

Welcome to the  
**CDC's Model Aquatic Health Code Network Webinar**

**Waterborne Infectious Disease Burden and Recreational  
Water-Associated Illness in the United States**

**12/4/23**

**2:00 PM ET**

Listen via your computer speakers or

Call: 301-715-8592 / Webinar ID: 899 6208 0362

**Questions may be submitted/upvoted via the Q&A box.**

**This webinar is being recorded.**



# Webinar Agenda

NACCHO Announcements

Presentation: Waterborne Infectious Disease Burden and Recreational Water-Associated Illness in the United States

Questions & Answers

# NACCHO Announcements

## **New Resource:** Pueblo County MAHC Implementation Resource Library

- Explore resources that one LHD used when fully adopting and implementing the MAHC, including:
  - Inspection reports
  - Surveys and forms
  - Draft code
  - Board of Health presentations
  - Stakeholder newsletters

**To access: Visit the NACCHO Toolbox at**

**<https://toolbox.naccho.org/pages/tool-view.html?id=6014>**

**Login or create a free MyNACCHO account to download as a ZIP file!**



# NACCHO Announcements

## New Resources: *MAHC Quick Guides* – Splash Pads and Floatation Tanks

**NACCHO**  
National Association of County & City Health Officials

[QUICK GUIDE]  
August 2023

**Preventing the Spread of Germs in Splash Pads:**  
A Quick Guide for Health Departments and Operators



**What is an interactive water play venue?**

Any indoor or outdoor installation that sprays or jets bathers with water designed in a way that standing or captured water is not part of the bather activity area. These aquatic venues are also known as "splash pads," "spray pads," or "wet decks."

**What are the risks of splash pads if not maintained properly?**

**Background**

This reference guide can be used by local, state, tribal, and territorial health departments, and pool operators as a tool for understanding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) recommendations for operation and maintenance of splash pads. A similar quick guide has been created for floatation tanks at <https://www.naccho.org/mahc/quick-guides/floatation-tanks>. The guides combine information from CDC's 2023 Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) and website to highlight key takeaways.

Go to [cdc.gov/mahc/](https://www.cdc.gov/mahc/) for more detailed information.

- Splash pads are usually designed so that standing water does not collect in the water play area, in a way to reduce the risk of drowning. However, splash pads can spread germs and make bathers sick if the water is not disinfected properly.
- Because splash pads are not like pools, their designs do not always meet the local, state, territorial, or tribal definition of an "aquatic venue." This means they are not always regulated, nor are they always required to be disinfected with germ-killing chemicals.
- Cryptosporidium* is a common parasite that can be found in splash pads. From 2001-2010, *Cryptosporidium* was the leading cause of waterborne disease outbreaks, leading to the stringent disinfection policies promoted by the MAHC for splash pads. See [cdc.gov/parasites/cryptosporidium.html](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cryptosporidium.html) for more information.
- Making sure that the water used for splash pads is properly recirculated and disinfected is key to preventing the spread of germs and disease.

**NACCHO**  
National Association of County & City Health Officials

[QUICK GUIDE]  
August 2023

**Safely Managing Floatation Tanks:**  
A Quick Guide for Health Departments and Operators



**What is a Floatation Tank?**

A tub that contains a saturated solution of magnesium sulfate with a specific gravity of 1.23 to 1.3, a light and sound-reduced environment, and a temperature of approximately 92-96°F / 33.3-35.6°C. Floatation tanks can also be referred to as float tanks, float rooms, pods, spas, chambers, isolation tanks, or sensory deprivation tanks. They are used as a form of relaxation therapy, during which people can float in an environment with reduced external stimulation (e.g., sound, touch, and light).

**What are the risks of floatation tanks if not maintained properly?**

**Background**

This reference guide can be used by local, state, tribal, and territorial health departments and floatation tank/spa operators as a tool for understanding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) recommendations for operation and maintenance of floatation tanks. A similar quick guide has been created for splash pads at <https://www.naccho.org/mahc/quick-guides/splash-pads>. The guides combine information from CDC's 2023 Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) and website to highlight key takeaways.

Go to [cdc.gov/mahc/](https://www.cdc.gov/mahc/) for more detailed information.

**What water supply should floatation tanks use?**

Water used by the floatation tank facilities should be from a potable water source. Discharged water from all plumbing fixtures in the floatation tank facility should be removed to a municipal sanitary sewer system.

- If a municipal sanitary sewer is not available, an onsite sewer system can be used if designed to accommodate the entire wastewater capacity.

Visit <https://www.naccho.org/mahc> to view and download!

**VOTE using the Zoom poll for upcoming quick guide topics!**



# Today's Presenters

## **Shanna Miko, DNP, MPH**

Epidemiologist, Outbreak Surveillance and Analytics Program  
Lead

Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



## **Michele Hlavsa, RN, MPH**

Epidemiologist, Healthy Swimming and Cryptosporidiosis  
Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



# The Burden of Waterborne Infectious Disease by Exposure Route

Shanna Miko

NACCHO Model Aquatic Health Code Network Webinar: Waterborne Infectious Disease Burden and Recreational Water-Associated Illness in the United States  
December 04, 2023

\*The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention




# Outline

- ✓ **Burden 1.0: Why?**
- ✓ **What did we find?**
- ✓ **Burden 2.0: Why?**
- ✓ **What did we find?**
- ✓ **What is next? (Spoiler: Burden 3.0)**

# Burden 1.0: Why?

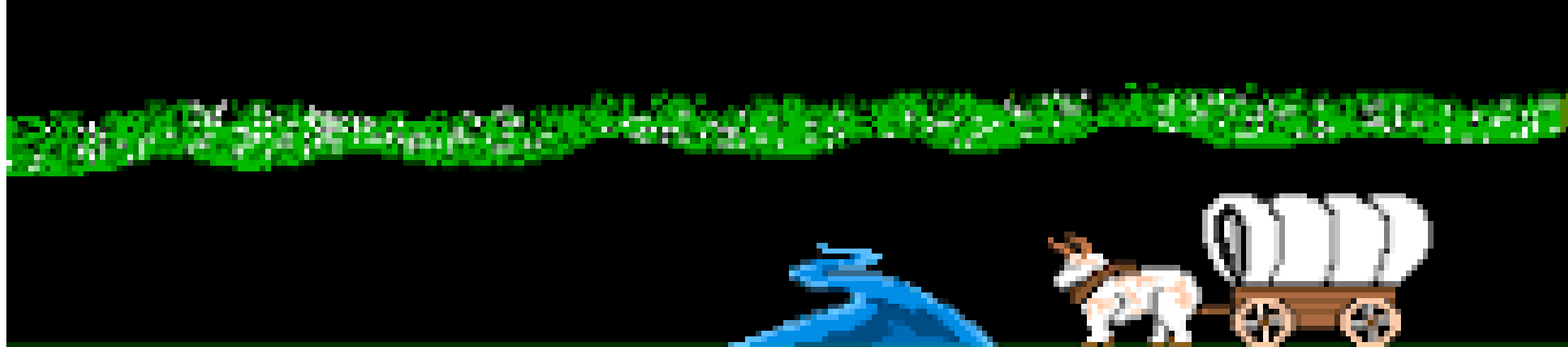




# **PROBLEM:** outdated perception of waterborne disease

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Marge has cholera.

Press ENTER to size up the situation

Date: May 6, 1848  
Weather: hot  
Health: good  
Food: 1925 pounds  
Next landmark: 2 miles  
Miles traveled: 100 miles

Press SPACE BAR to continue



**Safe, reliable  
water supply leads  
to increasing use  
of water in  
complex ways**

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# Complicated plumbing, heating and cooling systems in large buildings







# Food production

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**Medical  
uses**



# Water parks, splash pads and complex recreational water venues






# **PROBLEM:** outdated perception of waterborne disease

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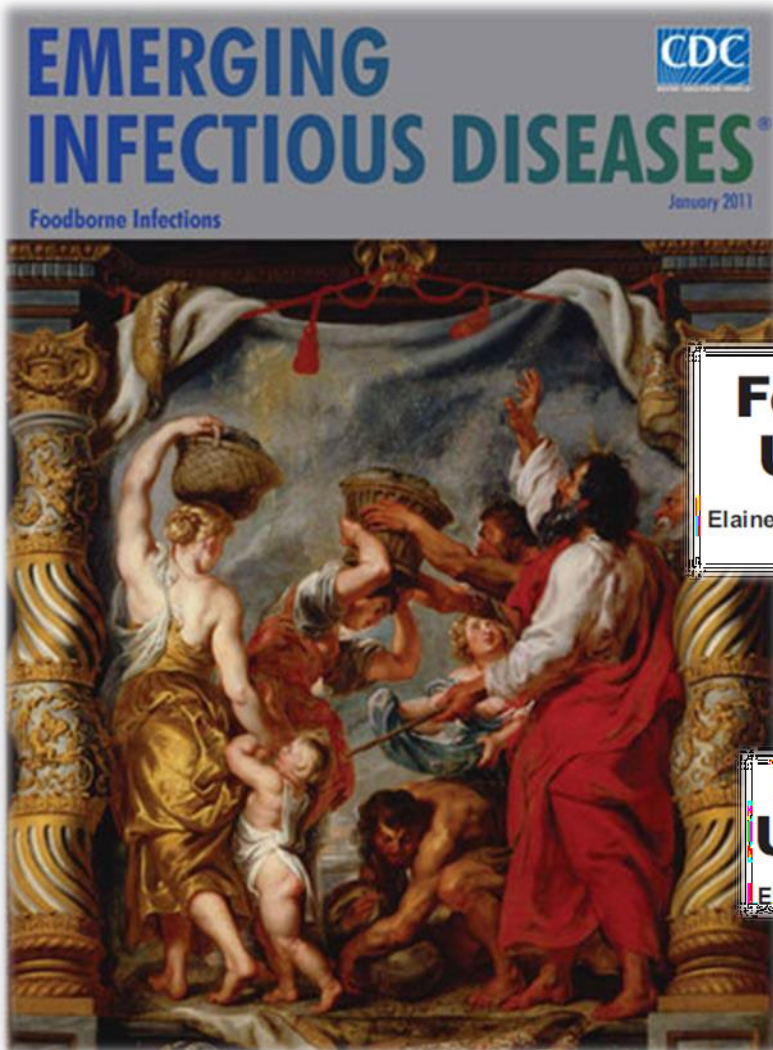
## **SOLUTION:** estimate burden of waterborne disease

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# Burden 1.0: How?

# 2011



## **Foodborne Illness Acquired in the United States—Major Pathogens**

Elaine Scallan,<sup>1</sup> Robert M. Hoekstra, Frederick J. Angulo, Robert V. Tauxe, Marc-Alain Widdowson, Sharon L. Roy, Jeffery L. Jones, and Patricia M. Griffin

## **Foodborne Illness Acquired in the United States—Unspecified Agents**

Elaine Scallan,<sup>1</sup> Patricia M. Griffin, Frederick J. Angulo, Robert V. Tauxe, and Robert M. Hoekstra



# Scope: Acute effects of waterborne infectious diseases





# Scope: Acute effects of waterborne infectious diseases



# 17 selected diseases

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- Campylobacteriosis
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Giardiasis
- Legionnaires' disease
- Nontuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) infection
- Norovirus
- Otitis externa
- *Pseudomonas* pneumonia
- *Pseudomonas* septicemia
- STEC O157
- STEC non-O157
- Salmonellosis
- Shigellosis
- Vibriosis (*alginoliticus*, *parahaemolyticus*, *vulnificus*)

# Waterborne burden outcomes

Illnesses

Emergency department (ED) visits

Hospitalizations

Deaths

Cost

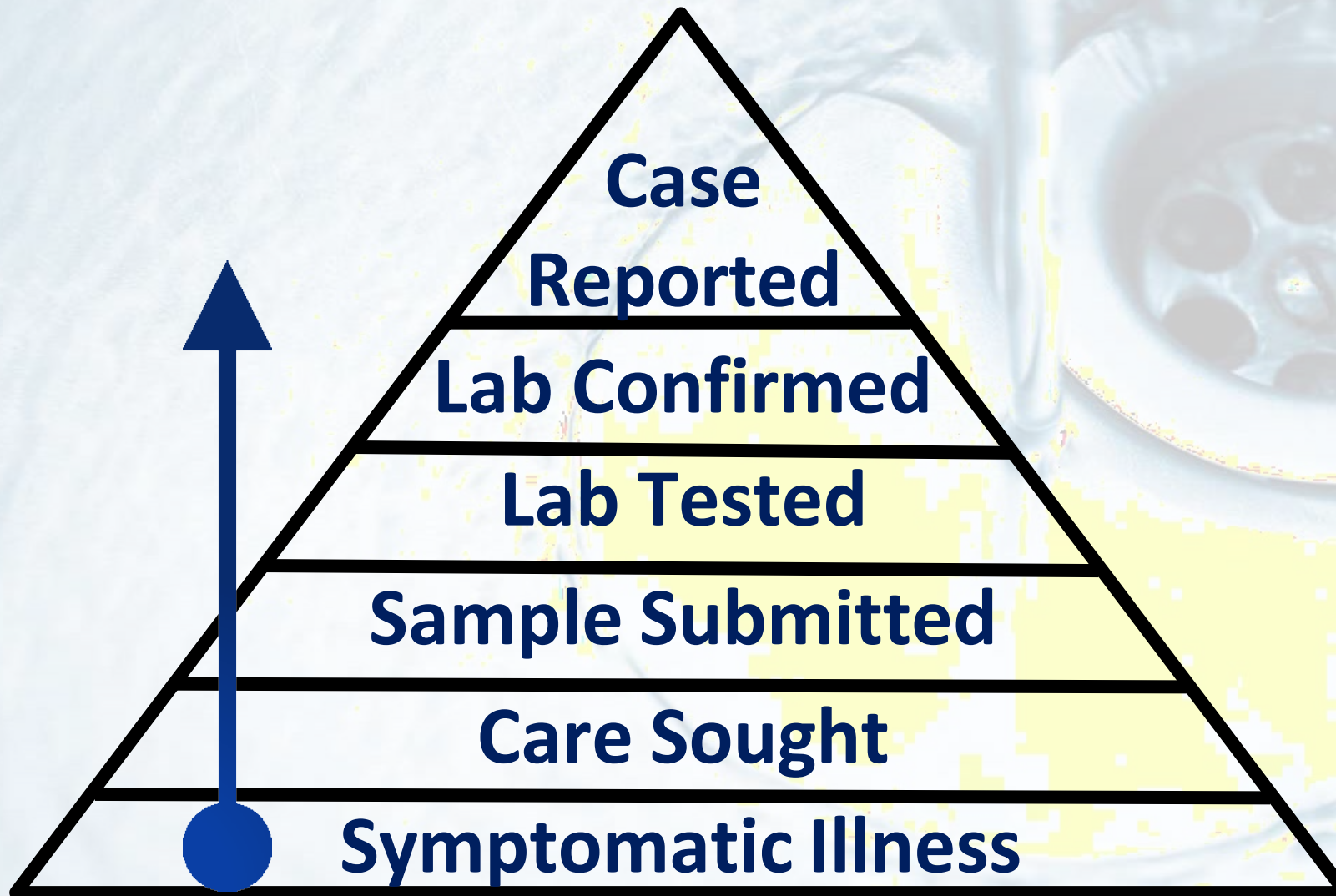


# How to get from surveillance to overall number of cases?

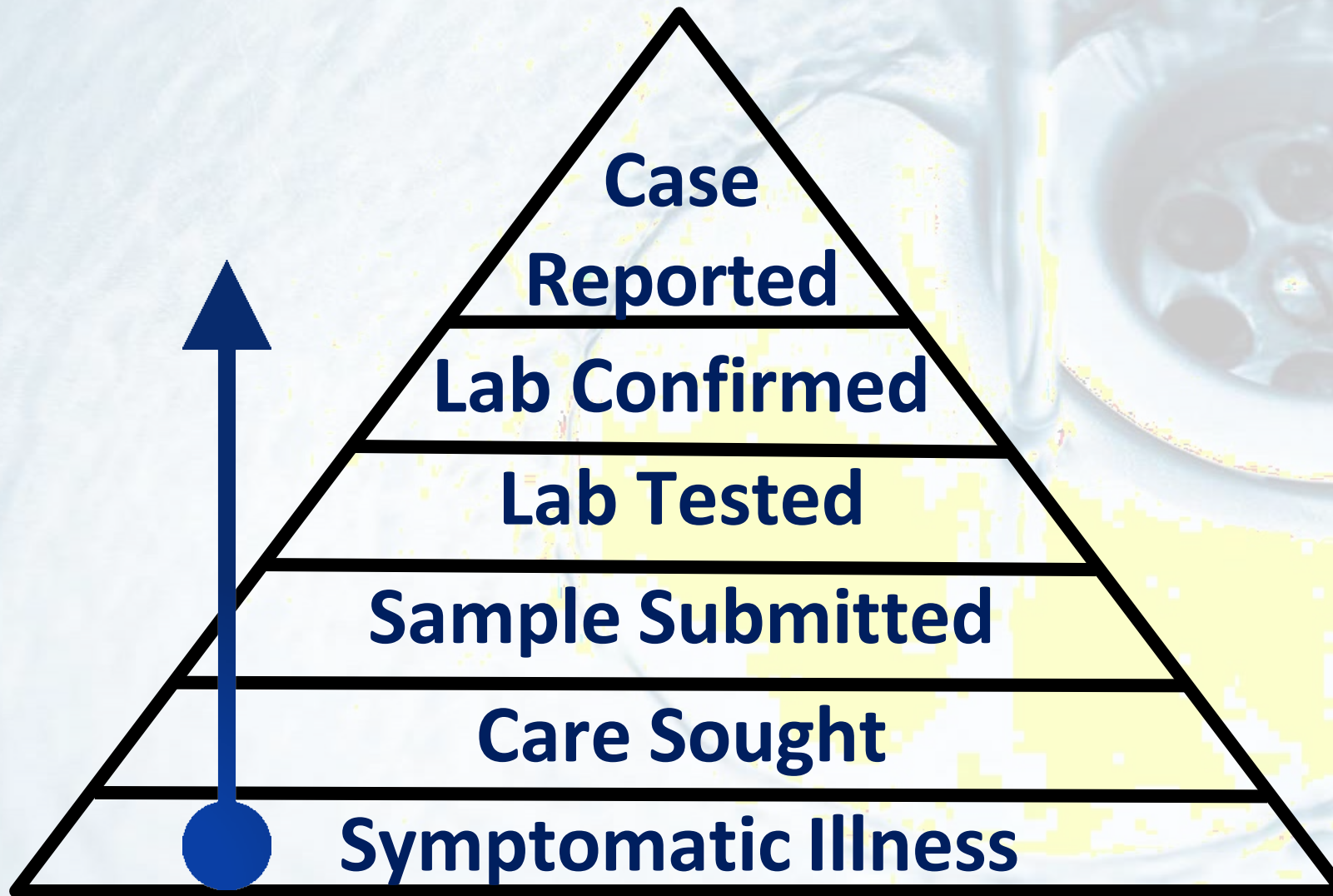
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# Surveillance Pyramid (after Scallan, 2011)

