

# Parents' risk perception of drowning among young children

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Aim of this study:

To gain insight into parents' risk perception of drowning in and around the house among children aged 0-4 years.

# What we did...

414 parents with a  
child 0-4 years of age



Online questionnaire



Topics:

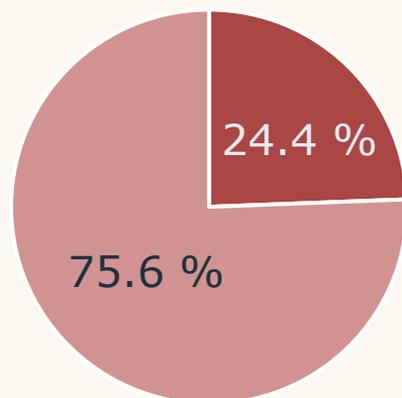
- Knowledge
- Supervisory behavior
- Social norms



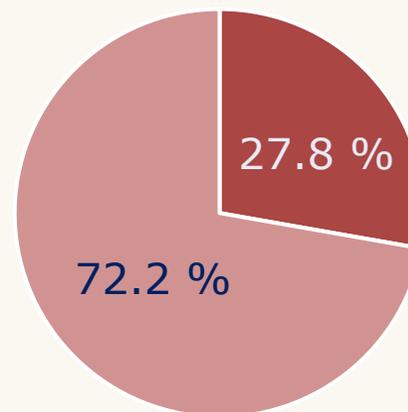


# Results – parental knowledge

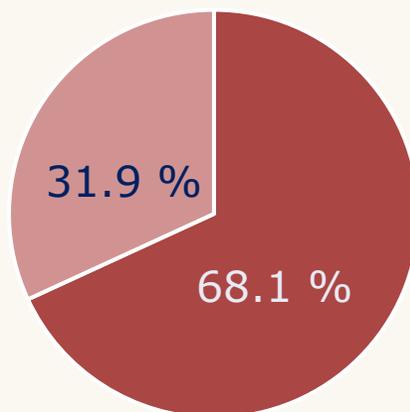
“When my child is nearly drowning, my child will start to ...”



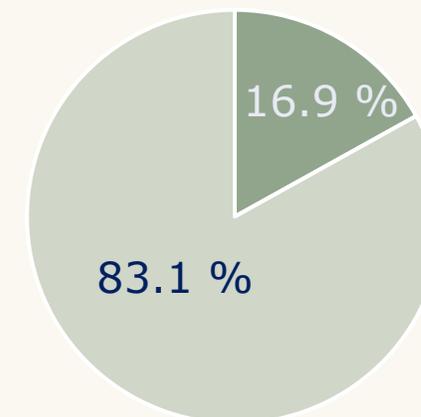
...cry



... scream



... flounder

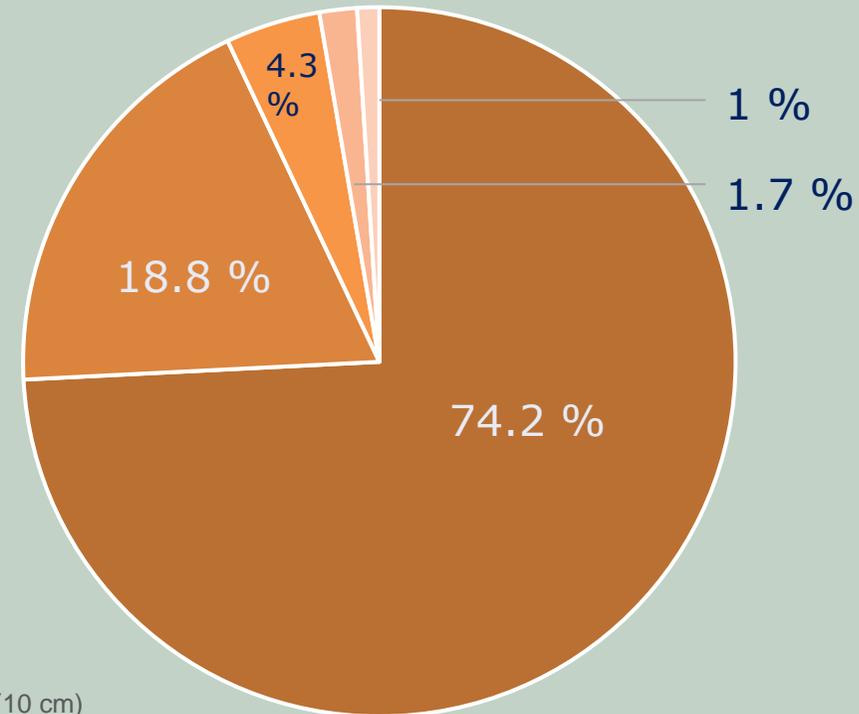


... do nothing



# Results – parental knowledge

“It is possible that my child may drown in water with a depth of...”



