and view common supervision distractions, like cell phones and grilling, and identify factors that influence the quality of supervision that is given when swimming with their toddler at a public pool.

\textbf{Results:} This cross-sectional study used the MTurk online platform to survey 241 caregivers of toddlers (1-4 yrs old) about their supervision behavior, their drowning risk perceptions and knowledge, the water competency of their toddler, and demographic background information. Regression analysis was used to identify factors that predict supervision behavior.

\textbf{Conclusion:} The average supervision behavior score for caregivers indicated a neutral and disagreement with allowing distractions for themselves while supervising a toddler in a swimming pool. High water safety knowledge and positive perceptions of drowning risk supervision were the biggest predictors of attentive supervision behavior. Higher education level, and believing their toddler had greater water competency and if they have a home pool.