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## **Descriptive Study of the Safety Behaviors and Attitudes of Portable Pool Owners**

Kristyn Jeffries

Kathy W. Monroe

Alicia Webb

Kristin L. Chancellor

Justina C. Goldman

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Authors**

Kristyn Jeffries, Kathy W. Monroe, Alicia Webb, Kristin L. Chancellor, Justina C. Goldman, and David C. Schwebel

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# Descriptive Study of the Safety Behaviors and Attitudes of Portable Pool Owners

Kristyn Jeffries<sup>1</sup>, MD; Kathy W. Monroe<sup>2</sup>, MD, MSQI; Alicia Webb<sup>2</sup>, MD; Kristin L. Chancellor<sup>3</sup>, Justina C. Goldman<sup>3</sup>, David C. Schwebel<sup>4</sup>, Ph.D

<sup>1</sup>Children’s Mercy Kansas City, Kansas City, MO; <sup>2</sup>Children’s of Alabama, Dept of Emergency Medicine, <sup>3</sup>University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine, <sup>4</sup>University of Alabama at Birmingham, Dept of Psychology.

### BACKGROUND:

- Portable pools pose a new and emerging risk for drowning due to their affordability, convenience, and easy assembly.
- Every five days in the summer, one child drowns in a portable pool.
- No current drowning prevention products and limited public health campaigns aimed at portable pools.

### OBJECTIVE:

- To evaluate portable pool use and parental perceptions and knowledge of drowning risks associated with portable pools.

### METHODS:

- **Design:** Prospective survey study of caregivers during summer 2021
- **Inclusion Criteria:** Caregivers of children ages 9 months to 6 years who presented for low acuity visit in urban pediatric emergency department, able to speak and read English

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# Parents who use portable pools without safety devices may underestimate their child’s associated risk of drowning.



14% of caregivers would only watch their child intermittently while in a portable pool.



49% of caregivers believe their child is more likely to drown in portable pool while swimming vs non-swimming times.



49% of caregivers believe they would hear their child if he/she was drowning in a portable pool.



Scan QR for Resources & References

Questions?  
Contact Kristyn Jeffries at:  
[knjeffries@cmh.edu](mailto:knjeffries@cmh.edu)  
 @DrKJeffries



### METHODS (cont.):

- QR code for self-administered questionnaire on mobile device assessing access to portable pools and safety behaviors/attitudes related to portable pools.
- **Analysis:** Frequencies of portable pool ownership, caregivers’ safety practices while using them, and caregivers’ behavioral perceptions were calculated.

### RESULTS:

- 85 caregivers completed survey from June-August 2021
- 52% of children were male and 22% of families reported <\$20,000 annual income.
- 54% reported either owning or having access to a portable pool. 82% of portable pools were purchased in 2021.
- Only 11% of children overall had received formal swimming lessons.
- Only 28% of pool owners reported using any safety device with portable pool.
- Most common reasons for not using safety devices:
  - 52% were confident in close supervision while swimming.
  - 37% believed devices not needed for portable pools.

### CONCLUSIONS:

- Young children commonly have access to portable pools.
- Targeted drowning prevention messaging, warning labels on portable pools and safety devices specific to portable pools are urgently needed.