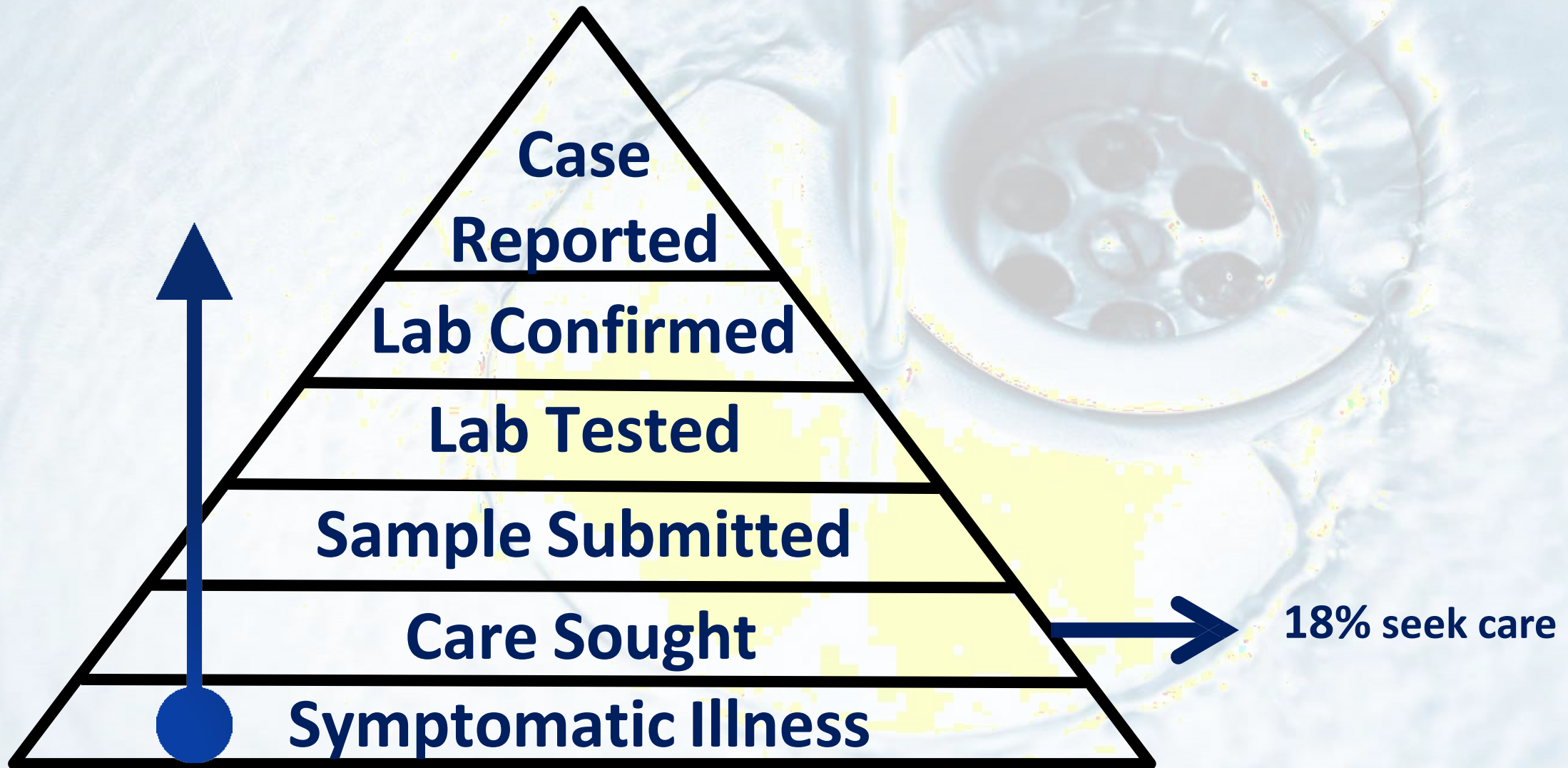


# Example: Surveillance for mild campylobacteriosis

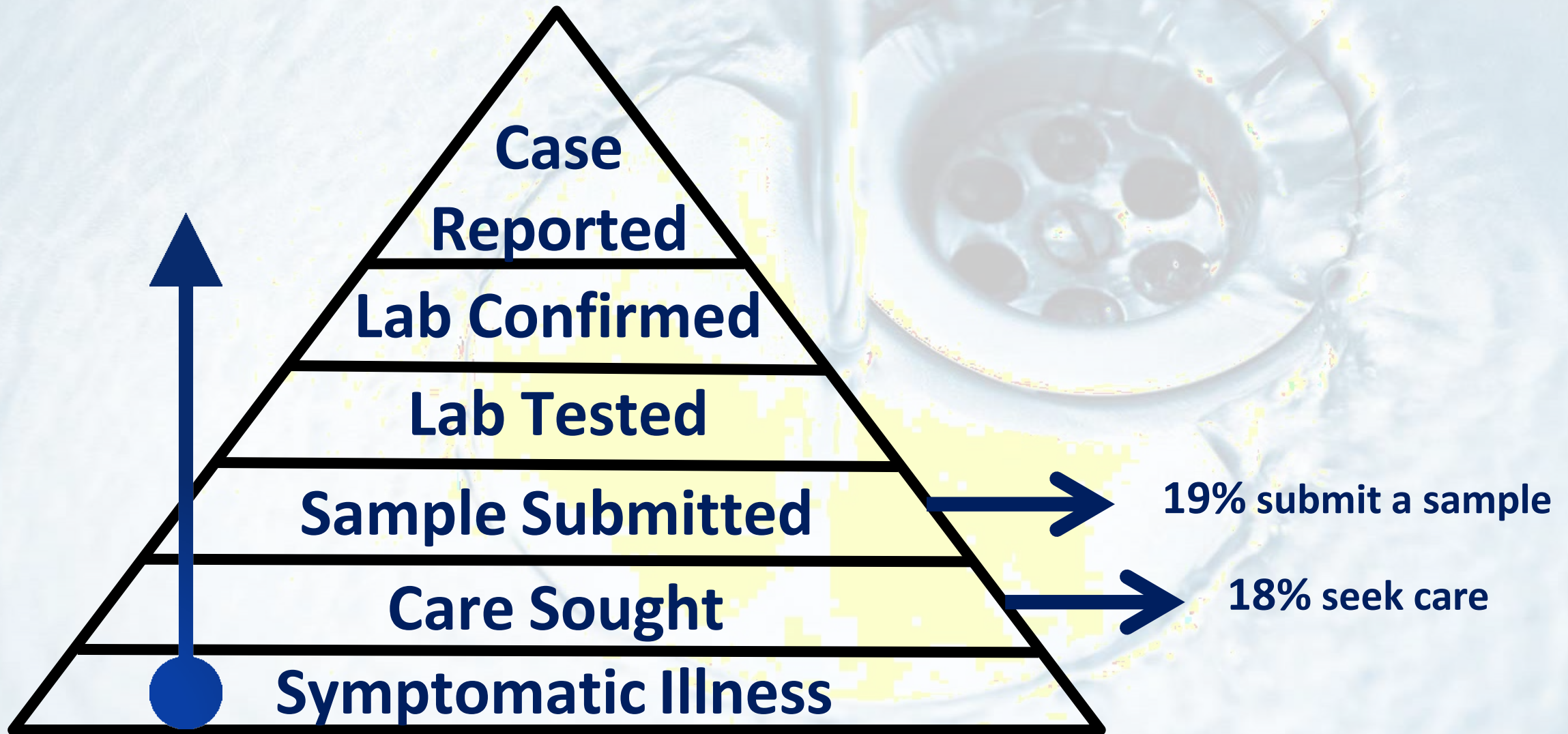




# Example: Surveillance for mild campylobacteriosis

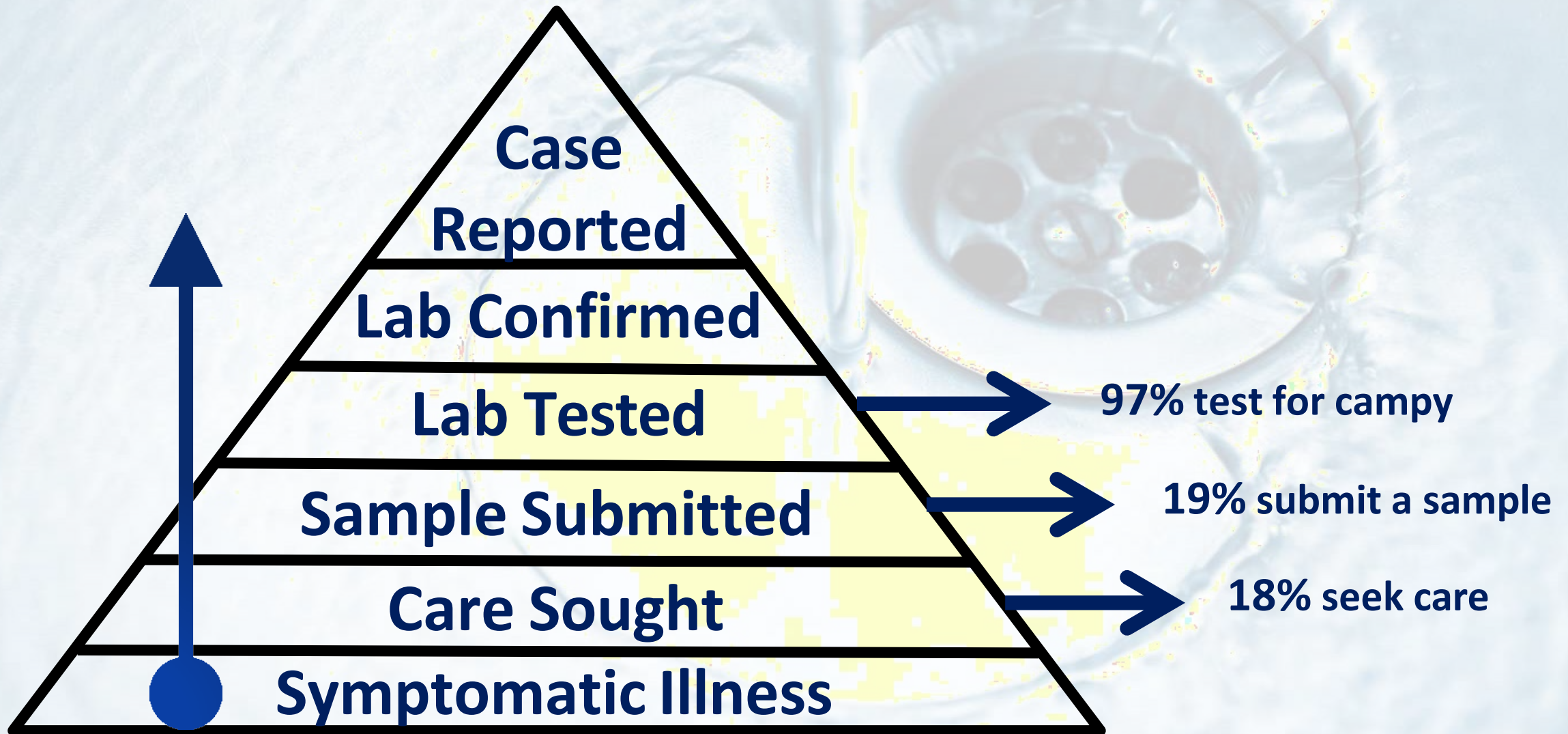


# Example: Surveillance for mild campylobacteriosis



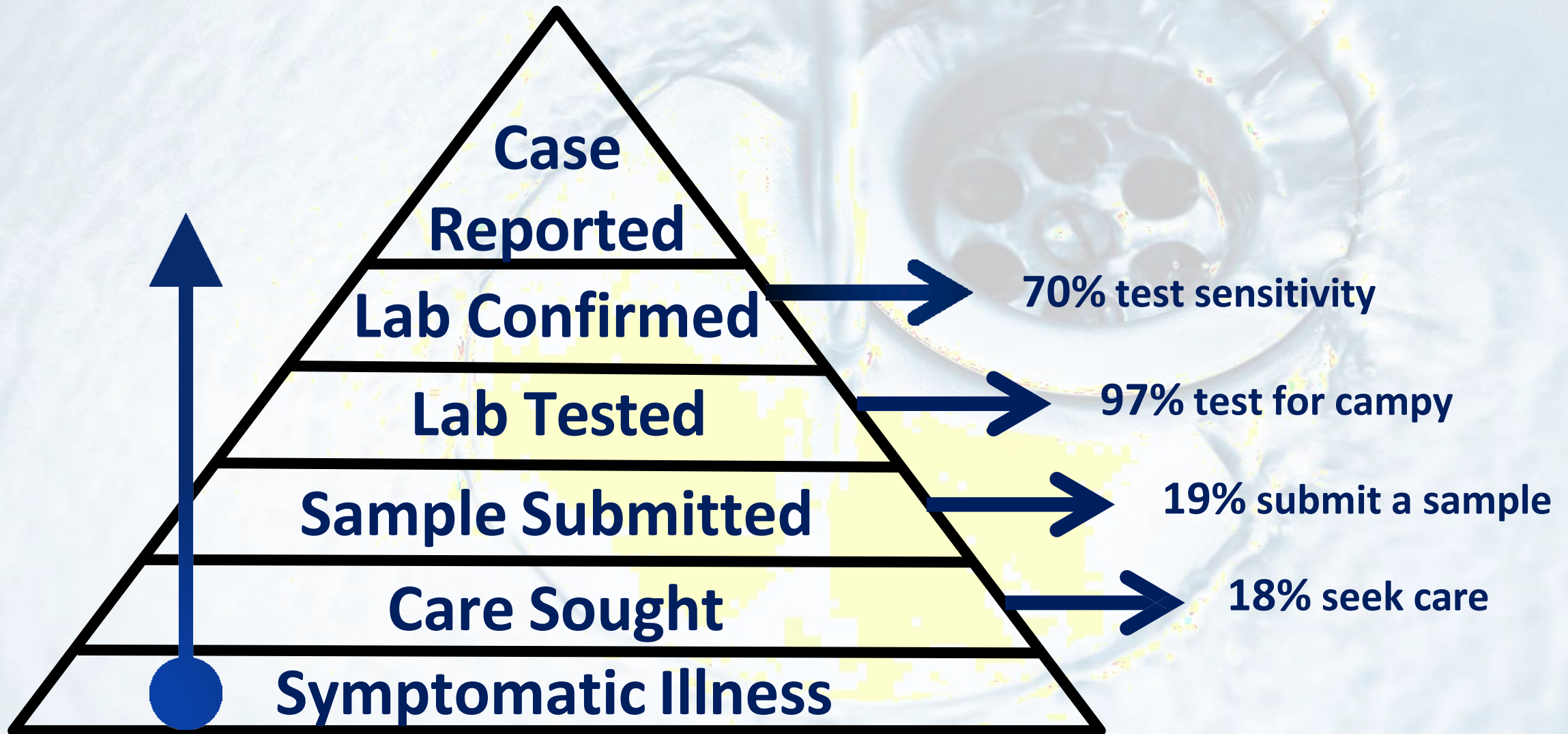


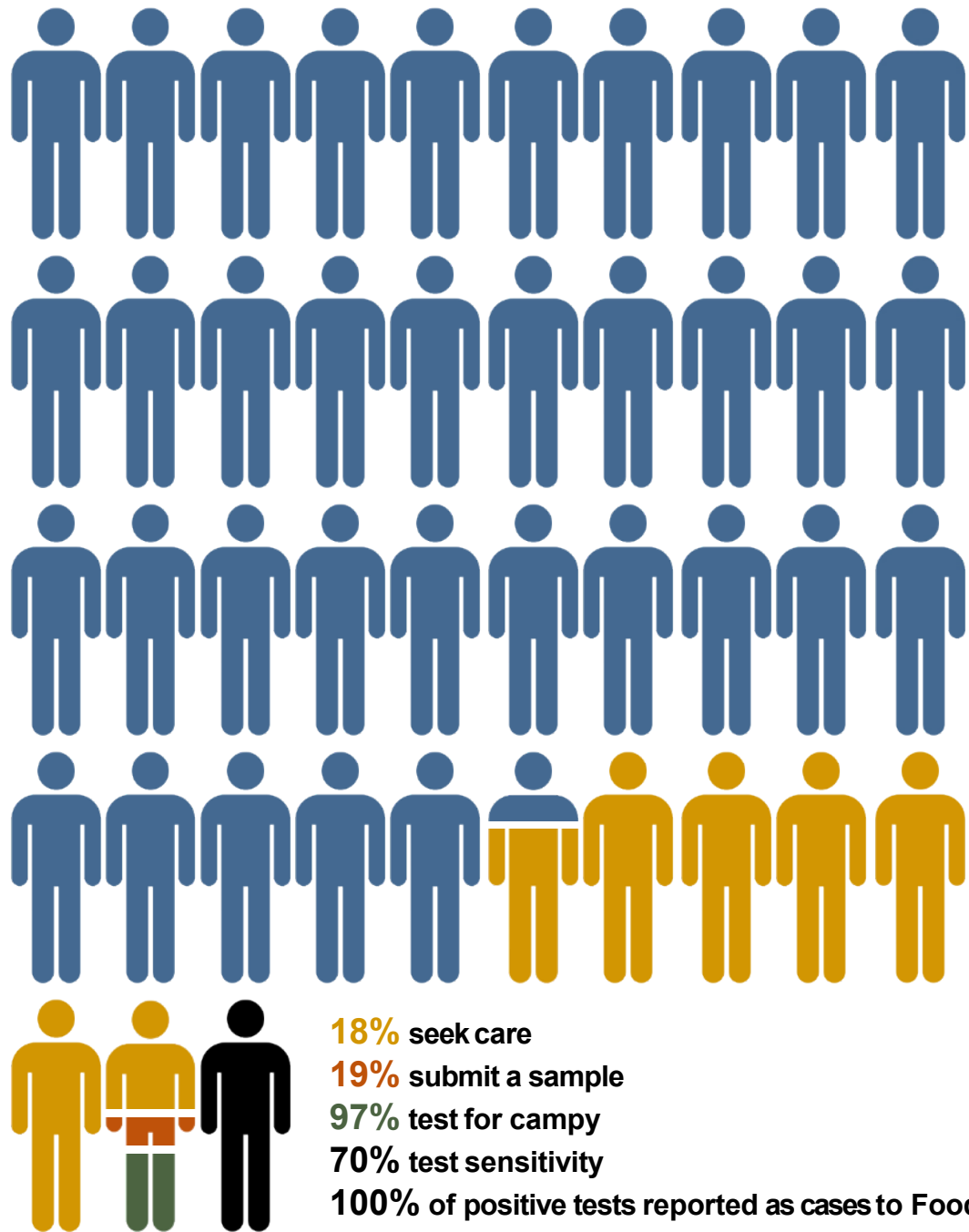
# Example: Surveillance for mild campylobacteriosis





# Example: Surveillance for mild campylobacteriosis

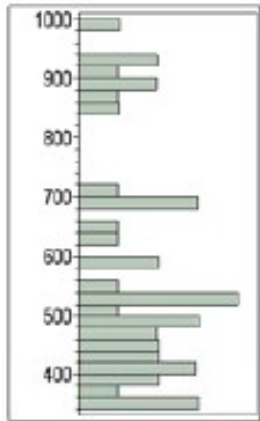




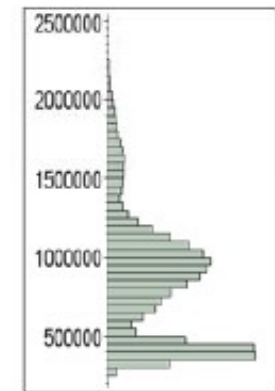
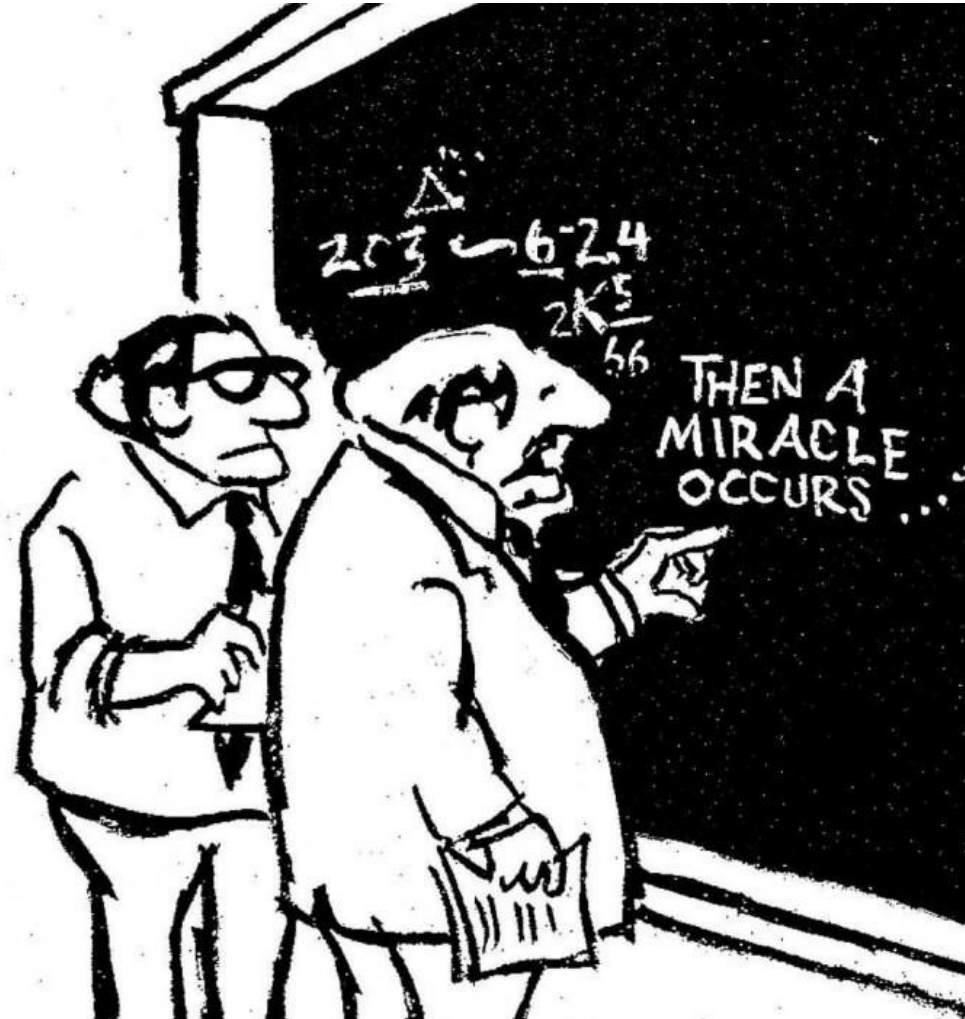
**Every reported case  
represents  
~43 total cases**

# Modeling approach: Use distributions instead of point estimates

Figure 2: Model distributions for *Campylobacter* counts from each of the 10 sites in the F...



Observed laboratory-confirmed illnesses

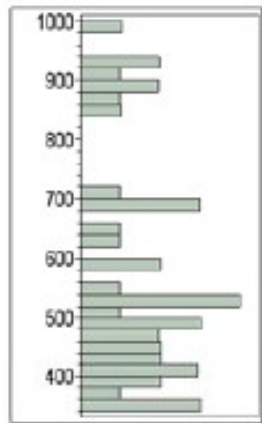


Estimated annual  
domestically acquired  
foodborne illnesses  
Mean: 850,000  
90% CrI: 340,000 – 1,600,000

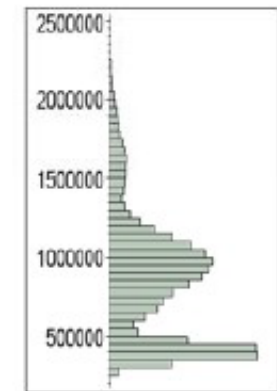
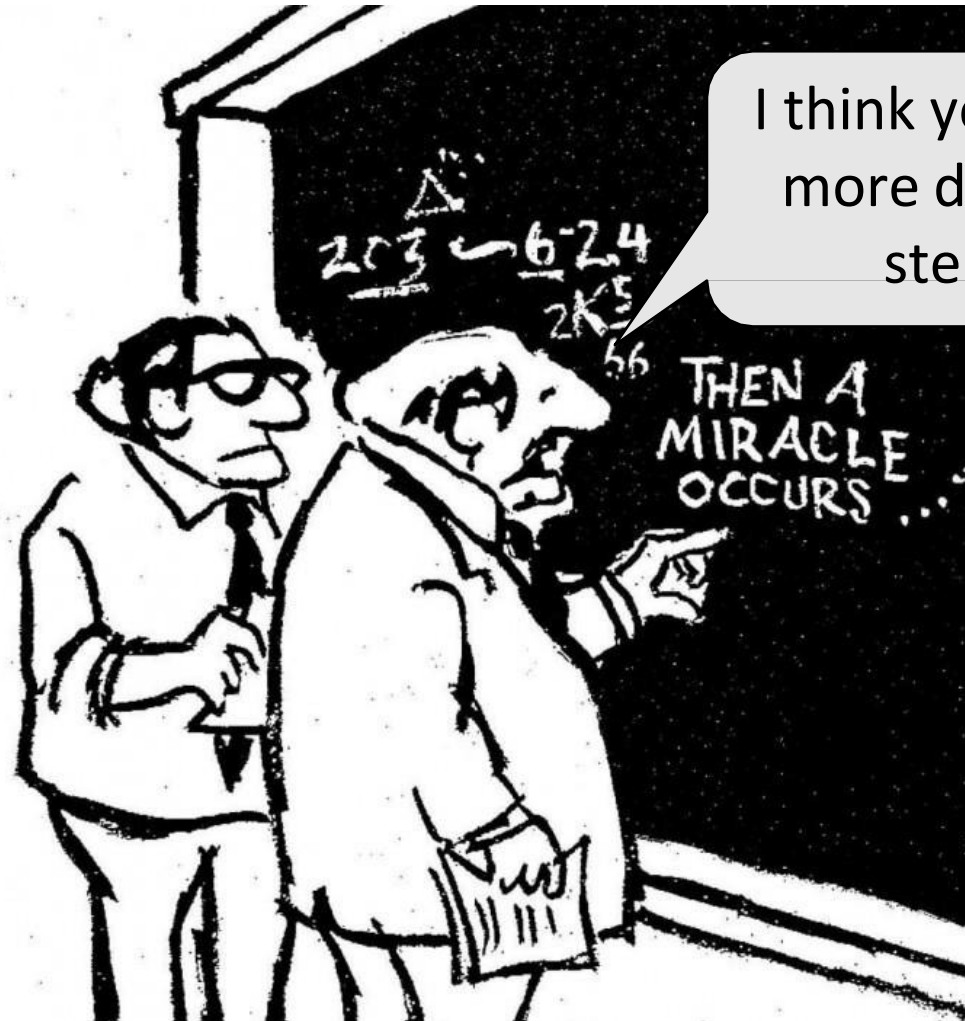


# Modeling approach: Use distributions instead of point estimates

Figure 2: Model distributions for *Campylobacter* counts from each of the 10 sites in the F...



Observed laboratory-confirmed illnesses



Estimated annual  
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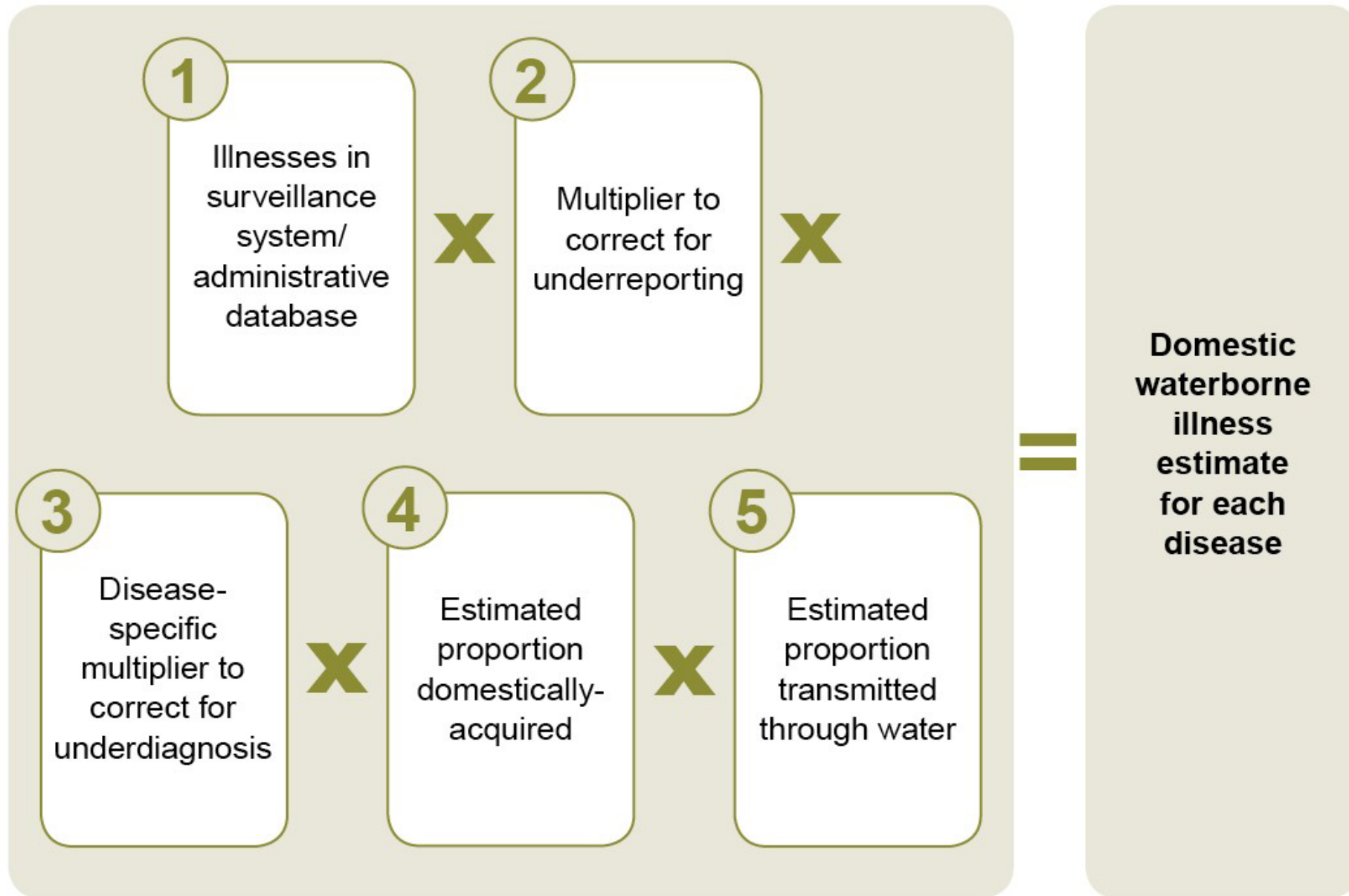
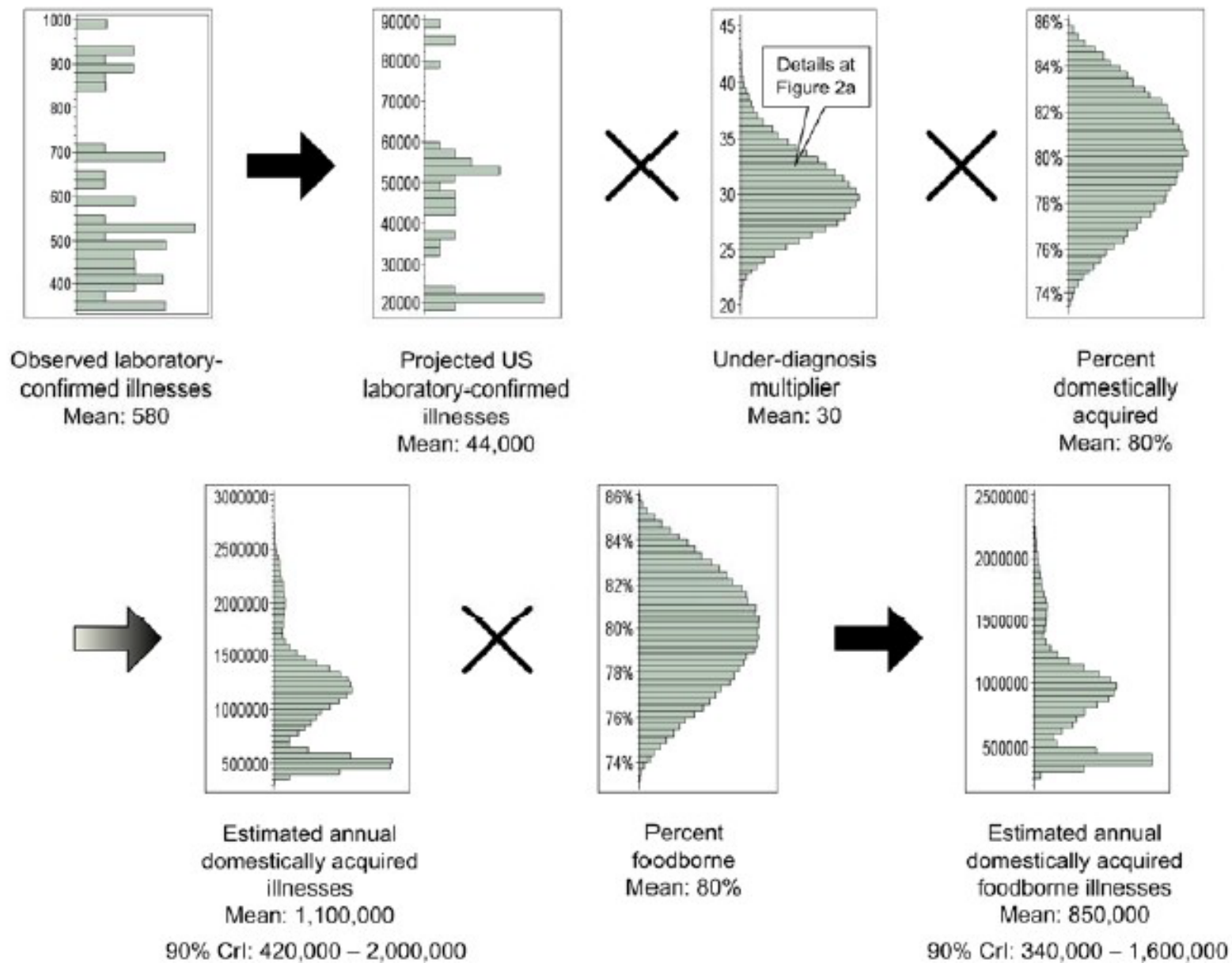


