

ASSESSMENT OF SWIMMING POOL RISK FACTORS

ABRALDES, JA.¹, AGRAS, H.², FERNANDES, R.J.³

¹UNIVERSITY OF MURCIA, ²UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC OF MURCIA, ³UNIVERSITY OF PORTO, FACULTY OF SPORT, CIFI2D

INTRODUCTION

- Nowadays, the practice of exercise in aquatic environment is one of the leisure time main occupations of the population of developed countries.
- In fact, the amount of swimming pools has increased significantly in the last two decades, augmenting considerably the number of users but also the occurrence of accidents.
- It were analysed several swimming pools according to its morphological characteristics, type and number of equipment, and to the lifeguard service and its circumstantial aspects.
- There is no consensus among the specialized literature about the relative importance of these variables in terms of its effect on the increase/decrease of danger, it was found relevant to make an overall analysis of this topic.
- This study was carried out in the public swimming pools of the region of Murcia in the South of Spain.

OBJECTIVE

Identify the main factors that affect the safety of a swimming pool

METHOD

SAMPLE

- 20 experts who had doctor university degrees, a career as specialist lifeguard or in the professional field, as well as the accreditation of, at least, three years experience as a manager of an aquatic sports facility.

TOOL

- Systematized record sheet
- Developed and perfected from an already used and validated questionnaire before (cf. Abraldes, 2007; Abraldes and Pérez-Gómez, 2009; Palacios, 1998; Palacios et al., 2005)

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

- A descriptive (means, frequencies and percentages). Allowed identifying the importance/percentage of risk of each of the studied variables

RESULTS

- To facilitate the data collection process, and to classify the variables in a logical order, the record sheets were divided into five sections: (i) swimming pool overview; (ii) swimming pool morphology; (iii) swimming pool equipment; (iv) lifesaving service, (v) circumstantial aspects.
- The most important results found were grouped in the four main sections of the record sheet.

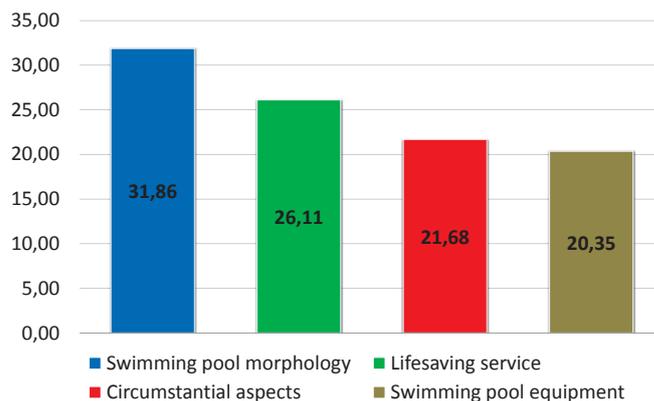


Figure 1. The assessment of risk factors Pool

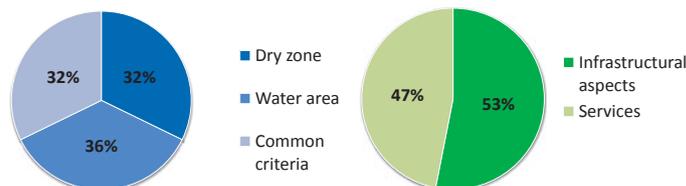


Figure 2. Swimming pool morphology

Figure 3. Swimming pool equipment

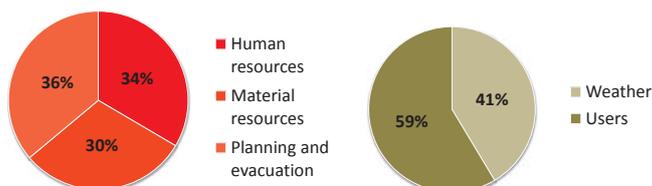


Figure 4. Lifesaving service

Figure 5. Circumstantial aspects

CONCLUSIONS

The swimming pool morphology is the leading factor related to the swimming pool risk factors, particularly in what concerns the water area

Regarding swimming pool equipment, the hygiene plays a key role

CONCLUSIONS

At the lifeguard service, planning is the most prominent factor, being also relevant the human resources item

In respect of other circumstantial aspects, experts give greater importance to the influx and to the users' activities rather to the weather that may occur in the pool

REFERENCES

- Abraldes, JA. (2007). Evaluation of risk factor in beaches. In A.C. Queiroga & R. Seabra (Eds.), *World Water Safety Conference and Exhibition. Saving Lives Worldwide: Prevention, Rescue and Treatment* (CD ed., pp. 1-10). Oporto (Portugal): AsNaSa Edições.
- Abraldes, JA. and Pérez-Gómez, J. (2009). Assessment of Risk Factors for Injuries on Beaches. *Int J Aquatic Res Edu*, 3(3), 272-283.
- Anguera, M.T.; Arnau, J.; Ato, M.; Martínez, R.; Pascual, J. and Vallejo, G. (1998). *Métodos de investigación en Psicología*. Madrid: Síntesis Psicología.
- Palacios, J. (1998). *Salvamento Acuático: un estudio de la realidad del salvamento y socorrismo en las playas de Galicia con Bandera Azul 1996-1997*. A Coruña: Xaniño. (Formato digital).
- Palacios, JA., Abraldes, JA., Sánchez, M. and Barbeito, N. (2005). Estudio de los factores de riesgo y de los recursos del servicio de salvamento y socorrismo en playas: propuesta de ficha de observación. *PREVIR: Actividades Acuáticas y Salvamento Profesional*, 2, 31 y Separata.