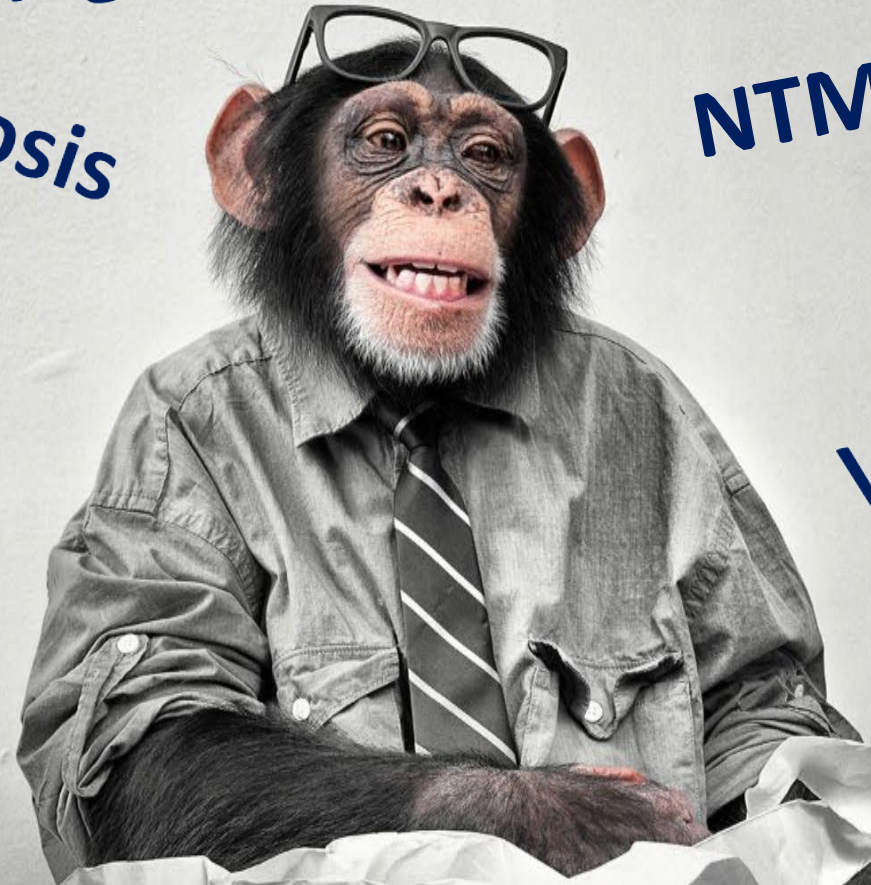
Figure 2: Model distributions for *Campylobacter* illnesses. The histogram of observed laboratory-confirmed illnesses reflects annual counts from each of the 10 sites in the FoodNet catchment from 2005 to 2008.



**Modeling  
approach: Use  
distributions  
instead of point  
estimates**



Shigellosis  
Giardiasis  
Salmonellosis  
NTM  
STEC  
Noro  
Crypto  
Vibrio  
Pseudomonas  
LD  
Otitis Externa  
Campy



# **Estimate of Burden and Direct Healthcare Cost of Infectious Waterborne Disease in the United States**

Sarah A. Collier, Li Deng, Elizabeth A. Adam, Katharine M. Benedict, Elizabeth M. Beshearse, Anna J. Blackstock, Beau B. Bruce, Gordana Derado, Chris Edens, Kathleen E. Fullerton, Julia W. Gargano, Aimee L. Geissler, Aron J. Hall, Arie H. Havelaar, Vincent R. Hill, Robert M. Hoekstra, Sujan C. Reddy, Elaine Scallan, Erin K. Stokes, Jonathan S. Yoder, Michael J. Beach

# Burden 1.0: Results?



**7.2 million cases**

**600,000 ED visits**

**120,000 hospital stays**

**7,000 deaths**

**\$3.3 billion in costs**





**7.2 million cases**

**600,000 ED visits**

**120,000 hospital stays**

**7,000 deaths**

**\$3.3 billion in costs**

**due to waterborne disease every year**



A top-down view of a drain in a bathtub. Water is swirling down the drain, creating a vortex. The drain has a circular metal cover with several small holes. The water is a light blue color, and the surrounding tub surface is a darker blue.

**7.2 million cases**

600,000 ED visits

120,000 hospital stays

7,000 deaths

\$3.3 billion in costs





**7.2M Cases**

**5 million** otitis externa

**1 million** norovirus

**400,000** giardiasis

**300,000** cryptosporidiosis





**7.2M Cases**

**5 million** otitis externa

**1 million** norovirus

400,000 giardiasis

300,000 cryptosporidiosis





**7.2M Cases**

**5 million** otitis externa

**1 million** norovirus

**400,000** giardiasis

**300,000** cryptosporidiosis





**7.2M Cases**

**5 million** otitis externa

**1 million** norovirus

**400,000** giardiasis

**300,000** cryptosporidiosis





7.2 million cases

**600,000 ED visits**

120,000 hospital stays

7,000 deaths

\$3.3 billion in costs





**600K ED visits**

**570,000 otitis externa**





7.2 million cases

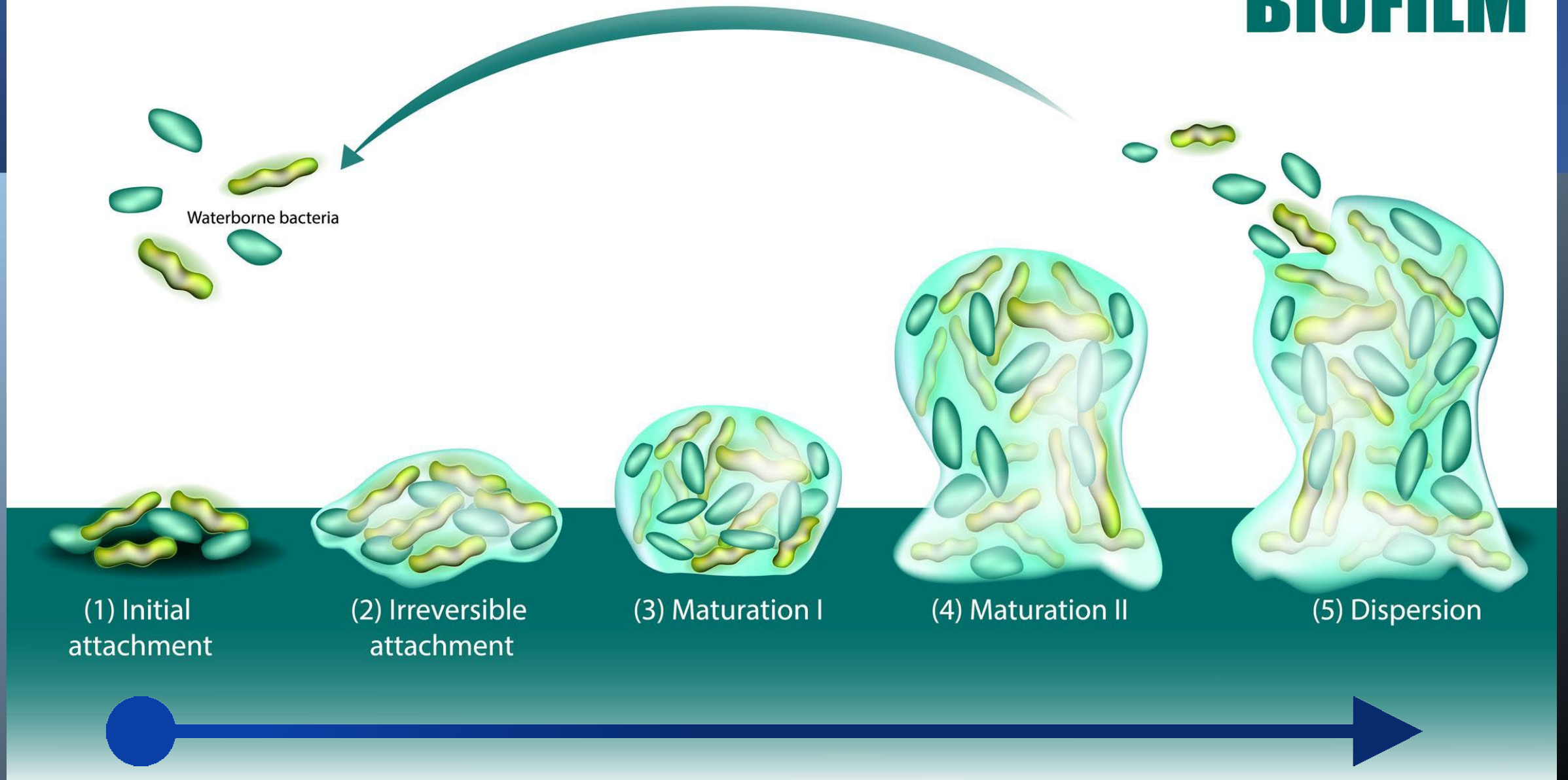
600,000 ED visits

**120,000 hospital stays**

**7,000 deaths**

**\$3.3 billion in costs**

# BIOFILM





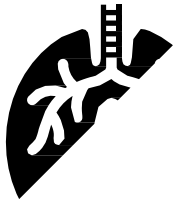


## Biofilm-associated:

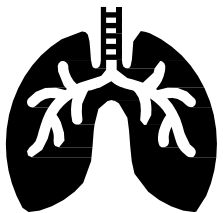
1. NTM infection
2. Legionnaires' disease
3. *Pseudomonas pneumonia*
4. *Pseudomonas septicemia*



# High Consequence Biofilm Associated Organisms



*Nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) and Legionella*  
reactivation/reinfection in 25-50% of patients



*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*  
can be multidrug-resistant



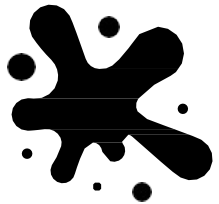
# High Consequence Biofilm Associated Organisms



*Naegleria fowleri*

primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM)

**97%** case fatality rate



*Acanthamoeba*

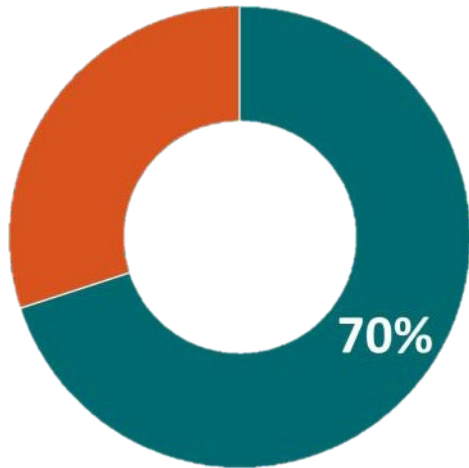
granulomatous amebic encephalitis (GAE)

*Acanthamoeba* keratitis

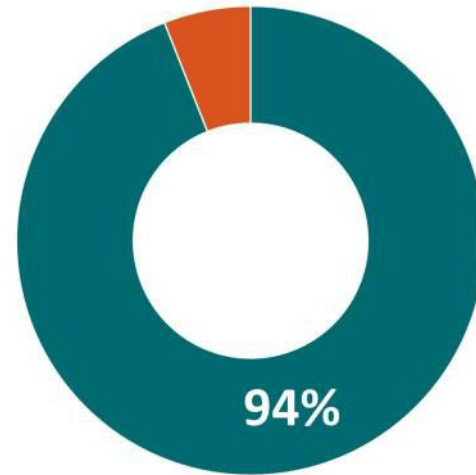
vision loss or disseminated infection



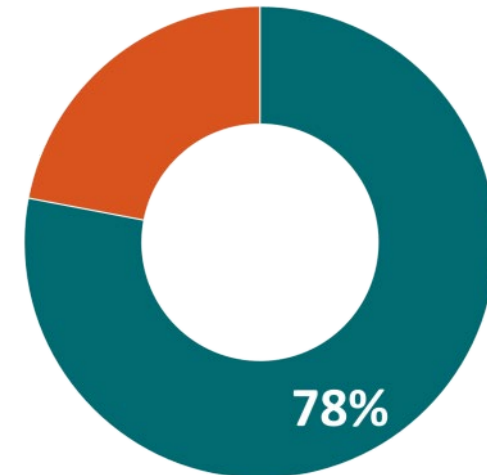
# Biofilm-associated Waterborne Diseases Responsible for Majority of Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Healthcare Costs



120,000  
hospitalizations



6,600  
deaths



\$3.3 billion



# Burden 2.0: Why?

# Burden 2.0: How?



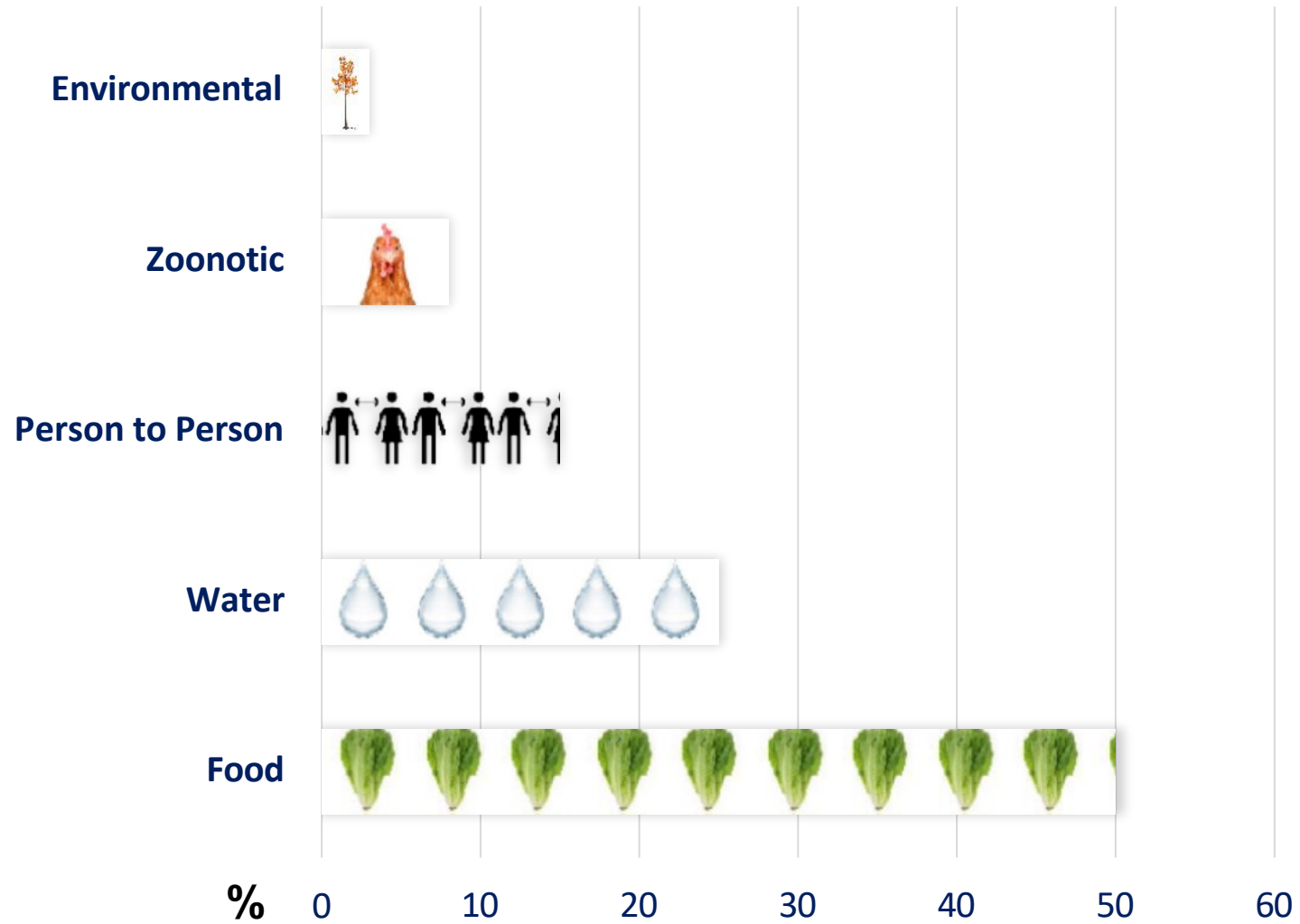


# **Attribution of Illnesses Transmitted by Food and Water to Comprehensive Transmission Pathways Using Structured Expert Judgment, United States**

Elizabeth Beshearse, Beau B. Bruce, Gabriela F. Nane, Roger M. Cooke, Willy Aspinall,  
Tine Hald, Stacy M. Crim, Patricia M. Griffin, Kathleen E. Fullerton, Sarah A. Collier,  
Katharine M. Benedict, Michael J. Beach, Aron J. Hall, Arie H. Havelaar

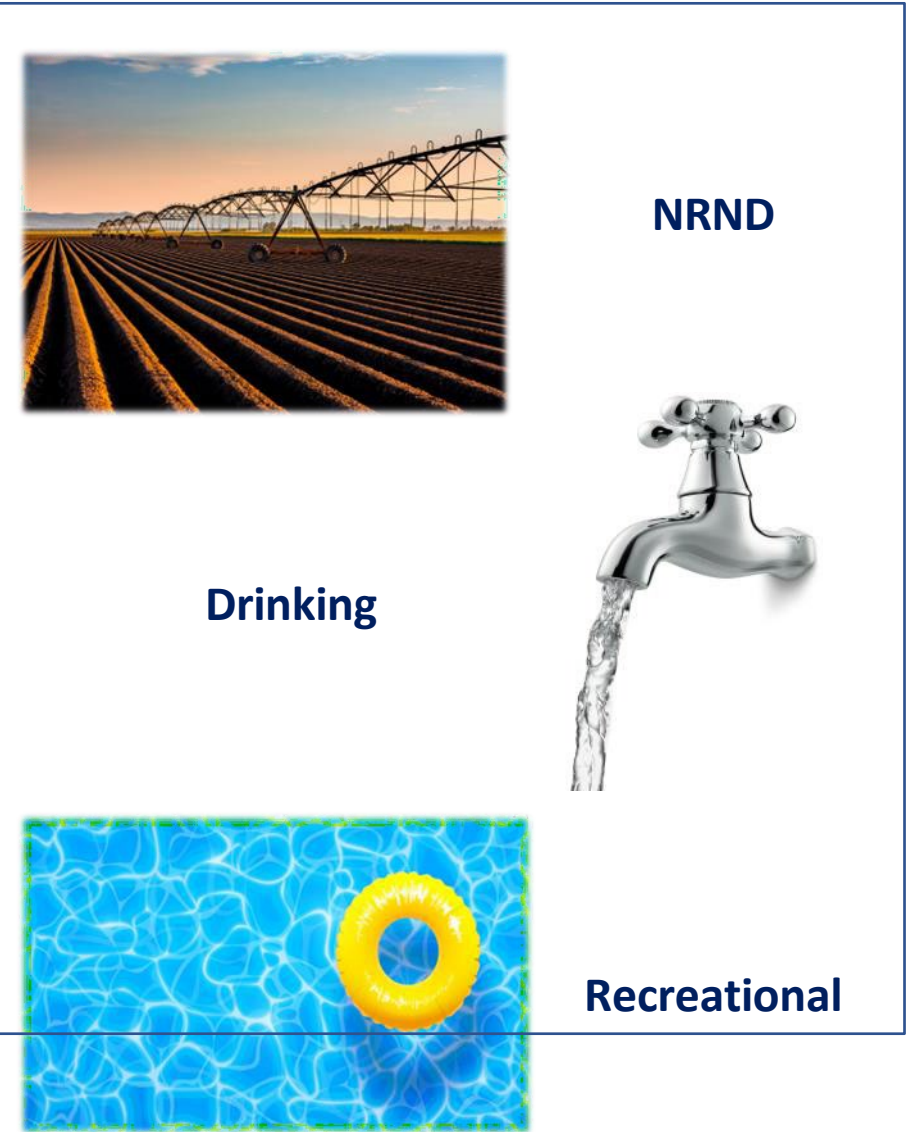
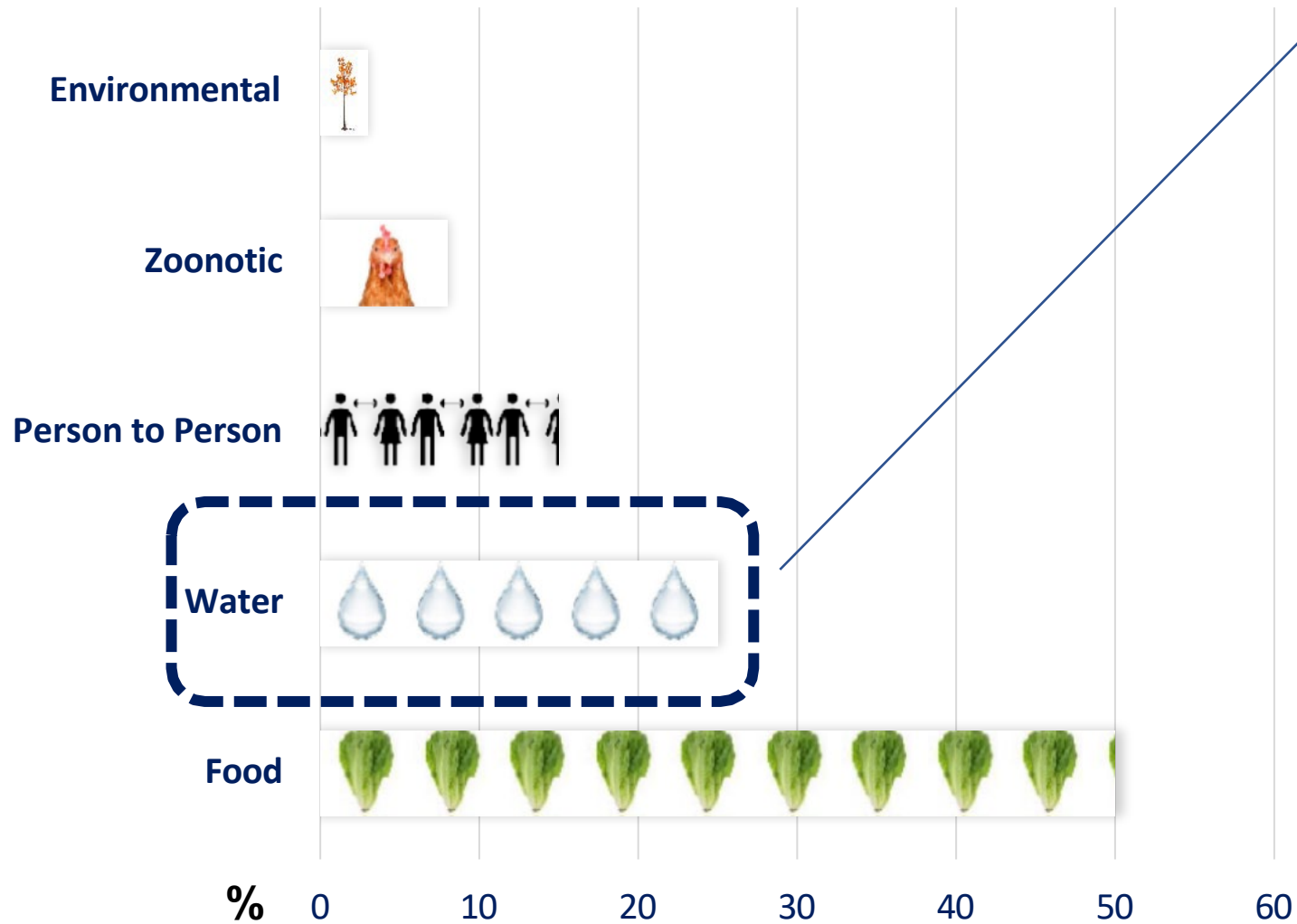
# Attribution

## PATHWAYS



# Attribution

## PATHWAYS





Recreational Water (treated and untreated)	Drinking Water	Non-recreational, Non-drinking Water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water that is used for recreational activities, such as in an aquatic facility or natural body of water.</li> <li>• Treated water has undergone a systematic disinfection process (e.g., chlorination and filtration) with the goal of maintaining good microbiologic quality for recreation;</li> <li>• Untreated water has not undergone a disinfection or treatment process to maintain good microbiological quality for recreation (e.g., lakes, rivers, oceans, and reservoirs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water that is used primarily for drinking but including other domestic uses, such as washing or showering; can come from a public water system, a private well, or commercially bottled sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water that is used for purposes other than recreation or drinking (e.g., for agriculture, industry, medical treatment, backcountry streams or flood waters).</li> <li>• Agricultural water includes water that is used to grow fresh produce and sustain livestock. Industrial water includes water used during manufacturing or in cooling equipment.</li> <li>• Medical water includes any water used within medical devices or water used for washing surgical tools and equipment, and water used for hydrotherapy.</li> <li>• This category does not include transmission that can be accounted for by another major pathway, such as food or animals</li> </ul>

Table 4. Source attribution results for major transmission pathways, structured expert judgment, United States, 2017\*

Pathogen name	Mean % (95% uncertainty interval)				
	Foodborne	Waterborne	Person-to-person	Animal contact	Environmental
<b>Bacteria</b>					
<i>Brucella</i> spp.	45 (13–77)	10 (0–42)	Blocked	36 (10–73)	9 (0–32)
<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.	57 (30–80)	13 (1–31)	7 (0–23)	16 (3–35)	7 (0–30)
Enterotoxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i>	69 (37–91)	9 (0–38)	7 (0–38)	Blocked	15 (2–33)
STEC O157	60 (40–77)	5 (1–13)	16 (4–33)	12 (3–25)	7 (1–17)
STEC non-O157	50 (26–75)	6 (0–17)	15 (2–34)	21 (2–46)	8 (0–24)
<i>E. coli</i> , other diarrheagenic	55 (27–80)	9 (0–30)	16 (2–39)	9 (0–33)	12 (0–33)
<i>Legionella</i> spp.	Blocked	97 (67–100)	0 (0–1)	Blocked	2 (0–28)
<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>	75 (36–98)	1 (0–9)	9 (0–39)	13 (0–50)	2 (0–12)
Nontuberculous <i>Mycobacterium</i> spp.	Blocked	72 (39–94)	4 (0–21)	2 (0–35)	22 (0–49)
<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp., otitis externa	Blocked	81 (67–95)	3 (0–13)	1 (0–4)	15 (1–25)
<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp., septicemia	Blocked	22 (3–53)	2 (0–19)	2 (0–11)	74 (41–94)
<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp., pneumonia	Blocked	51 (14–80)	4 (1–32)	0 (0–2)	45 (15–80)
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> , nontyphoidal	66 (48–81)	6 (0–22)	7 (0–16)	11 (3–24)	9 (2–21)
<i>S. enterica</i> , nontyphoidal, age <5 y	46 (20–66)	7 (0–26)	18 (6–35)	13 (2–30)	16 (2–36)
<i>S. enterica</i> serotype Enteritidis	80 (63–92)	4 (0–11)	7 (1–16)	5 (0–19)	4 (1–14)
<i>S. enterica</i> serotype I 4,[5],12:i:-	66 (40–82)	6 (1–15)	8 (1–17)	12 (2–27)	7 (0–20)
<i>S. enterica</i> serotype Javiana	56 (29–76)	7 (1–20)	9 (2–22)	14 (3–33)	14 (2–29)
<i>S. enterica</i> serotype Newport	74 (50–86)	2 (0–9)	7 (1–16)	8 (1–19)	8 (2–18)
<i>S. enterica</i> serotype Typhimurium	59 (27–78)	7 (1–18)	8 (2–19)	14 (3–29)	13 (2–30)
<i>S. enterica</i> , all other serotypes group 1	60 (29–79)	6 (1–18)	9 (2–21)	12 (2–29)	12 (3–29)
<i>S. enterica</i> , all other serotypes group 2	40 (10–65)	7 (1–24)	10 (2–26)	17 (1–40)	26 (6–51)
<i>Shigella</i> spp.	8 (1–36)	4 (1–21)	81 (48–93)	Blocked	6 (0–26)
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Blocked	75 (23–98)	18 (1–71)	1 (0–5)	5 (0–37)
<i>Streptococcus</i> spp., group A	4 (0–33)	1 (0–6)	92 (55–99)	1 (0–12)	2 (0–19)
<i>Vibrio alginolyticus</i>	60 (24–84)	37 (13–71)	0 (0–1)	1 (0–4)	2 (0–11)
<i>V. alginolyticus</i> , non-AGI	2 (0–17)	97 (79–100)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–2)	0 (0–2)
<i>V. cholerae</i> nontoxigenic	92 (61–100)	6 (0–30)	1 (0–3)	0 (0–4)	0 (0–3)
<i>V. cholerae</i> nontoxigenic, non-AGI	33 (8–59)	65 (39–90)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–1)	2 (0–13)
<i>V. parahaemolyticus</i>	74 (59–91)	24 (7–38)	0 (0–2)	0 (0–2)	1 (0–5)
<i>V. parahaemolyticus</i> , non-AGI	8 (2–39)	90 (57–97)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–1)	2 (0–8)
<i>V. vulnificus</i> †	20 (7–54)	77 (40–91)	0 (0–3)	1 (0–9)	2 (0–12)
<i>V. vulnificus</i> , non-AGI	20 (9–34)	78 (58–89)	0 (0–1)	1 (0–16)	2 (0–9)
<i>Vibrio</i> spp., other AGI	96 (69–100)	2 (0–23)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–2)	1 (0–8)
<i>Vibrio</i> spp., other non-AGI	95 (58–100)	3 (0–27)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–2)	2 (0–15)
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	77 (44–100)	9 (0–37)	3 (0–17)	4 (0–16)	8 (0–33)
<b>Protozoa</b>					
<i>Acanthamoeba</i> spp.	Blocked	82 (46–100)	Blocked	0 (0–0)	18 (0–54)
<i>Balamuthia mandrillaris</i>	Blocked	54 (5–95)	Blocked	0 (0–0)	46 (5–95)
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> spp.	7 (0–25)	43 (17–73)	20 (2–49)	21 (4–48)	8 (0–34)
<i>Cyclospora cayetanensis</i>	83 (59–99)	6 (0–25)	3 (0–14)	1 (0–9)	7 (0–28)
<i>Giardia</i> spp.	10 (0–35)	44 (16–78)	27 (3–59)	10 (0–38)	8 (0–37)
<i>Naegleria fowleri</i>	Blocked	88 (61–100)	Blocked	Blocked	12 (0–38)
<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	28 (4–60)	5 (0–27)	Blocked	58 (24–86)	9 (0–29)
<b>Viruses</b>					
Astrovirus	15 (1–38)	6 (0–25)	73 (44–94)	Blocked	6 (0–18)
Hepatitis A virus	42 (9–78)	8 (0–33)	41 (8–77)	Blocked	8 (0–34)
Norovirus	19 (6–37)	6 (0–25)	70 (46–88)	Blocked	5 (0–18)
Rotavirus	5 (0–20)	7 (0–28)	81 (57–98)	Blocked	5 (0–21)
Sapovirus	13 (0–34)	8 (0–30)	75 (49–94)	Blocked	4 (0–16)

\*Blocked indicates pathways blocked by study administrators. AGI, acute gastrointestinal disease; STEC, Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*.

†Clinical manifestations of interest for initial elicitation were bacteremia and wound infections.



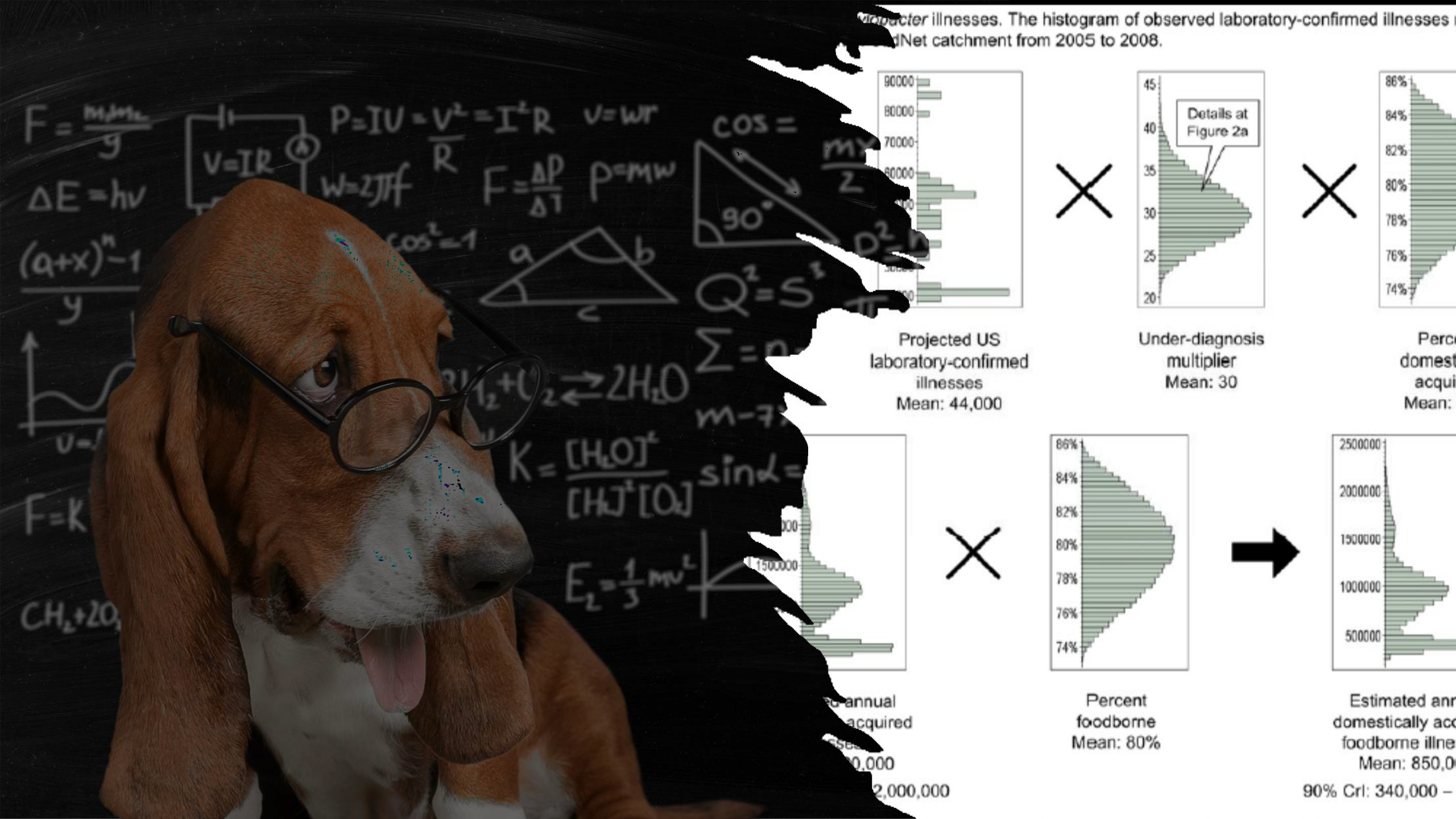
Table 4. Source attribution results for major transmission pathways, structured expert judgment, United States, 2017\*

Pathogen name	Mean % (95% uncertainty interval)				
	Foodborne	Waterborne	Person-to-person	Animal contact	Environmental
<b>Bacteria</b>					
<i>Brucella</i> spp.	45 (13–77)	10 (0–42)	Blocked	36 (10–73)	9 (0–32)
<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.	57 (30–80)	13 (1–31)	7 (0–23)	16 (3–35)	7 (0–30)
Enterotoxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i>	69 (37–91)	9 (0–38)	7 (0–38)	Blocked	15 (2–33)
STEC O157	60 (40–77)	5 (1–13)	16 (4–33)	12 (3–25)	7 (1–17)
STEC non-O157	50 (26–75)	6 (0–17)	15 (2–34)	21 (2–46)	8 (0–24)
<i>E. coli</i> , other diarrheagenic	55 (27–80)	9 (0–30)	16 (2–39)	9 (0–33)	12 (0–33)
<i>Legionella</i> spp.	Blocked	97 (67–100)	0 (0–1)	Blocked	2 (0–28)
<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>	75 (36–98)	1 (0–9)	9 (0–39)	13 (0–50)	2 (0–12)
Nontuberculous <i>Mycobacterium</i> spp.	Blocked	72 (39–94)	4 (0–21)	2 (0–35)	22 (0–49)
<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp., otitis externa	Blocked	81 (67–95)	3 (0–13)	1 (0–4)	15 (1–25)
<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp., septicemia	Blocked	22 (3–53)	2 (0–19)	2 (0–11)	74 (41–94)
<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp., pneumonia	Blocked	51 (14–80)	4 (1–32)	0 (0–2)	45 (15–80)
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> , nontyphoidal	66 (48–81)	6 (0–22)	7 (0–16)	11 (3–24)	9 (2–21)
<i>S. enterica</i> , nontyphoidal, age <5 y	46 (20–66)	7 (0–26)	18 (6–35)	13 (2–30)	16 (2–36)
<i>S. enterica</i> serotype Enteritidis	80 (63–92)	4 (0–11)	7 (1–16)	5 (0–19)	4 (1–14)
<i>S. enterica</i> serotype I 4,[5],12:i:-	66 (40–82)	6 (1–15)	8 (1–17)	12 (2–27)	7 (0–20)
<i>S. enterica</i> serotype Javiana	56 (29–76)	7 (1–20)	9 (2–22)	14 (3–33)	14 (2–29)
<i>S. enterica</i> serotype Newport	74 (50–86)	2 (0–9)	7 (1–16)	8 (1–19)	8 (2–18)
<i>S. enterica</i> serotype Typhimurium	59 (27–78)	7 (1–18)	8 (2–19)	14 (3–29)	13 (2–30)
<i>S. enterica</i> , all other serotypes group 1	60 (29–79)	6 (1–18)	9 (2–21)	12 (2–29)	12 (3–29)
<i>S. enterica</i> , all other serotypes group 2	40 (10–65)	7 (1–24)	10 (2–26)	17 (1–40)	26 (6–51)
<i>Shigella</i> spp.	8 (1–36)	4 (1–21)	81 (48–93)	Blocked	6 (0–26)
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Blocked	75 (23–98)	18 (1–71)	1 (0–5)	5 (0–37)
<i>Streptococcus</i> spp., group A	4 (0–33)	1 (0–6)	92 (55–99)	1 (0–12)	2 (0–19)
<i>Vibrio alginolyticus</i>	60 (24–84)	37 (13–71)	0 (0–1)	1 (0–4)	2 (0–11)
<i>V. alginolyticus</i> , non-AGI	2 (0–17)	97 (79–100)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–2)	0 (0–2)
<i>V. cholerae</i> nontoxigenic	92 (61–100)	6 (0–30)	1 (0–3)	0 (0–4)	0 (0–3)
<i>V. cholerae</i> nontoxigenic, non-AGI	33 (8–59)	65 (39–90)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–1)	2 (0–13)
<i>V. parahaemolyticus</i>	74 (59–91)	24 (7–38)	0 (0–2)	0 (0–2)	1 (0–5)
<i>V. parahaemolyticus</i> , non-AGI	8 (2–39)	90 (57–97)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–1)	2 (0–8)
<i>V. vulnificus</i> †	20 (7–54)	77 (40–91)	0 (0–3)	1 (0–9)	2 (0–12)
<i>V. vulnificus</i> , non-AGI	20 (9–34)	78 (58–89)	0 (0–1)	1 (0–16)	2 (0–9)
<i>Vibrio</i> spp., other AGI	96 (69–100)	2 (0–23)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–2)	1 (0–8)
<i>Vibrio</i> spp, other non-AGI	95 (58–100)	3 (0–27)	0 (0–1)	0 (0–2)	2 (0–15)
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	77 (44–100)	9 (0–37)	3 (0–17)	4 (0–16)	8 (0–33)
<b>Protozoa</b>					
<i>Acanthamoeba</i> spp.	Blocked	82 (46–100)	Blocked	0 (0–0)	18 (0–54)
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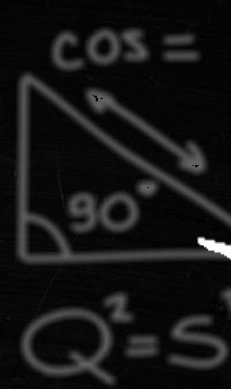




$F = \frac{m_1 m_2}{g}$   
 $\Delta E = h\nu$   
 $(a+x)^n - 1$   
 $y$   
 $U = \dots$   
 $F = k$   
 $CH_2 + 2O_2 \rightarrow \dots$



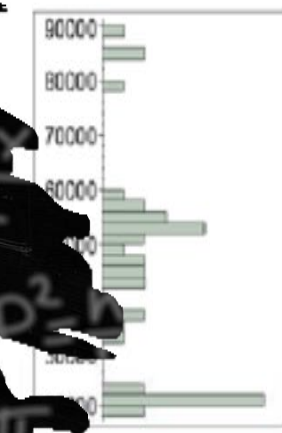
$P = IV = \frac{V^2}{R} = I^2 R$   
 $V = IR$   
 $W = ZI\pi f$   
 $F = \frac{\Delta P}{\Delta t}$   
 $\rho = \frac{m}{V}$



$K = \frac{[H_2O]^2}{[H_2]^2 [O_2]}$

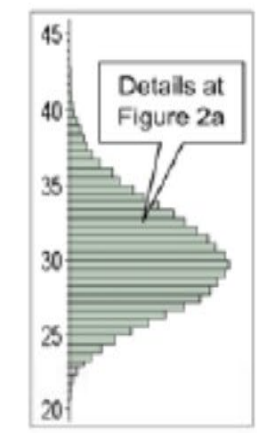
$E_L = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$

$Q^2 = S^2$   
 $\sin \alpha = \dots$



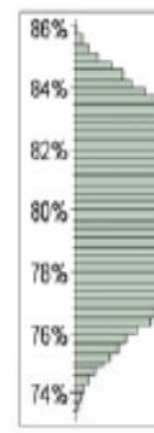
Projected US laboratory-confirmed illnesses  
Mean: 44,000

×



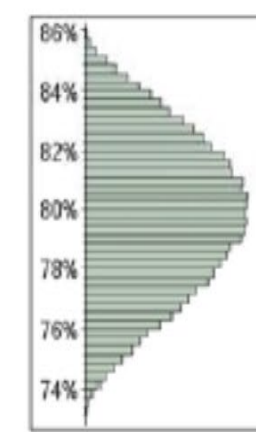
Under-diagnosis multiplier  
Mean: 30

×



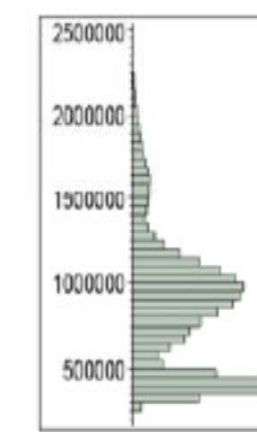
Percent domestically acquired illnesses  
Mean: 80%

×



Percent foodborne illnesses  
Mean: 80%

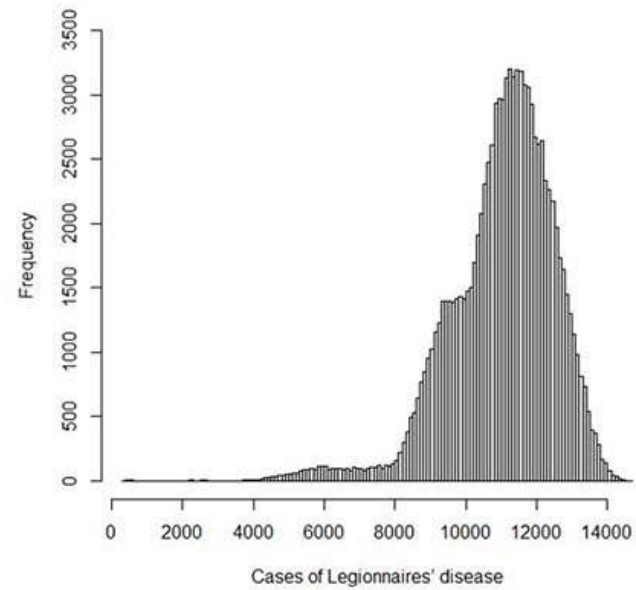
→



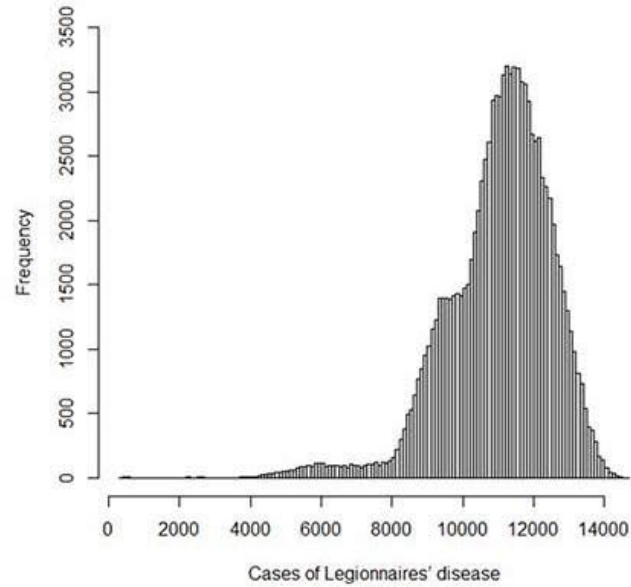
Estimated annual number of domestically acquired foodborne illnesses  
Mean: 850,000  
90% CrI: 340,000 - 1,360,000

# Burden 1.0

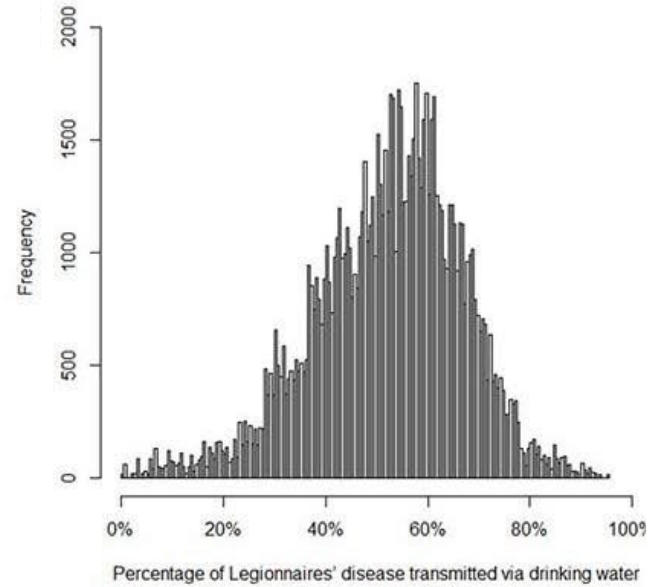
Collier, et al.,  
2021



**Burden 1.0**  
**Collier, et al.,**  
**2021**

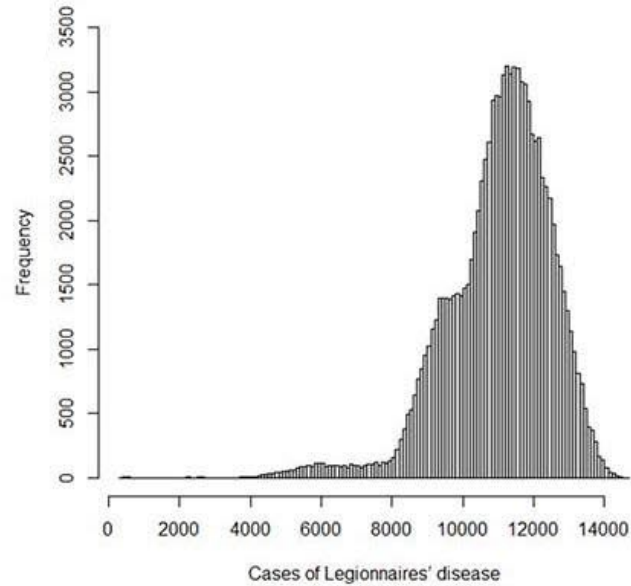


**SEJ**  
**Beshearse, et al.,**  
**2021**

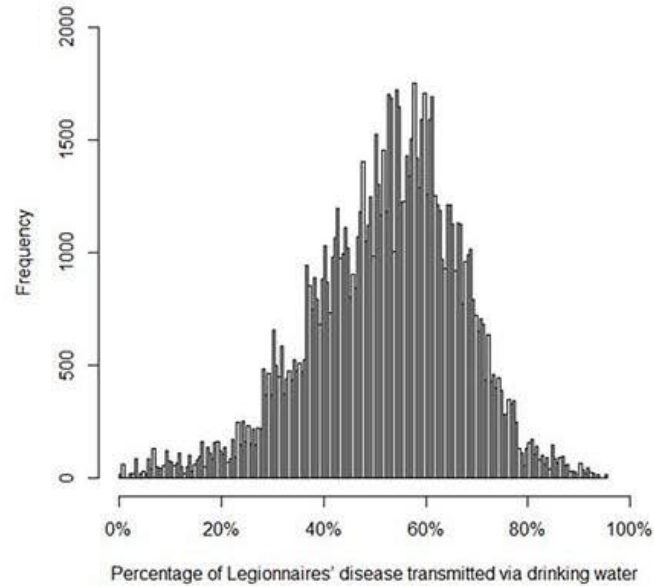




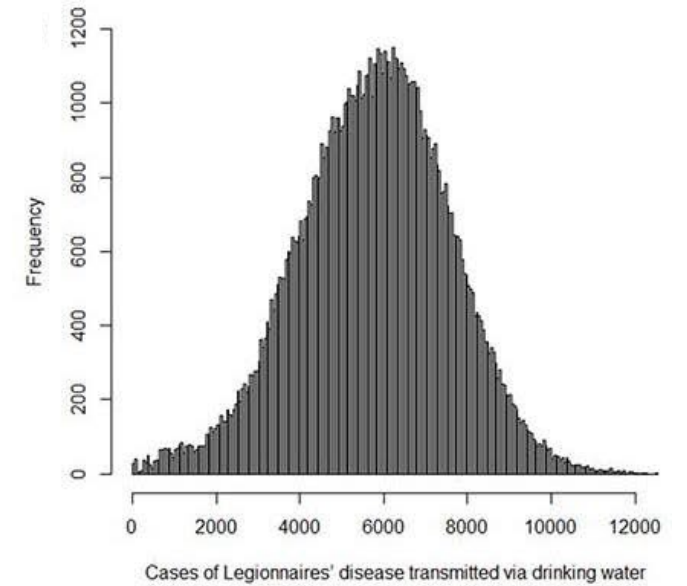
**Burden 1.0**  
**Collier, et al.,**  
**2021**



**SEJ**  
**Beshearse, et al.,**  
**2021**



**Burden 2.0**  
**Gerdes & Miko, et al.,**  
**2023**



# **Estimating Waterborne Infectious Disease Burden by Exposure Route, United States, 2014**

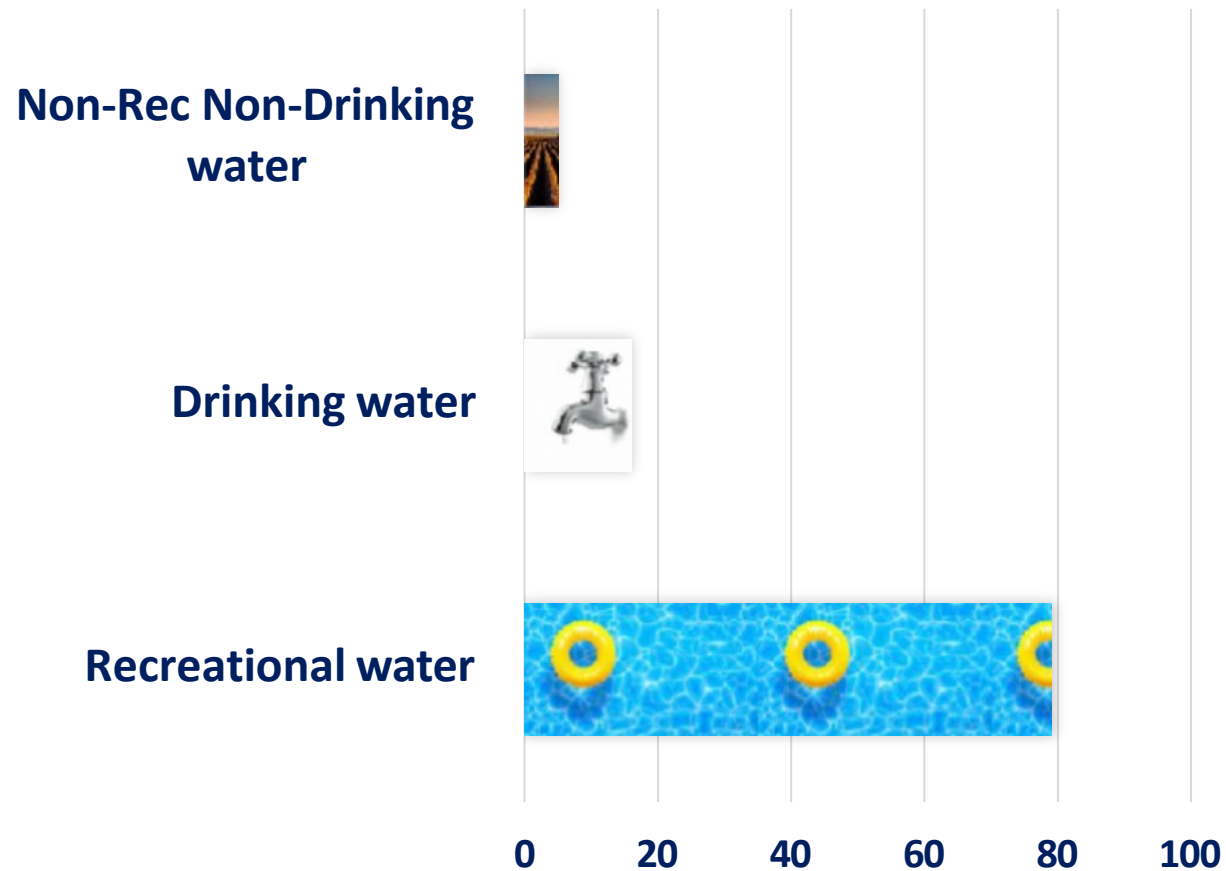
Megan E. Gerdes,<sup>1</sup> Shanna Miko,<sup>1</sup> Jasen M. Kunz, Elizabeth J. Hannapel, Michele C. Hlavsa, Michael J. Hughes, Matthew J. Stuckey, Louise K. Francois Watkins, Jennifer R. Cope, Jonathan S. Yoder, Vincent R. Hill, Sarah A. Collier

# Burden 2.0: Results?



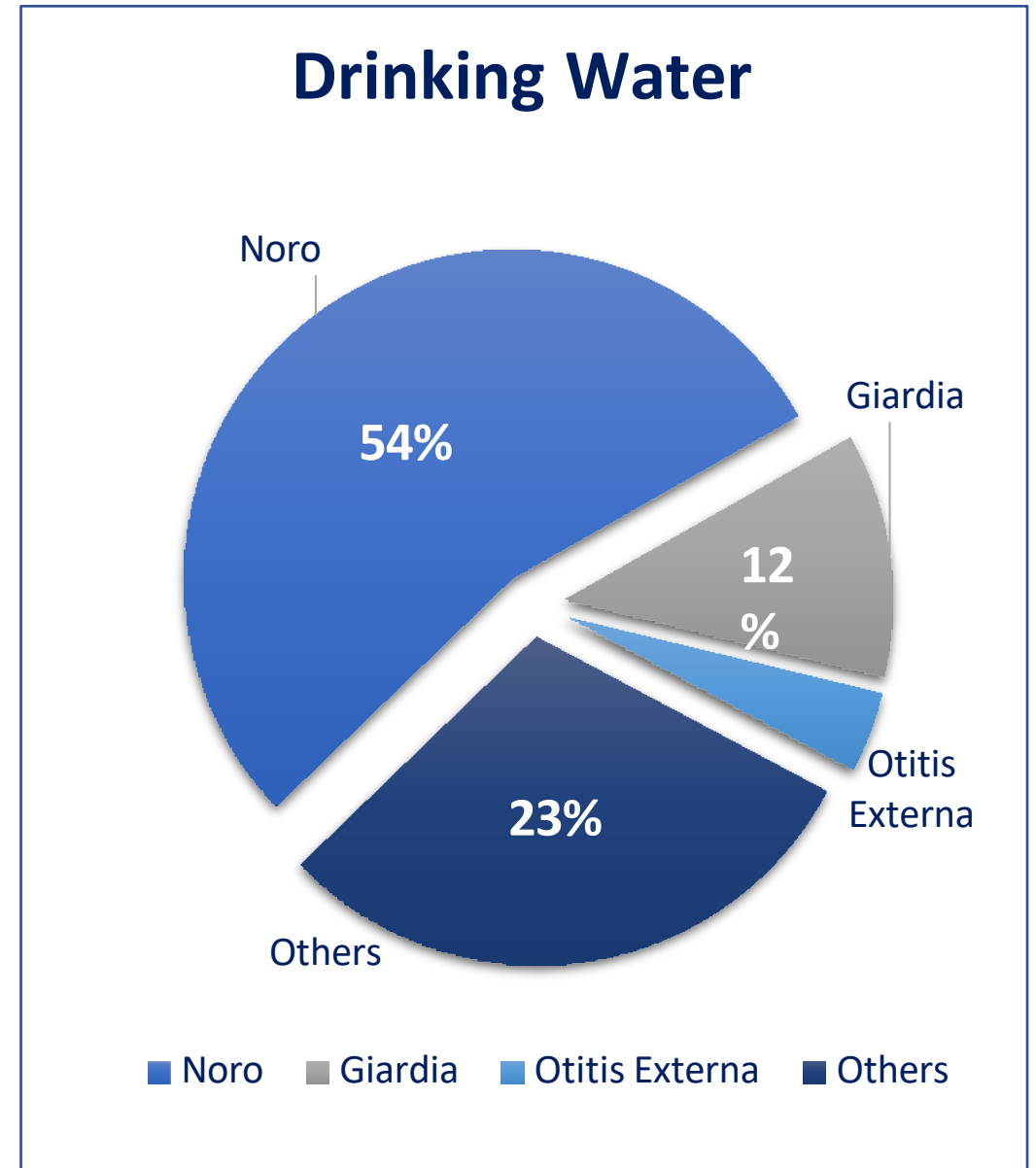
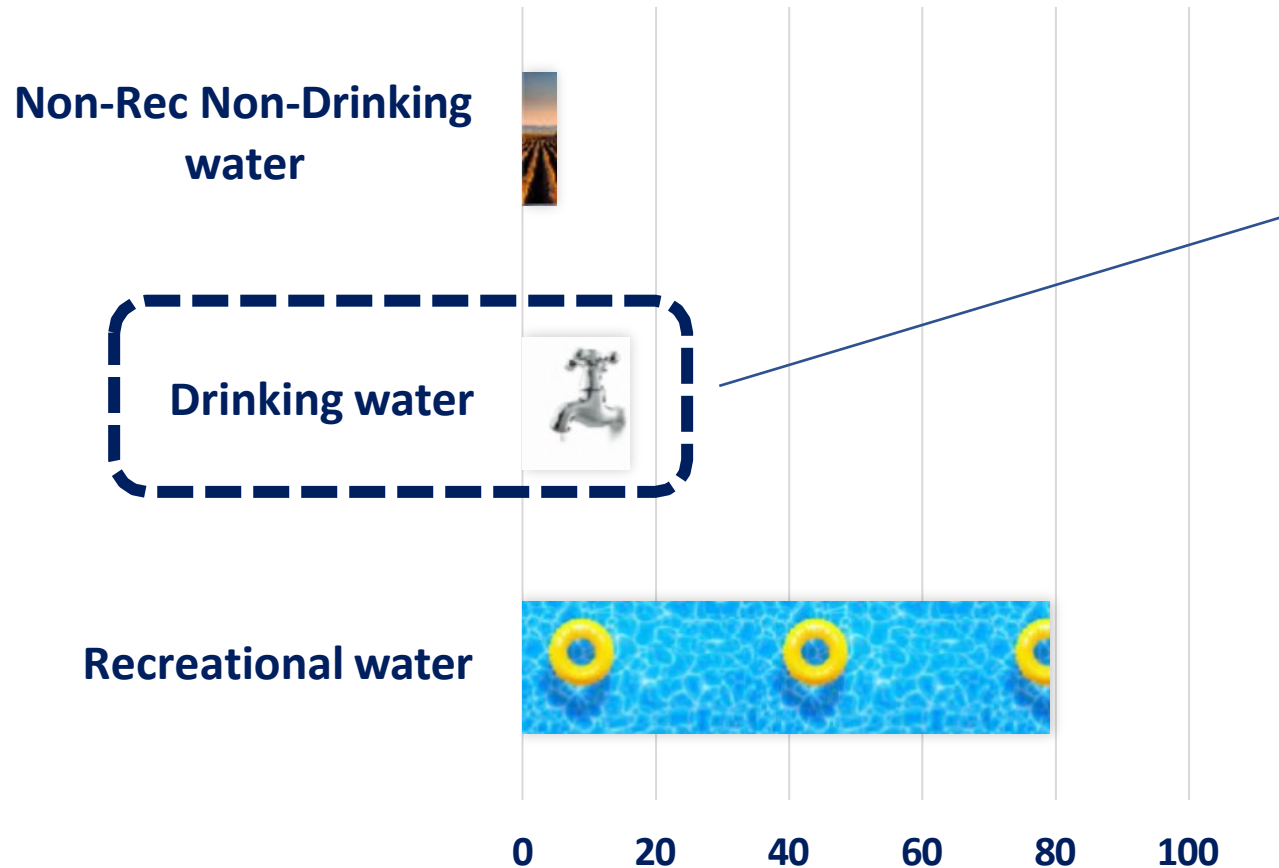
# Total Illnesses

## 7.2M WATERBORNE INFECTIONS



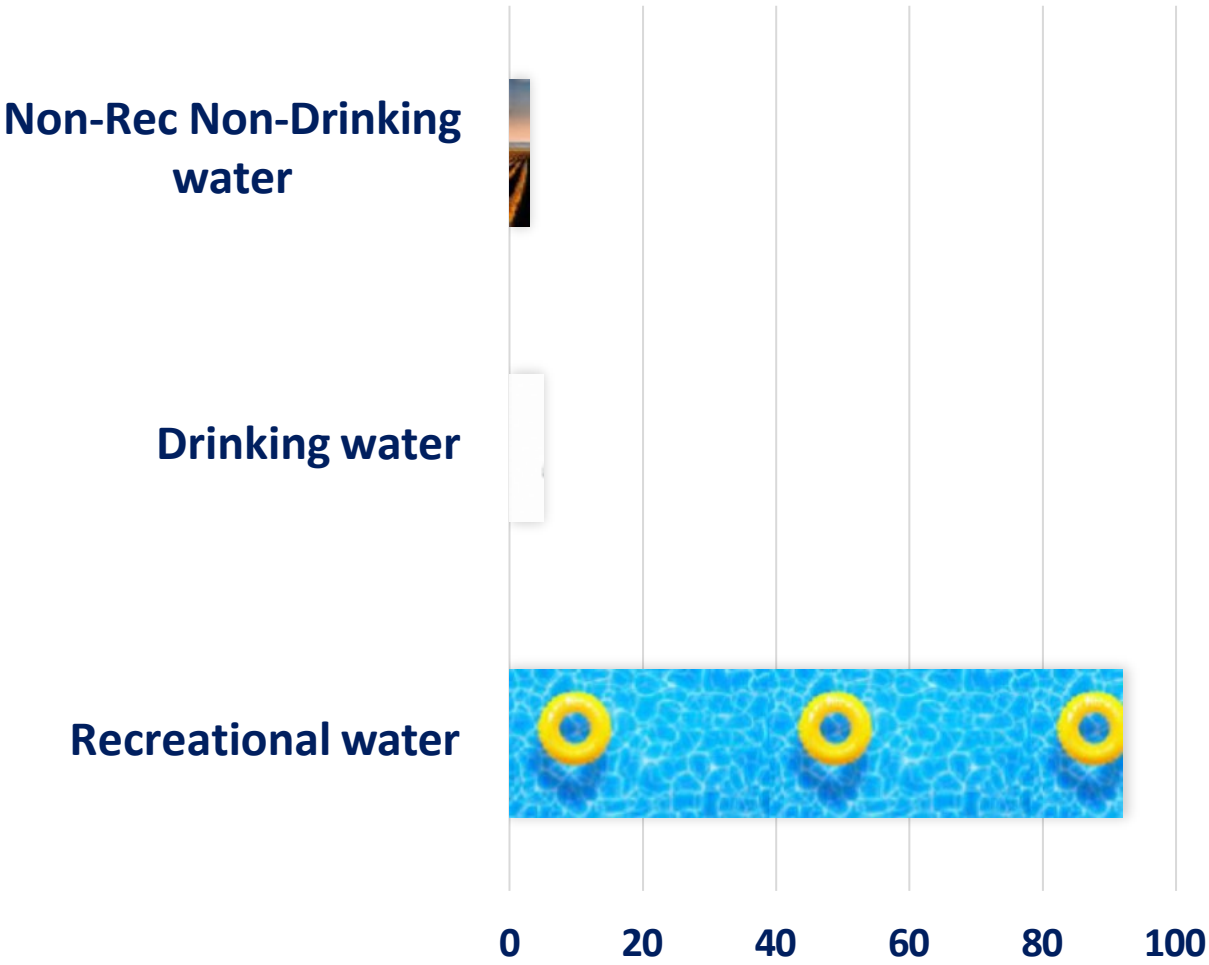
# Total Illnesses

## 7.2M WATERBORNE INFECTIONS



# ED Visits

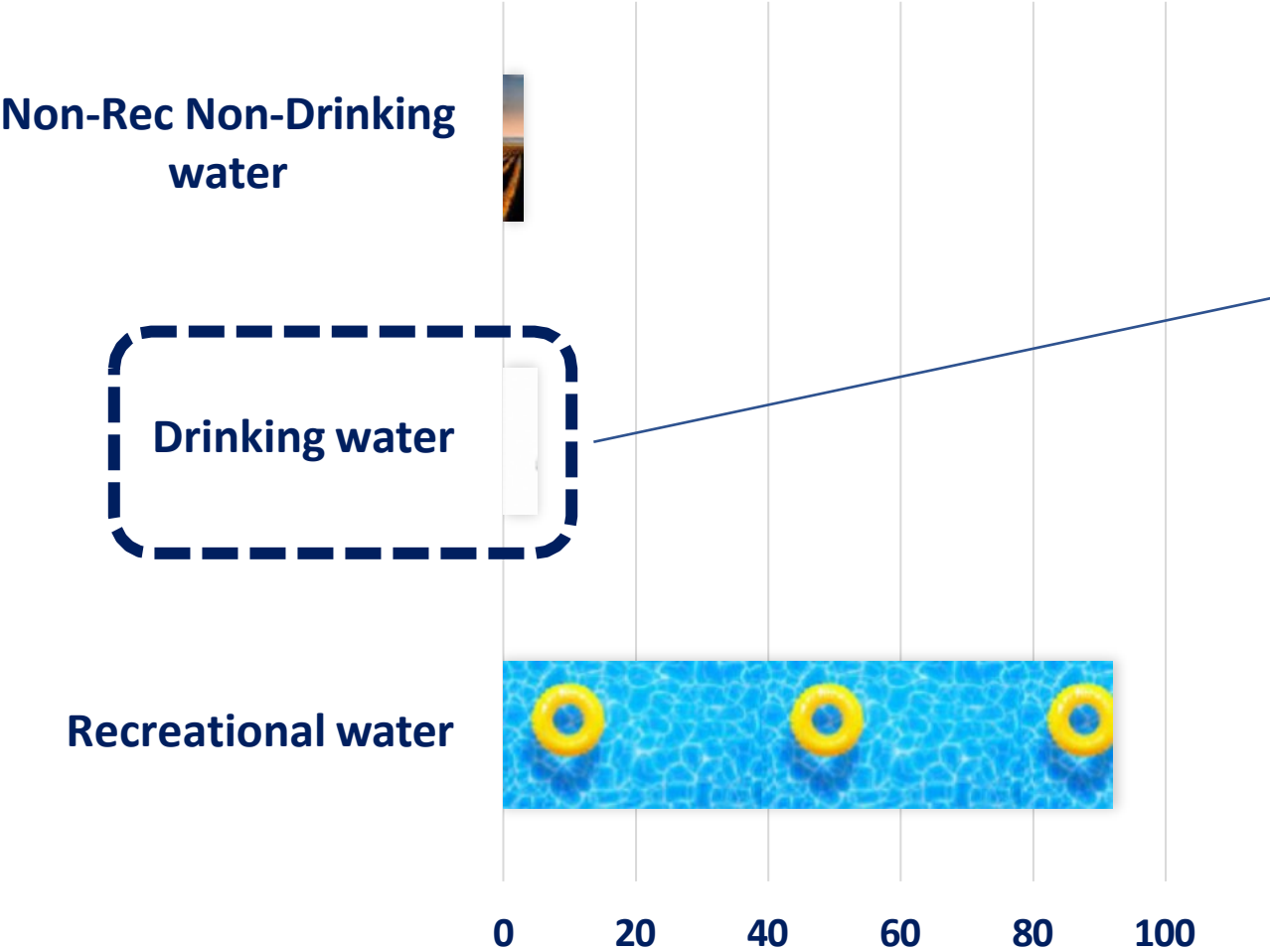
## 600K WATERBORNE ED VISITS



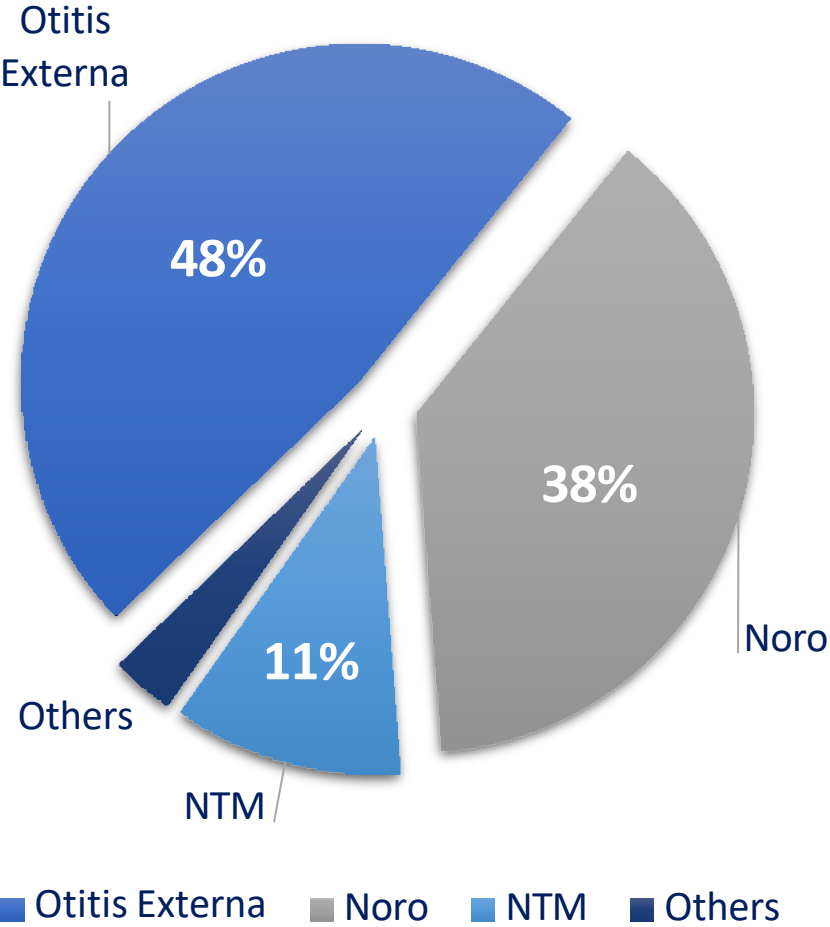


# ED Visits

## 600K WATERBORNE ED VISITS

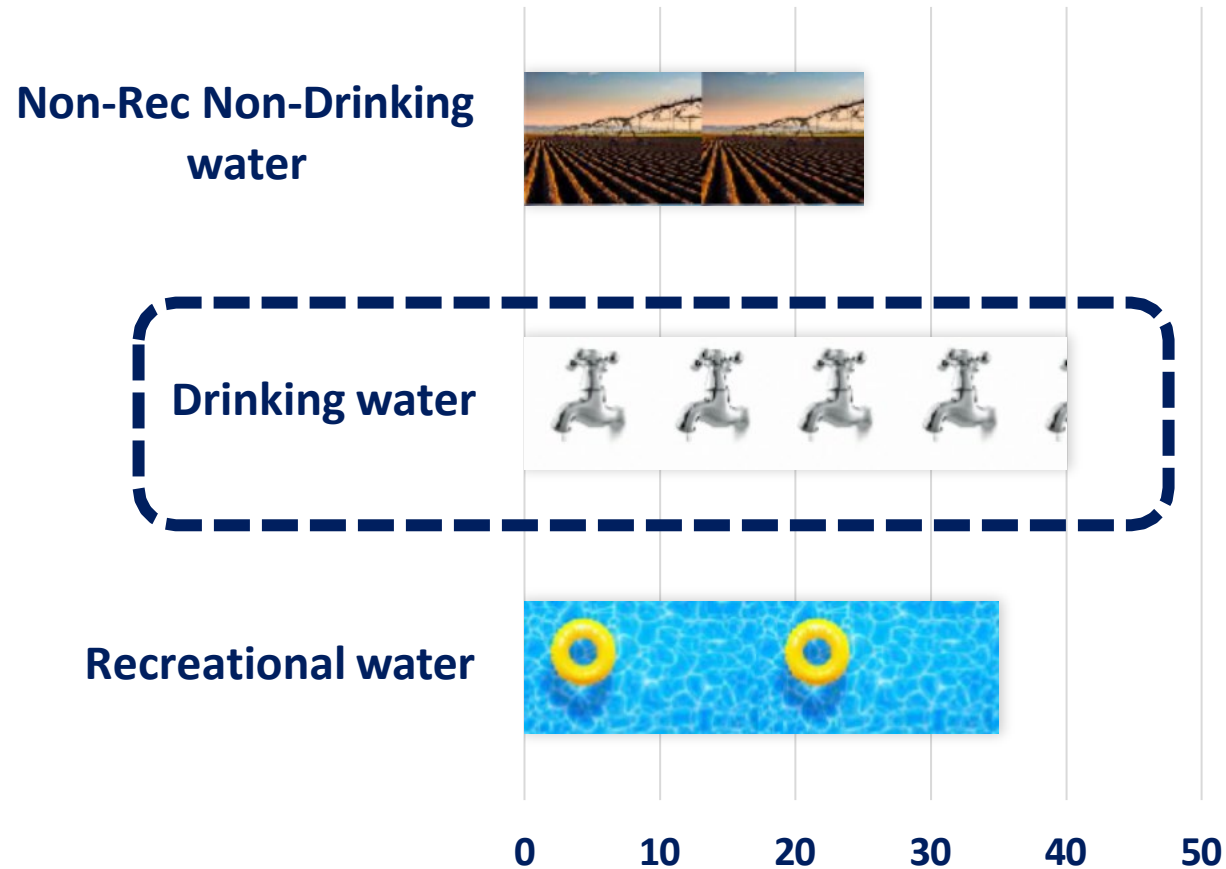


## Drinking Water



# Hospitalizations

## 120K WATERBORNE HOSPITALIZATIONS



# Biofilms in Drinking Water Responsible for Large Portion of Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Healthcare Costs

40% of 120,000  
Hospitalizations





# Biofilms in Drinking Water Responsible for Large Portion of Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Healthcare Costs

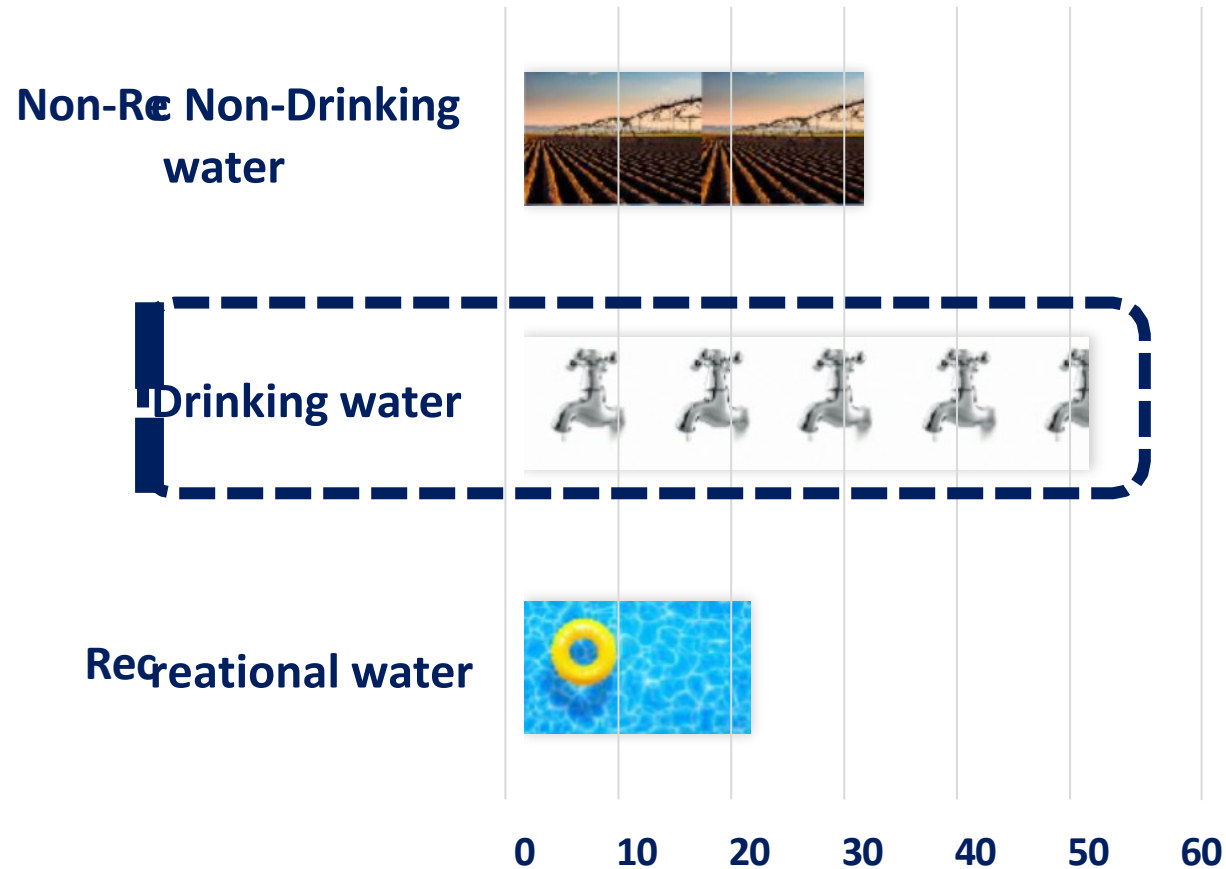
40% of 120,000  
Hospitalizations

73% Drinking Water  
Hospitalizations from **Non-  
Tuberculous Mycobacterium**



# Deaths

## 6,600 WATERBORNE INFECTION DEATHS



# Biofilms in Drinking Water Responsible for Large Portion of Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Healthcare Costs

50% of  
6,600 Deaths





# Biofilms in Drinking Water Responsible for Large Portion of Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Healthcare Costs

50% of  
6,600 Deaths

78% Drinking Water Deaths from  
Non-Tuberculous Mycobacterium



# Direct Costs

**\$3B IN VISITS AND  
HOSPITALIZATIONS**

Non-Rec Non-Drinking  
water



Drinking water



Recreational water



0 10 20 30 40 50

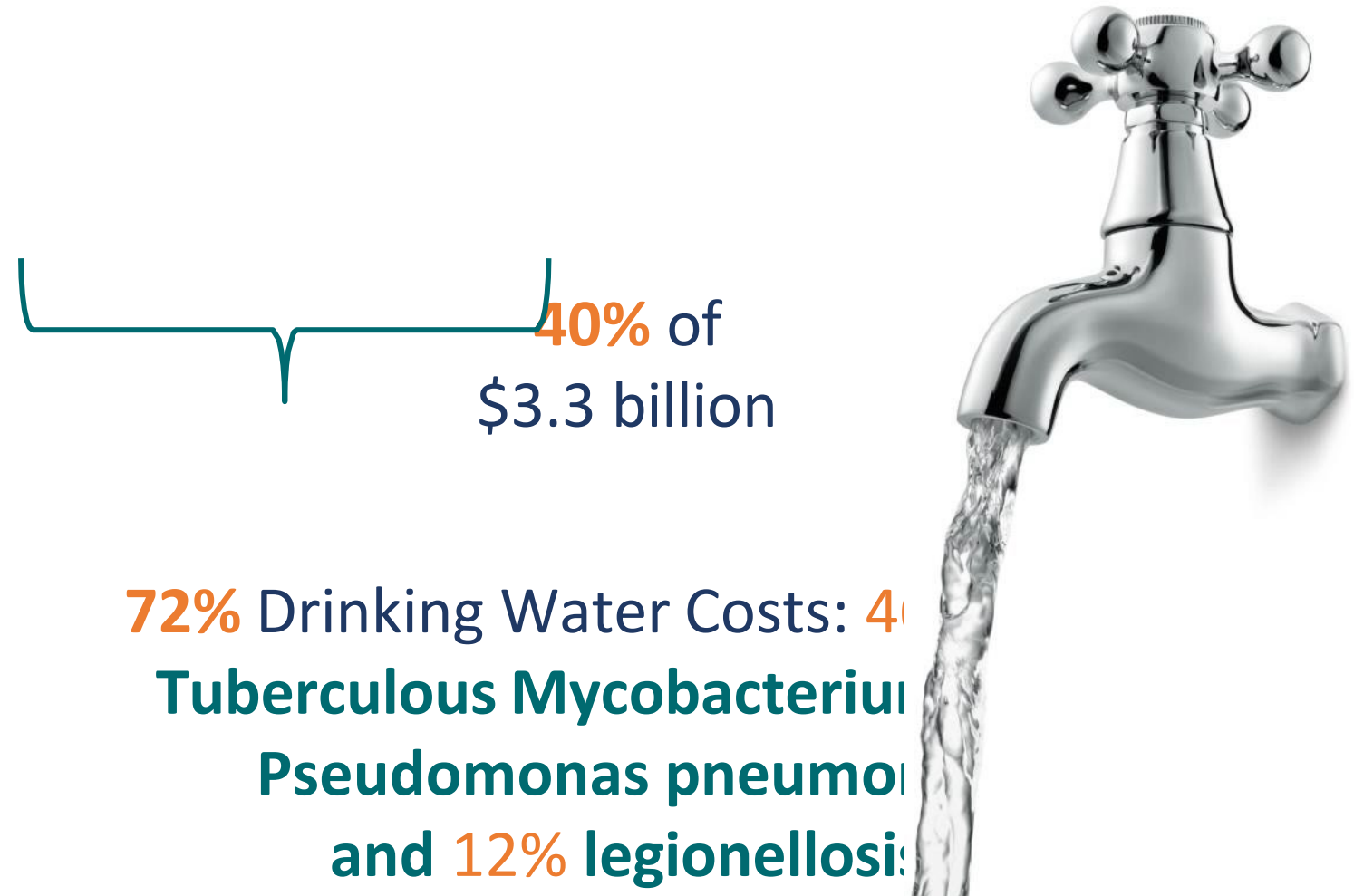
# Biofilms in Drinking Water Responsible for Large Portion of Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Healthcare Costs

40% of  
\$3.3 billion

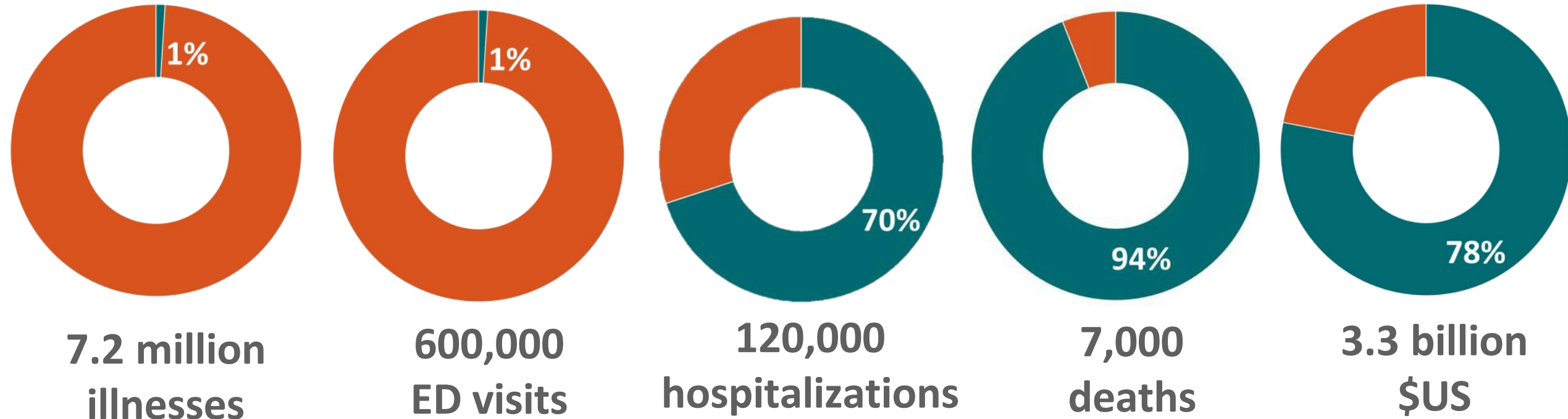




# Biofilms in Drinking Water Responsible for Large Portion of Hospitalizations, Deaths, and Healthcare Costs



# Infectious waterborne disease in the United States



**% Biofilm-associated rises in more severe outcomes**

# Burden 3.0?





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Kathy Benedict  
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Ashley Andujar  
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Beau Bruce  
Aimee Geissler  
Anna Blackstock  
Gordana Derado  
Chris Edens  
Aron Hall  
Sujan Reddy  
Erin Stokes  
Kakoli Roy



**Every  
year,  
germs in  
water  
cause:**

**7.2 million illnesses**



That's more than the number of people who visit the Grand Canyon each year.

**120,000 hospitalizations**



That's more than two baseball stadiums full of fans.

**7,000 deaths**



That's 18 people dying every day.

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.





Each year, an estimated  
**7.2 million people get sick,**  
**120,000 are hospitalized,**  
and **7,000 die** from a  
**WATERBORNE DISEASE**



# ANNEX SLIDES

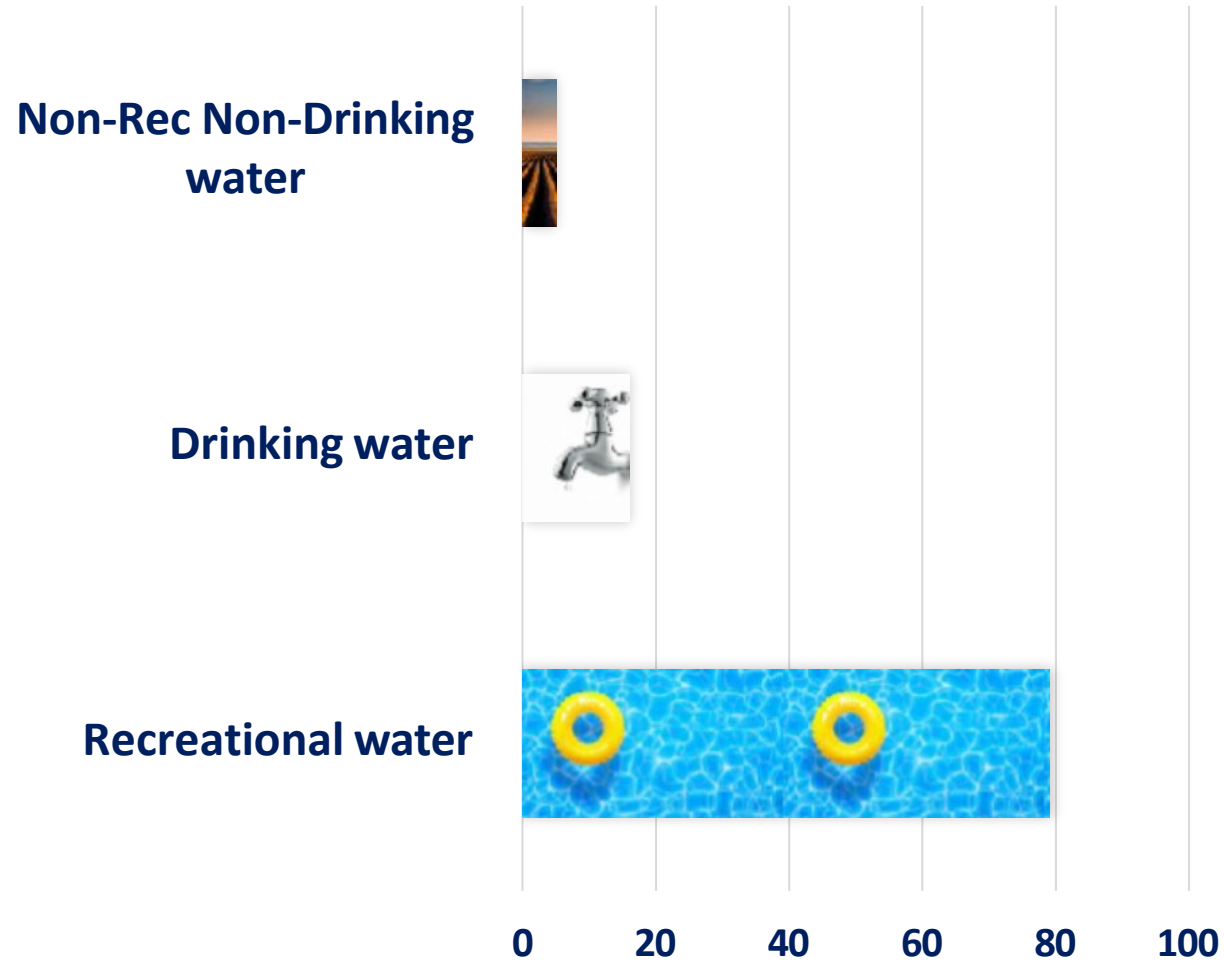
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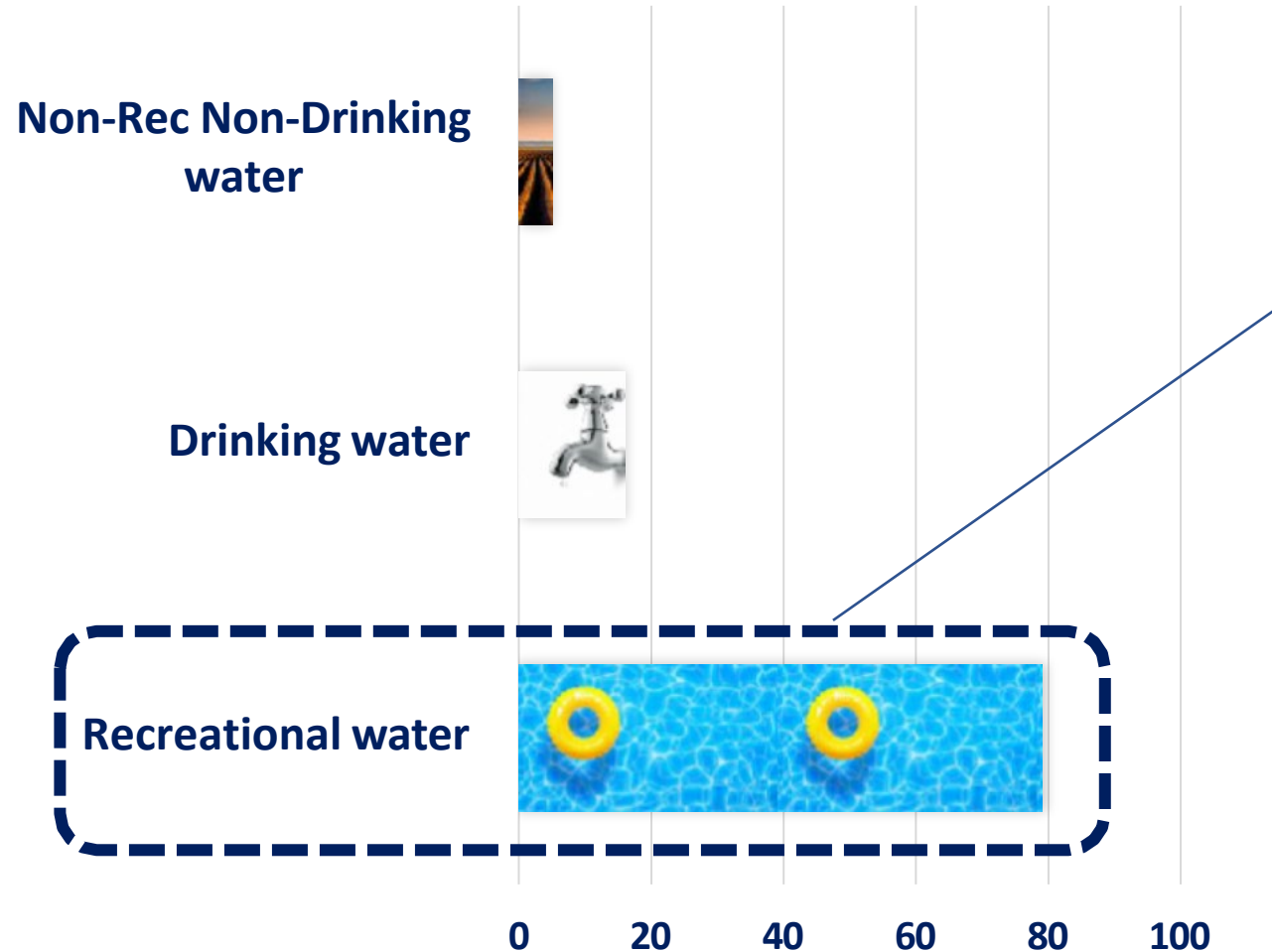
# Total Illnesses

## 7M WATERBORNE INFECTIONS

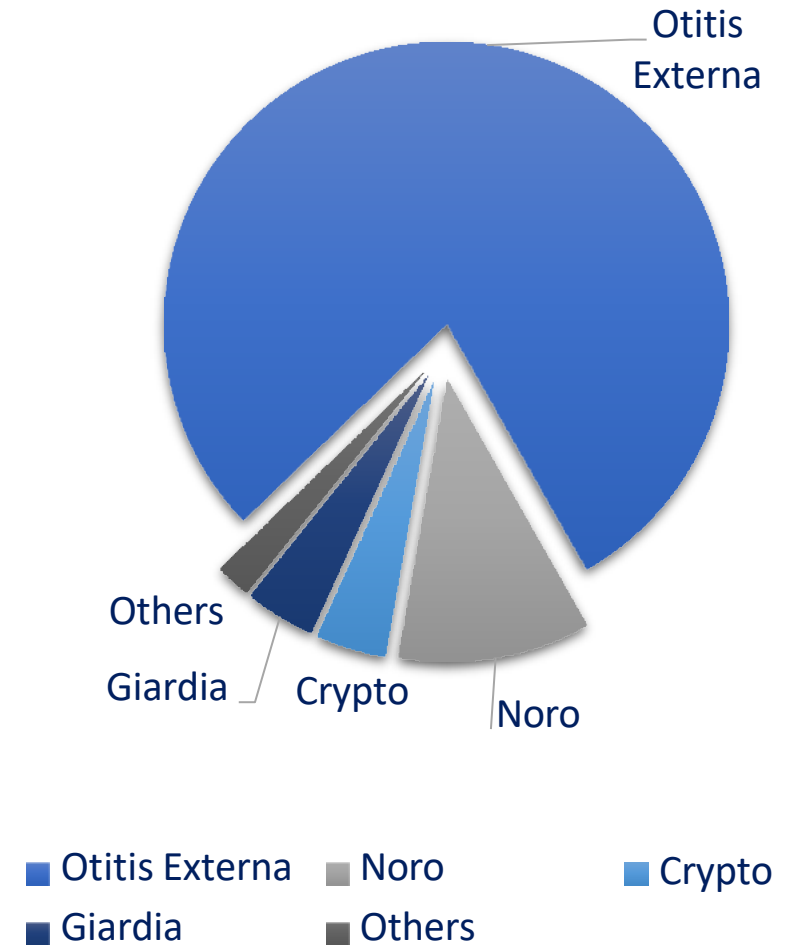


# Total Illnesses

## 7M WATERBORNE INFECTIONS



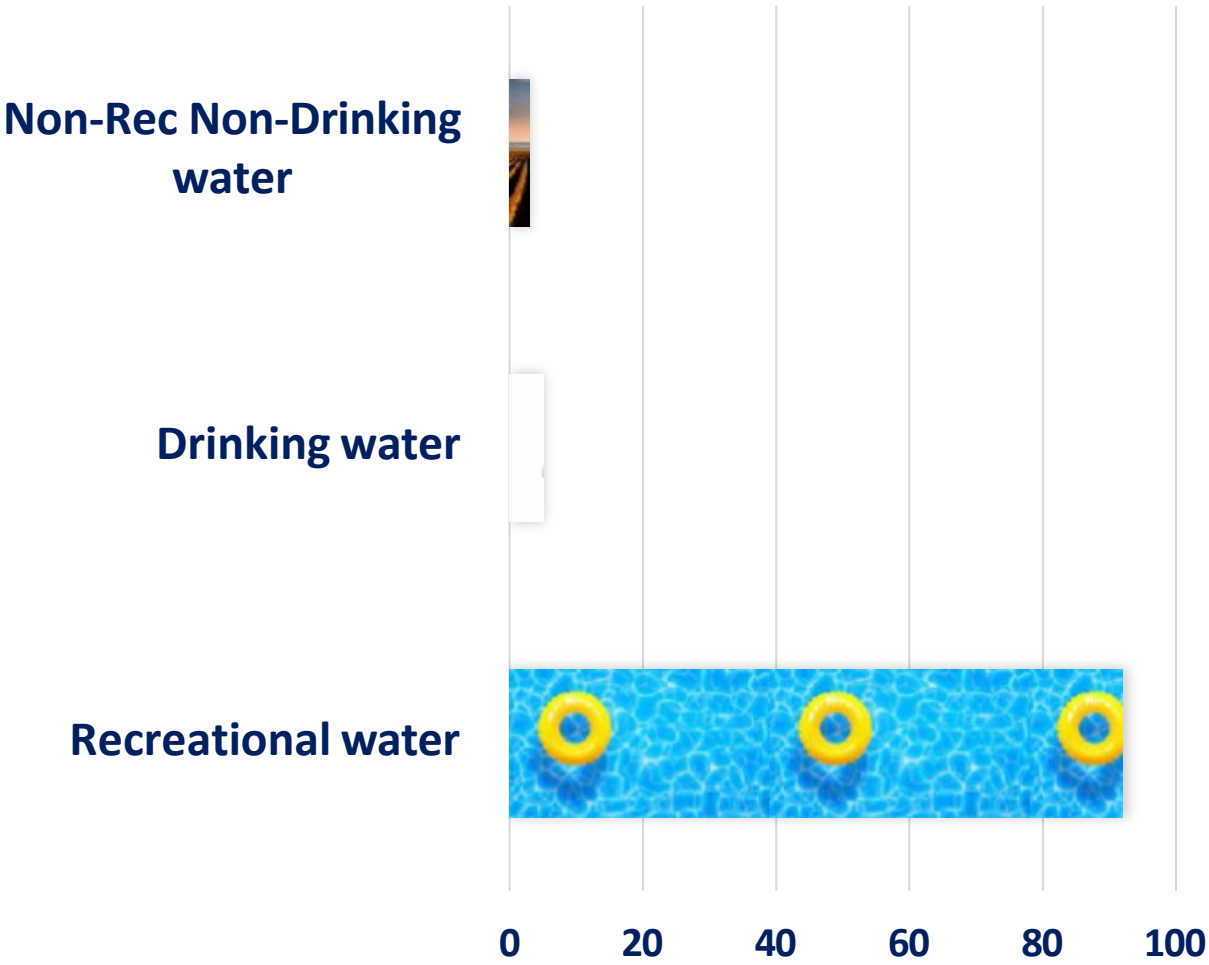
## Recreation Water





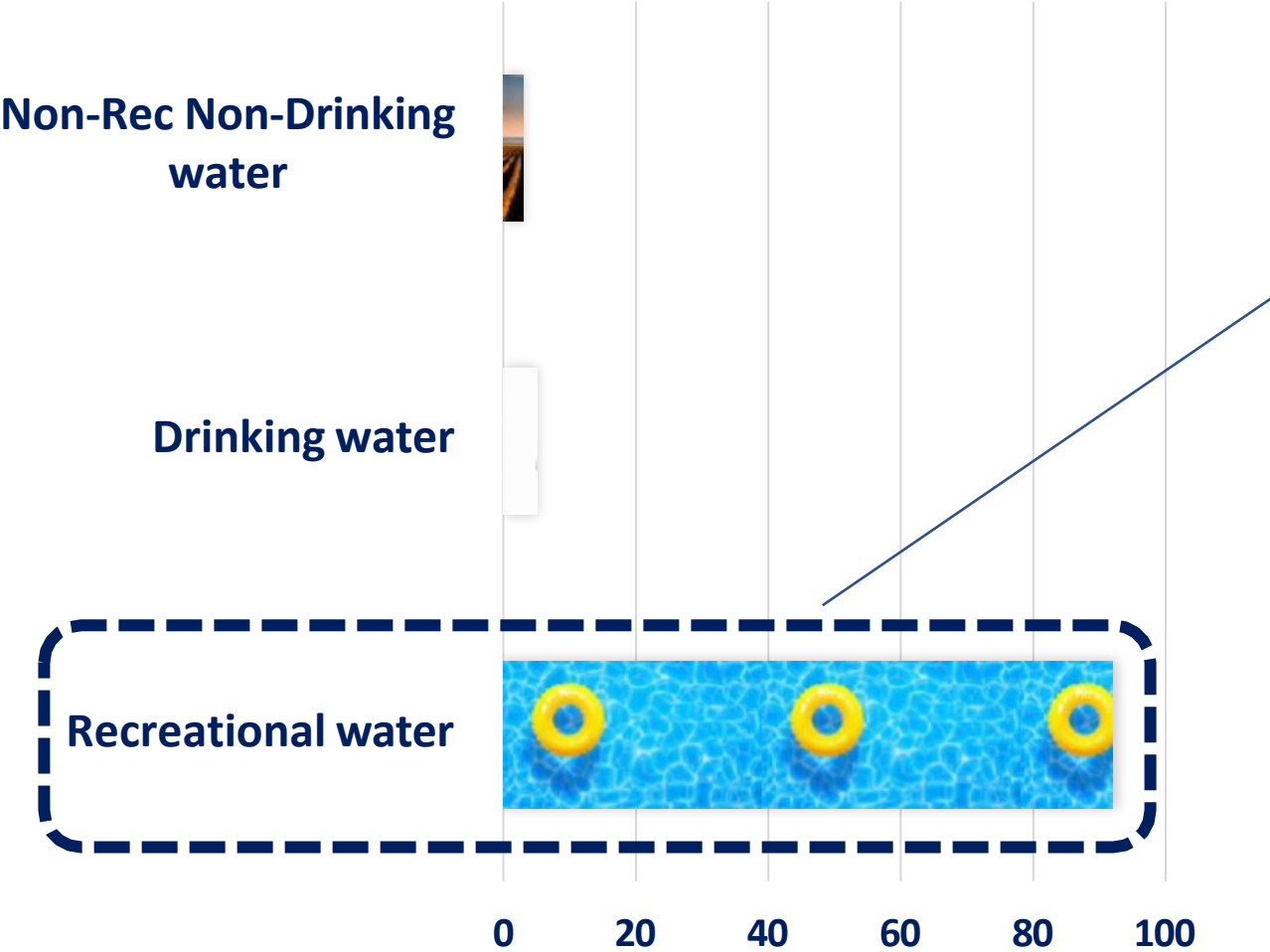
# ED Visits

## 600K WATERBORNE ED VISITS

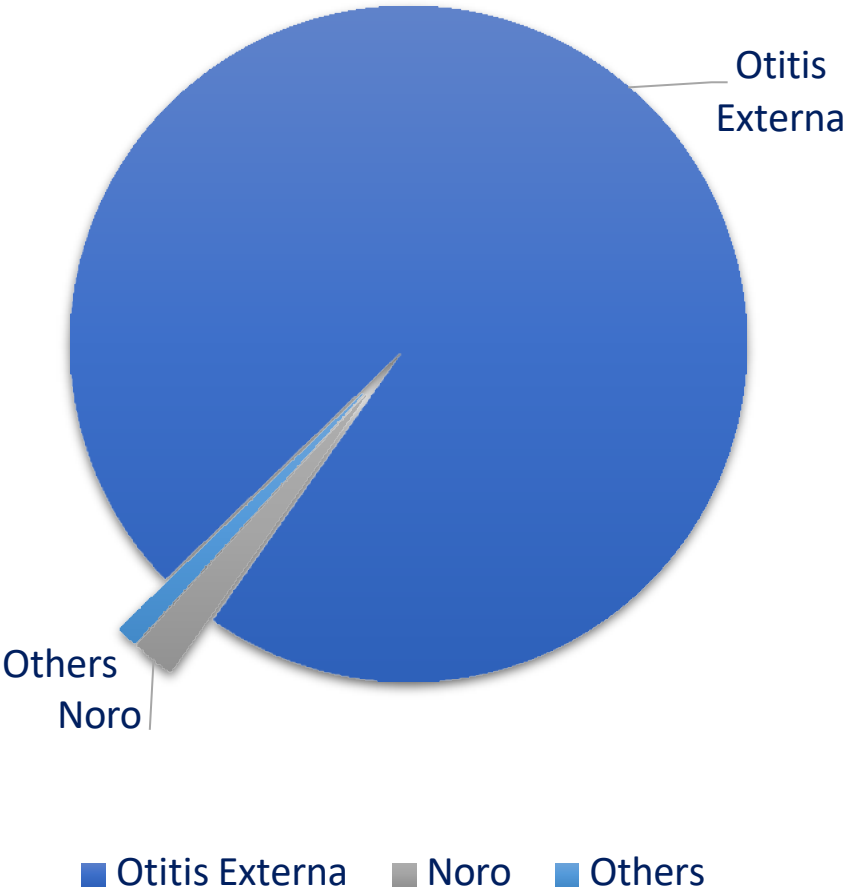


# ED Visits

## 600K WATERBORNE ED VISITS

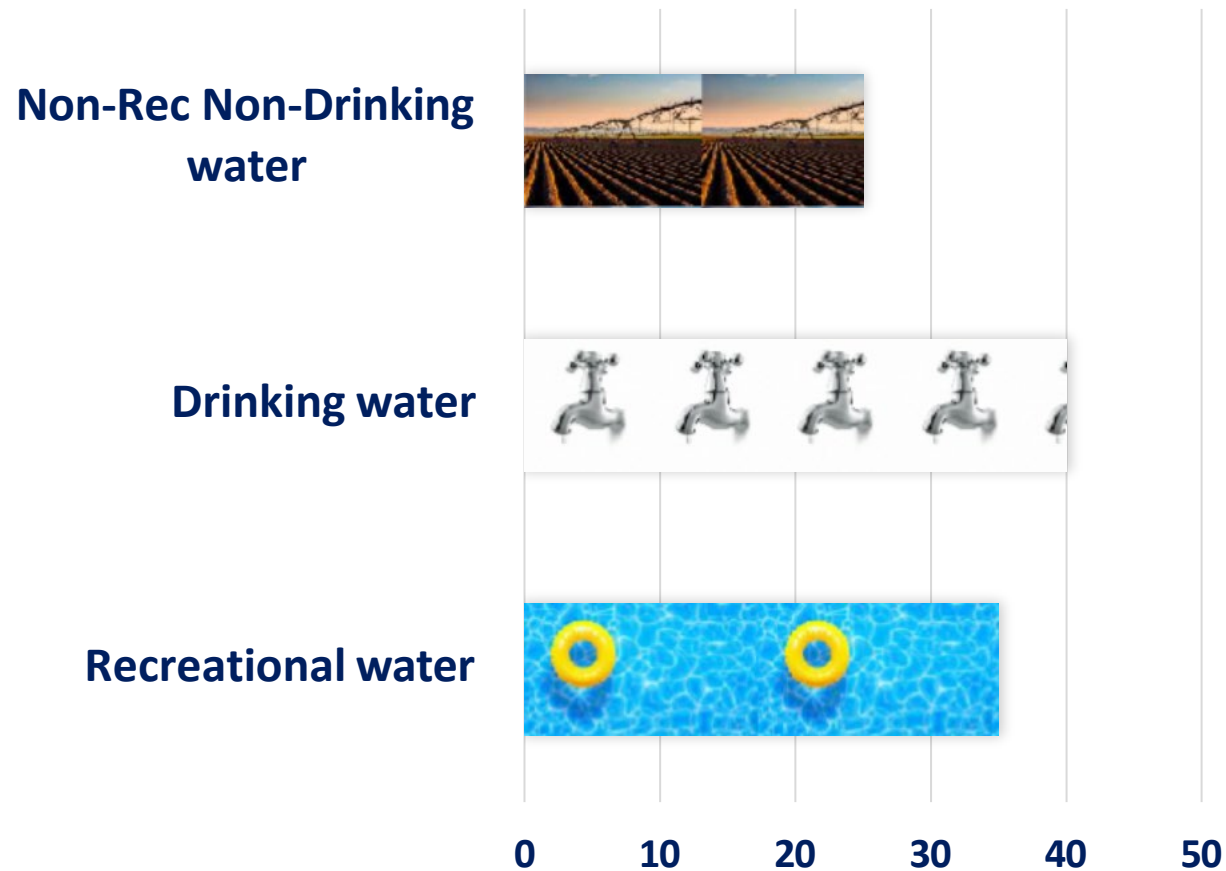


## Recreation Water



# Hospitalizations

## 120K WATERBORNE HOSPITALIZATIONS



# Hospitalizations

## 120K WATERBORNE HOSPITALIZATIONS

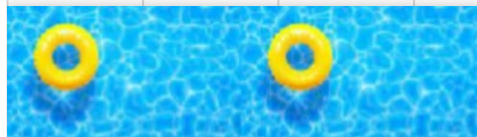
Non-Rec Non-Drinking water



Drinking water

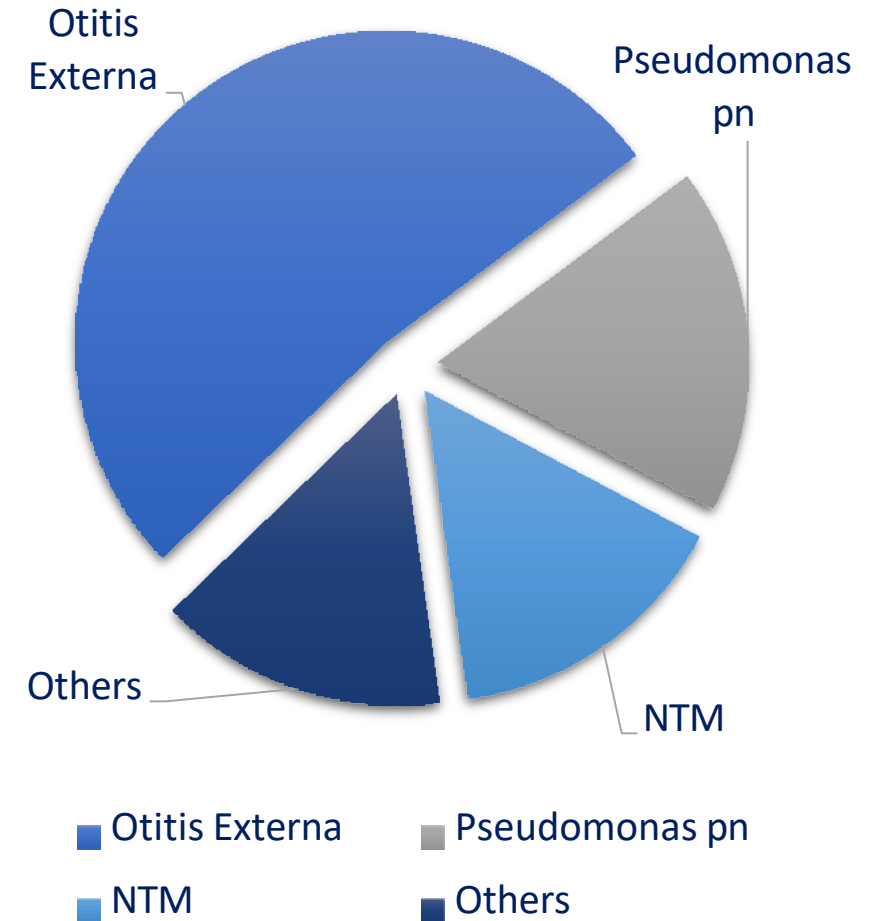


Recreational water



0 10 20 30 40 50

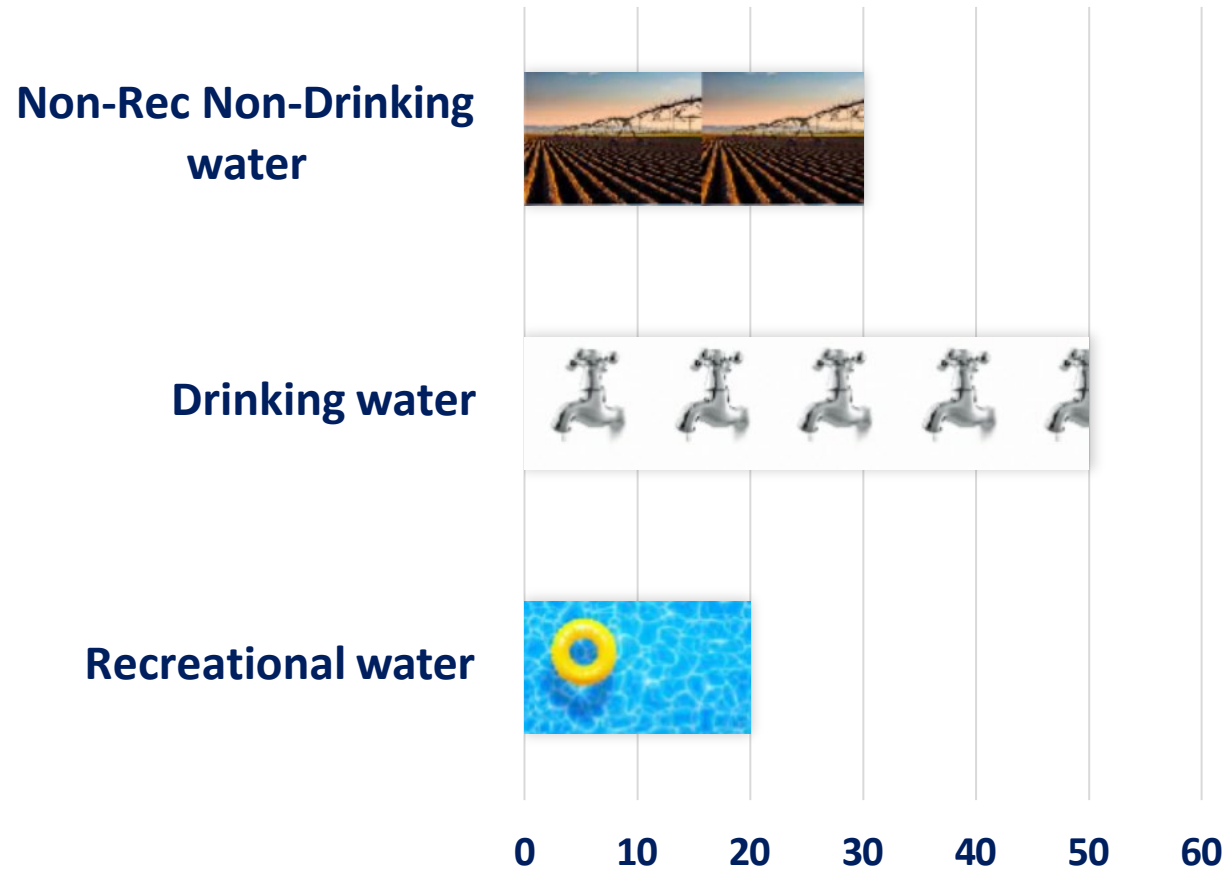
## Recreation Water





# Deaths

## 6,600 WATERBORNE INFECTION DEATHS



## 6,600 WATERBORNE INFECTION DEATHS

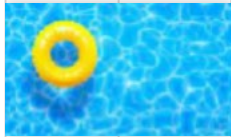
Non-Rec Non-Drinking water



Drinking water



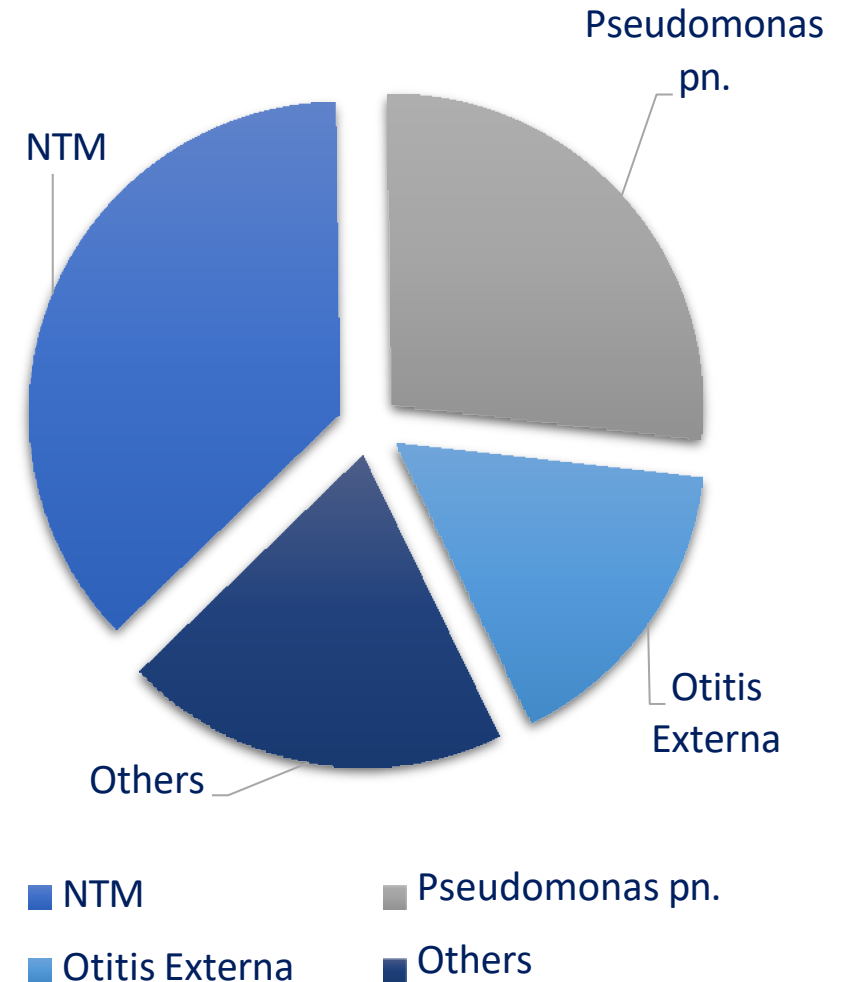
Recreational water



0 10 20 30 40 50 60

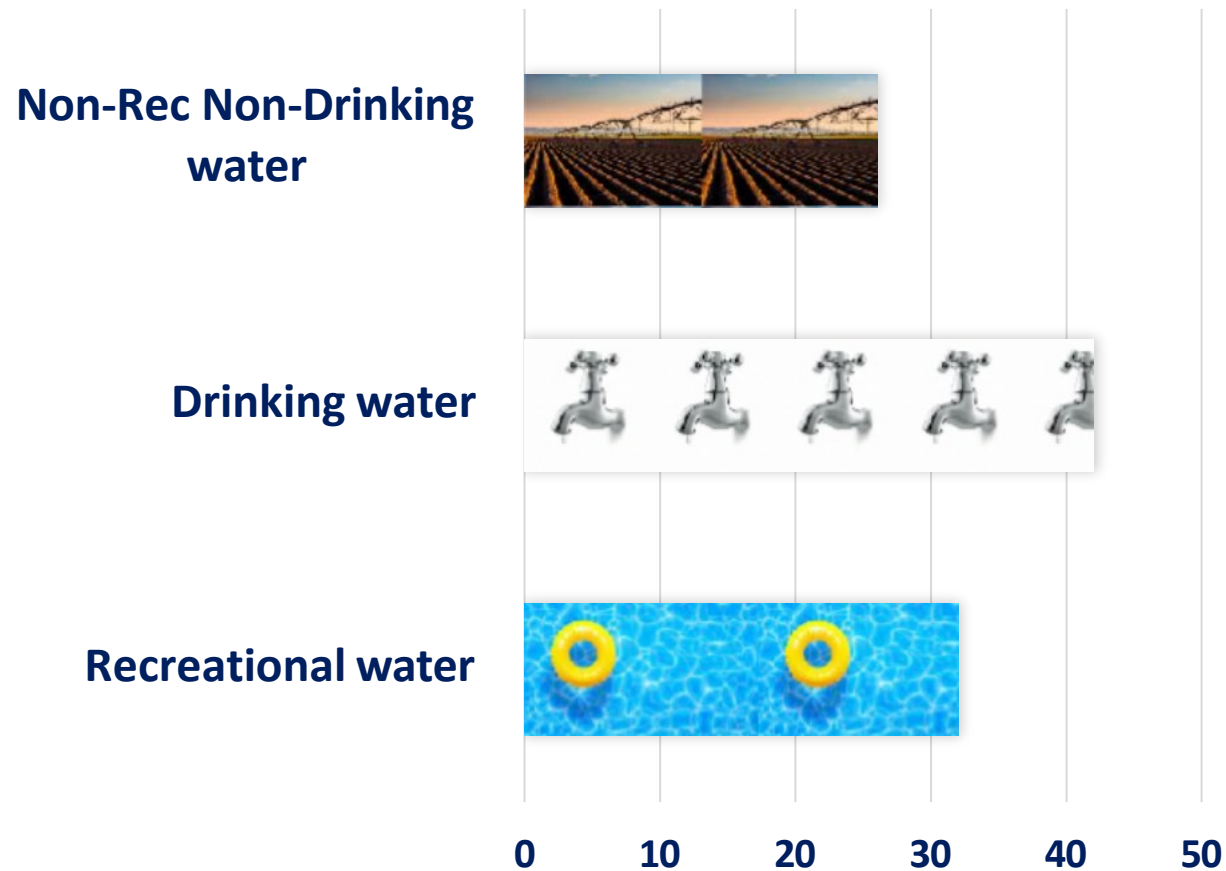
## Deaths

### Recreation Water



# Direct Costs

**\$3B IN VISITS AND  
HOSPITALIZATIONS**



# Direct Costs

**\$3B IN VISITS AND  
HOSPITALIZATIONS**

Non-Rec Non-Drinking  
water



Drinking water

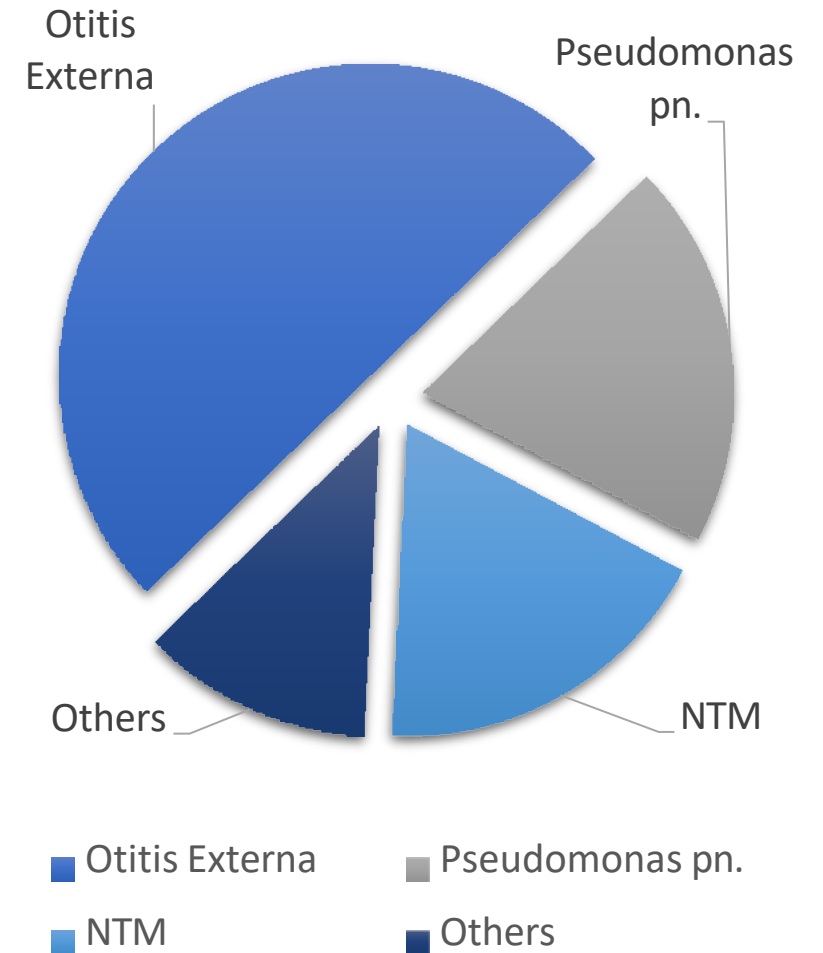


Recreational water



0 10 20 30 40 50

## Recreation Water





# Acknowledgements

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Mike Hoekstra  
Patty Griffin  
Beau Bruce  
Aimee Geissler  
Anna Blackstock  
Gordana Derado  
Chris Edens  
Aron Hall  
Sujan Reddy  
Erin Stokes  
Kakoli Roy



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year,  
germs in  
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cause:**

**7.2 million illnesses**



That's more than the number of people who visit the Grand Canyon each year.

**120,000 hospitalizations**



That's more than two baseball stadiums full of fans.

**7,000 deaths**



That's 18 people dying every day.



# Estimates and Prevention of Recreational Water–Associated Infections in the United States

**Michele Hlavsa, RN, MPH**

**Epidemiologist**

**Healthy Swimming, Cryptosporidiosis, and Model Aquatic Health Code**

**MAHC Network Webinar**

**December 4, 2023**

## Acknowledgements

- Shanna Miko
- Joe Laco
- Rebecca Rainey & Deise Galan
- Harmonization Committee
  - Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC)
  - International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC)



**Every  
year,  
germs in  
water  
cause:**

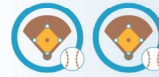
[www.cdc.gov/healthywater](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater)

### 7.2 million illnesses



That's more than the number of people who visit the Grand Canyon each year.

### 120,000 hospitalizations



That's more than two baseball stadiums full of fans.

### 7,000 deaths



That's 18 people dying every day.

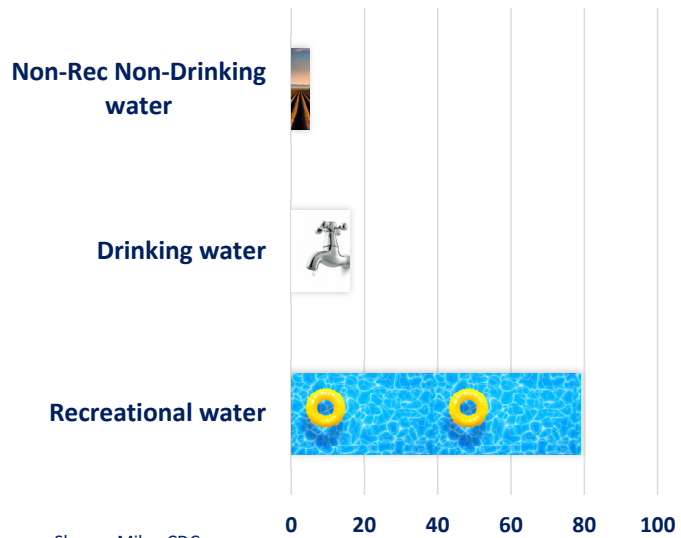


# Recreational Water–Associated Infections



# Waterborne Infections

7.2M INFECTIONS



Source: Shanna Miko, CDC

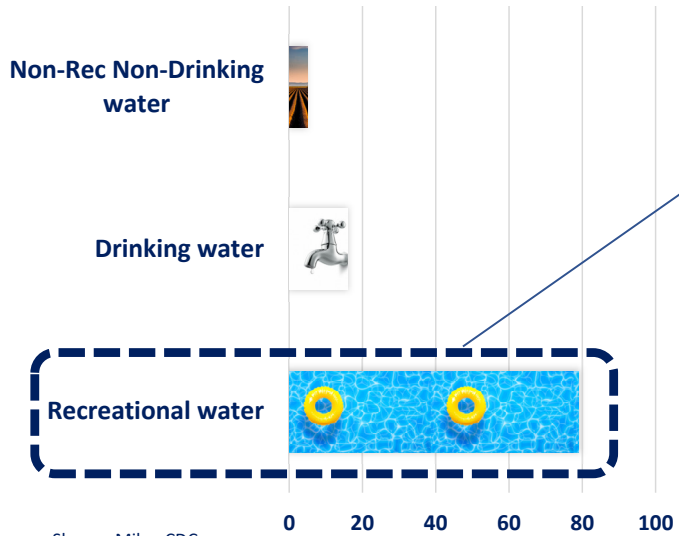
Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.

7.2 M waterborne infections

almost 80% or 5.6 M rec water associated infections

# Waterborne Infections

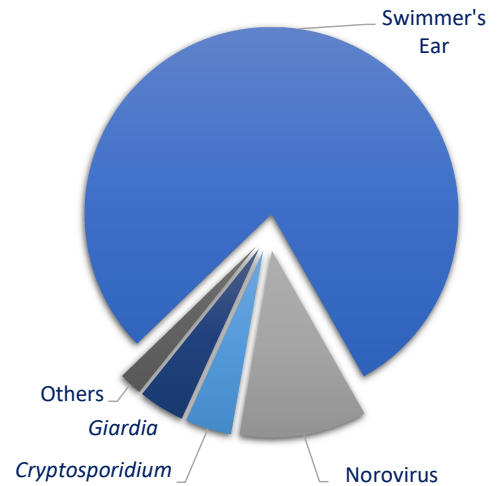
7.2M INFECTIONS



Source: Shanna Miko, CDC

Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.

## Recreational Water



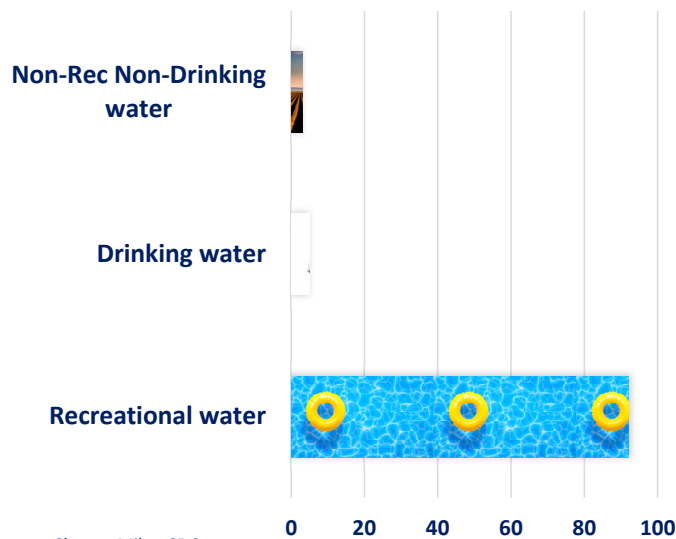
Almost 80% of rec water associated infections

4.4 M swimmer's ear associated with rec water

62% or almost two thirds of all waterborne infections

## Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Waterborne Infections

600,000 ED VISITS



Source: Shanna Miko, CDC

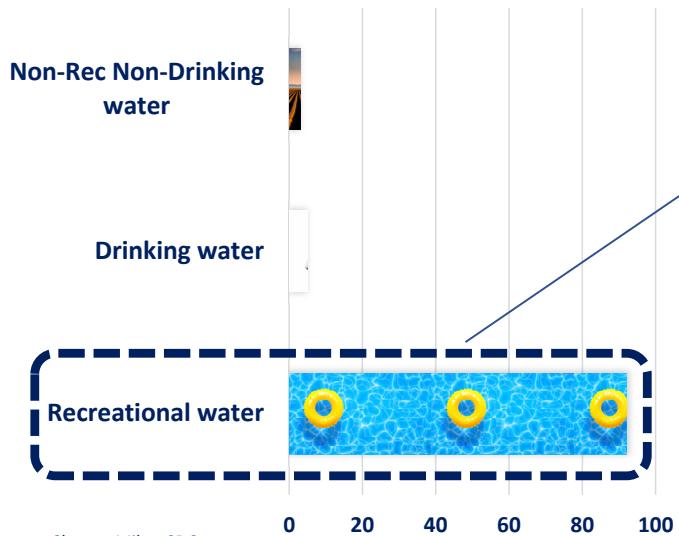
Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.

601,000 ED visits for waterborne infections

92% or 552,000 ED visits for rec water associated infections

## ED Visits for Waterborne Infections

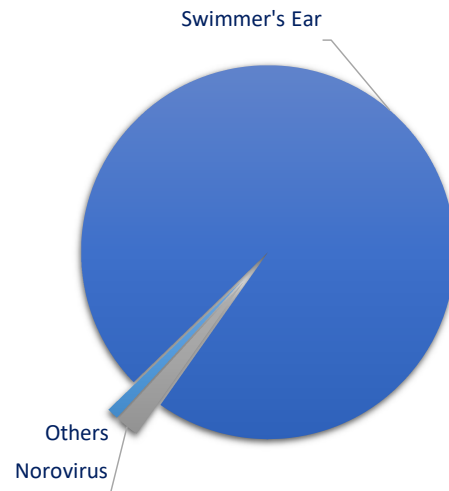
600,000 ED VISITS



Source: Shanna Miko, CDC

Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.

### Recreational Water



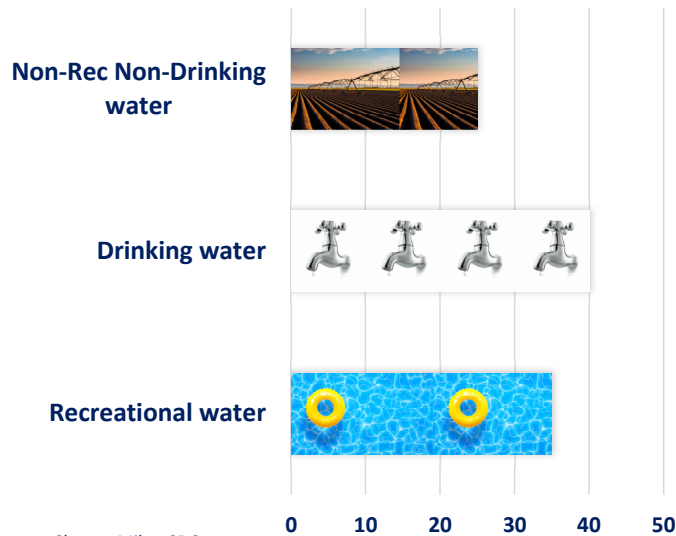
97% of ED visits for rec water associated infections  
538,000 ED visits for swimmer's ear associated with rec water

90% of ED visits for all waterborne infections



# Hospitalizations for Waterborne Infections

**118,000 HOSPITALIZATIONS**



Source: Shanna Miko, CDC

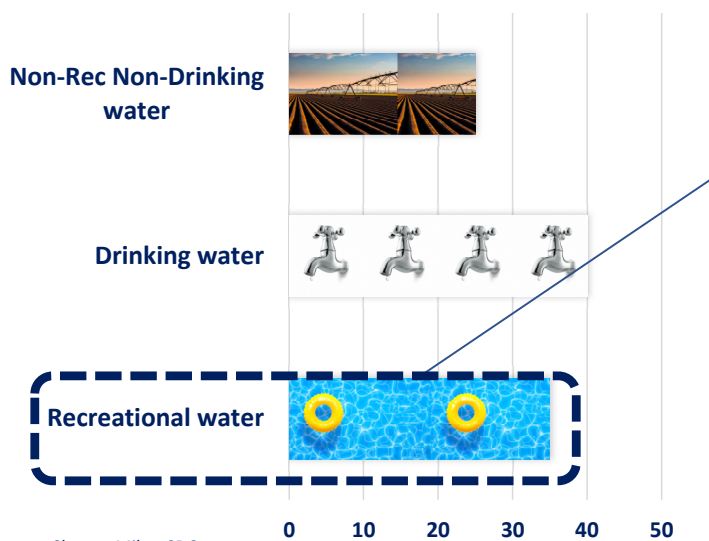
Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.

118,000 hospitalizations for waterborne infections

36% or 42,300 hospitalizations for rec water associated infections

# Hospitalizations for Waterborne Infections

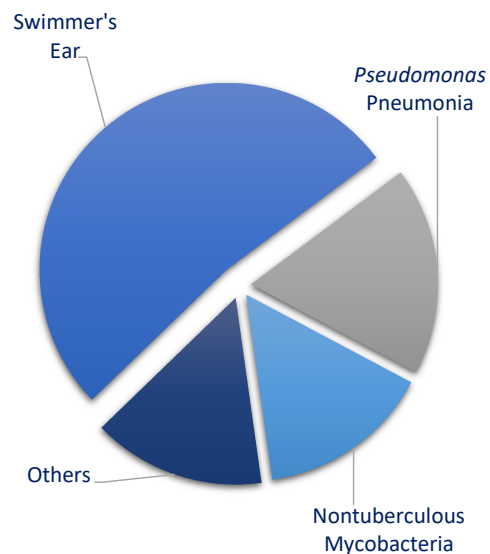
118,000 HOSPITALIZATIONS



Source: Shanna Miko, CDC

Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.

## Recreational Water



52% or just over half of hospitalizations for rec water associated infections

22,000 hospitalizations for swimmer's ear associated with rec water

Almost 20% hospitalizations for all waterborne infections

# Deaths Caused by Waterborne Infections

**6,630 WATERBORNE INFECTION  
DEATHS**



Source: Shanna Miko, CDC

Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.

6,630 deaths caused by waterborne infections

Almost 20% or 1,290 caused by rec water associated infections

# Deaths Caused by Waterborne Infections

## 6,630 WATERBORNE INFECTION DEATHS

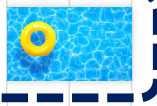
Non-Rec Non-Drinking water



Drinking water



Recreational water

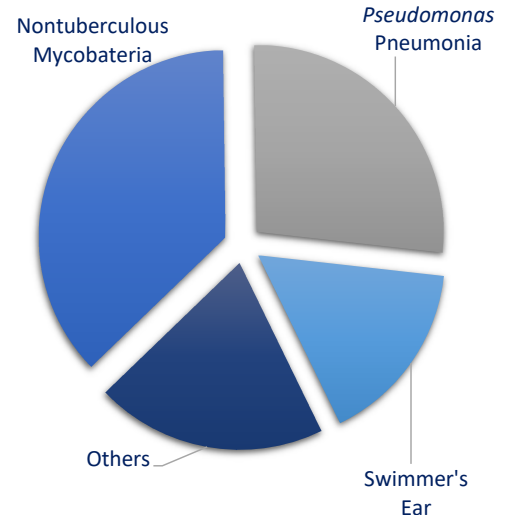


0 10 20 30 40 50 60

Source: Shanna Miko, CDC

Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.

## Recreational Water



16% of deaths caused by rec water associated infections

208 deaths caused by swimmer's ear associated with rec water

3% of deaths caused by all waterborne infections



# Direct Costs of Waterborne Infections

**\$3.3B IN ED VISITS AND  
HOSPITALIZATIONS**



Source: Shanna Miko, CDC

Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.

\$3.3B in direct costs for ED visits and hospitalizations for waterborne infections

Almost 33% or \$1.07B in direct cost for ED visits and hospitalizations for rec water associated infections

## Direct Costs of Waterborne Infections

**\$3.3B IN VISITS AND HOSPITALIZATIONS**

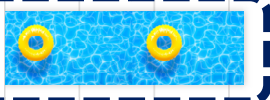
Non-Rec Non-Drinking water



Drinking water



Recreational water



0 10 20 30 40 50

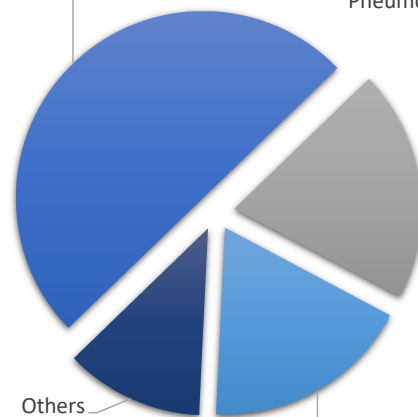
Source: Shanna Miko, CDC

Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.

### Recreational Water

Swimmer's Ear

*Pseudomonas*  
Pneumonia



Others

Nontuberculous  
Mycobacteria

50% of direct costs for ED visits and hospitalizations associated with rec water associated infections

\$536M in direct costs for ED visits and hospitalizations caused by swimmer's ear associated with rec water

16% of direct costs for ED visits and hospitalizations associated with all waterborne infections

# What is the Take Home Message?

Swimmer's ear =  
Most important issue to  
be addressed by aquatics

---



15





Sw... ear =  
M... important is to  
be addressed... atics

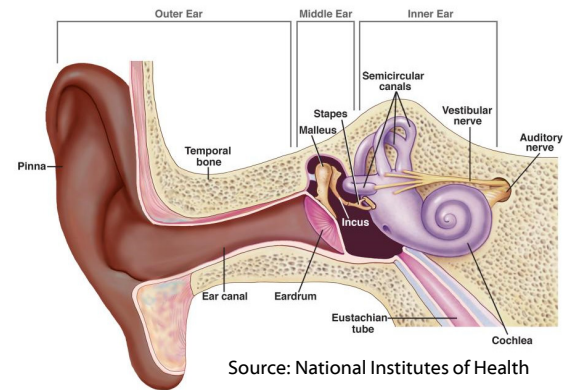


## ***Pseudomonas***

- Found in environment
- Transmitted through contact with contaminated water
- Also causes hot tub rash and hot hand-foot syndrome
- Inactivated readily by disinfectants
  - Maintaining minimum disinfectant concentration prevents transmission
  - Inadequately maintaining disinfectant concentration
    - *Pseudomonas* grows
    - Biofilm builds up and protects pathogens from disinfectants



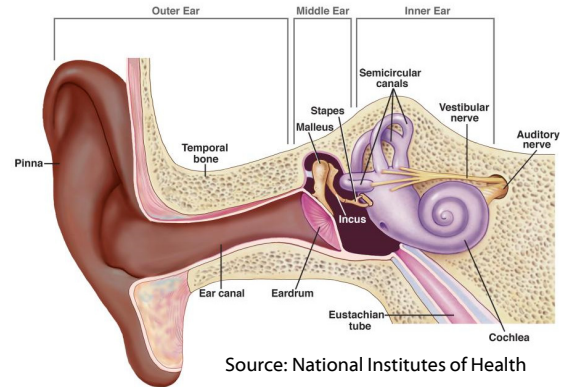
## Swimmer's Ear: Signs and Symptoms



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/rwi/ear-infections.html>

## Swimmer's Ear: Signs and Symptoms

- Pain when
  - Outer ear tugged
  - Pressure put on part of outer ear that sticks out in front of the ear canal
- Itchiness inside ear
- Drainage from ear
- Redness and swelling in ear



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/rwi/ear-infections.html>



## Preventing Swimmer's Ear: The Basics



- Keep ears as dry as possible
  - Use bathing cap, ear plugs, or custom-fitted swim molds in water
- Dry ears thoroughly after being in water
- Use towel to dry ears well
  - Tilt head back and forth so that each ear faces down to allow water to escape ear canal
  - Pull earlobe in different directions when ear faces down to help water drain out
  - If there is still water in ear, consider using a hair dryer to move air within ear canal
    - Put hair dryer on lowest heat and speed/fan setting
    - Hold hair dryer several inches from ear

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/rwi/ear-infections.html>

## Preventing Swimmer's Ear: With Healthcare Provider

- Check with your healthcare provider about using ear-drying drops after being in water
  - **DON'T use these drops if you have ear tubes, punctured ear drums, swimmer's ear, or ear drainage**
- DON'T put objects in your ear canal (including cotton-tip swabs, pencils, paperclips, or keys)
- DON'T try to remove ear wax
  - If you think ear canal could be blocked by ear wax, check with your healthcare provider



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/rwi/ear-infections.html>

## Treating Swimmer's Ear

- 2014 Clinical Practice Guidelines\*
  - Prescribe drops or topical treatment
- Actual Practice<sup>†</sup>
  - Prescribe oral antimicrobials or systemic treatment
    - Can lead to antimicrobial resistance
    - % treating with oral antimicrobials varies with specialty

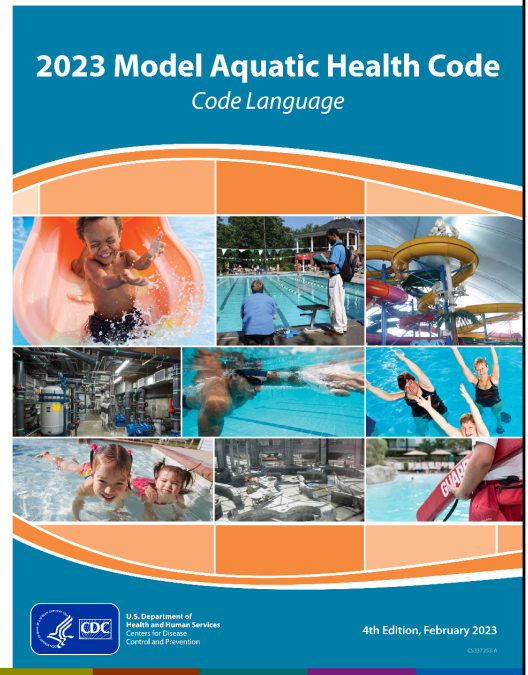


\* Rosenfeld RM *et al.* Otolaryng Head Neck 2014; 150(1 Suppl):S1–S24.

† Collier SA *et al.* Otolaryng Head Neck 2013;148(1):128–34.

## Swimmer's Ear Already Addressed in Codes

- MAHC 5.7.3.1 Primary Disinfectants
  - Maintain free chlorine
    - 1.0–10.0 ppm in most aquatic venues if not using cyanuric acid
    - 2.0–10.0 ppm in most aquatic venues if using cyanuric acid
    - 3.0–10.0 ppm in hot tubs
- MAHC 5.7.3.4 pH
  - Maintain pH at 7.0–7.8
- MAHC 6.1 Qualified Operator Training
- MAHC 6.4.1.3.1 Daily Inspection Items
  - Inspect for and, if needed, remove biofilm





# What is the Take Home Message?

## Public Health Needs to Lead Efforts to Address Swimmer's Ear

- Contribute to research
  - Estimated Burden of Acute Otitis Externa\*
  - Coming late December 2023: *Pseudomonas* Infection Outbreak Associated with a Hotel Swimming Pool — Maine, March 2023
- Educate
  - Public about prevention
  - Healthcare providers about treatment
  - Aquatics about prevention
- Enforce codes for aquatic venues open to public



\* CDC. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2011;60(19):605–9.

## Limitations

- 2014 data
- Only 17 diseases
- Diagnoses for reimbursement from insurance companies
- Recreational water exposure not differentiated into treated and untreated

Reference: Gerdes ME *et al.* Emerg Infect Dis 2023;29(7):1357–66.



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404.718.4695

[www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming)  
[www.cdc.gov/mahc](http://www.cdc.gov/mahc)

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Swimming and Ear Infections

Swimmer's ear (also known as otitis externa) is a bacterial infection typically caused by water that stayed in the outer ear canal for a long period of time, providing a moist environment for bacteria to grow. Anyone can get swimmer's ear, but it is most often seen in children. Swimmer's ear cannot be spread from one person to another.

Swimmer's ear is not the same as a middle ear infection, which is common in children.



### Signs and symptoms

- Pain when the outer ear is touched or when pressure is put on the part of the outer ear that sticks out in front of the ear canal (tragus)
- Itchiness inside the ear
- Drainage from the ear
- Redness and swelling in the ear

### Preventing swimmer's ear

- Keep ears as dry as possible.
  - » Use a bathing cap, ear plugs, or custom-fitted swim molds when swimming.
- Dry ears thoroughly after swimming or showering.
  - » Use a towel to dry ears well.
  - » Tilt head back and forth so that each ear faces down to allow water to escape the ear canal.
  - » Pull earlobe in different directions when ear faces down to help water drain out.
  - » If there is still water in the ear, consider using a hair dryer to move air within the ear canal.
    - Put the hair dryer on the lowest heat and speed/fan setting.
    - Hold the hair dryer several inches from ear.
- DON'T put objects in ear canal (including cotton-tip swabs, pencils, paperclips, or keys).
- DON'T try to remove ear wax. Ear wax helps protect the ear canal from infection.
  - » If you think the ear canal could be blocked by ear wax, check with your healthcare provider.
- Check with your healthcare provider about using ear-drying drops after swimming.
  - » DON'T use these drops if you have ear tubes, punctured ear drums, swimmer's ear, or ear drainage.

### Treating swimmer's ear

- Check with your healthcare provider if you have ear pain or drainage from the ear.
- Swimmer's ear can be treated with antibiotic ear drops.



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/HealthPrevention/swimming/swimmers/ear/>  
cdc-101609-02-001

CS 071609-04 June 16, 2015