- Only a small layer of water (10 cm)
- When my child is sitting upright and the water is up to the chin
- My child is not able to stand up in the water
- I don't know
- Another answer



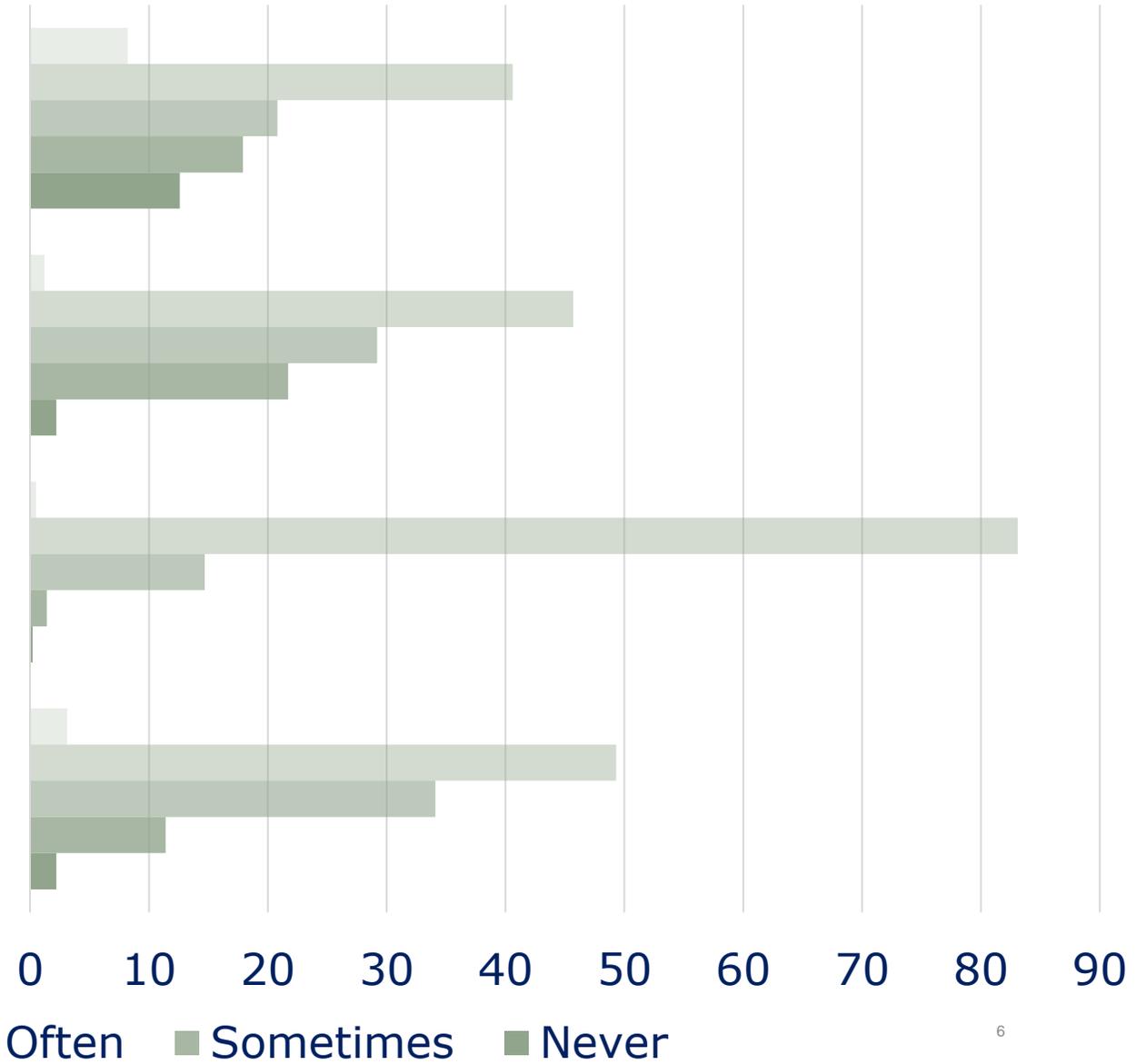
# Results – supervisory behavior

If we are with several parents/adults, we make clear agreements about who will continuously supervise the children

When my child is near water, I stay close enough to my child that I can touch my child

I make sure I can see my child all the time, when there is water around

Everywhere I go, I know or check if my child can come near water





# Results – supervisory behavior

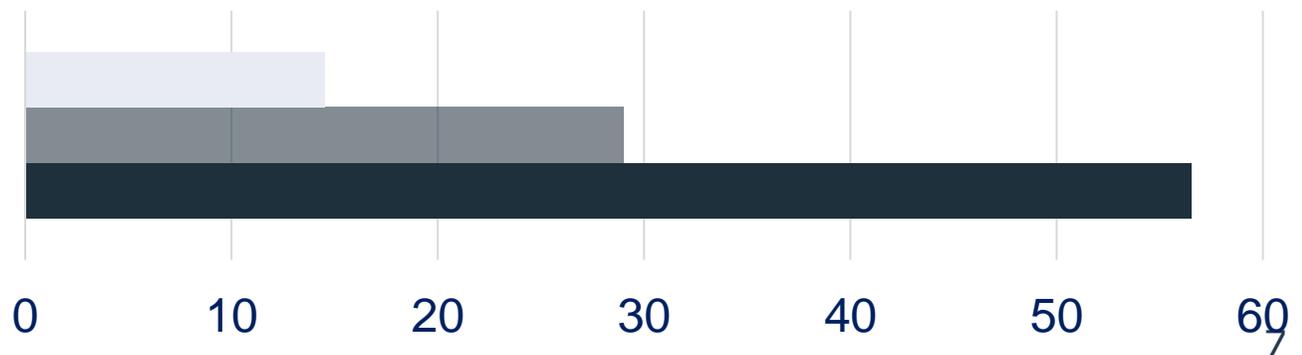
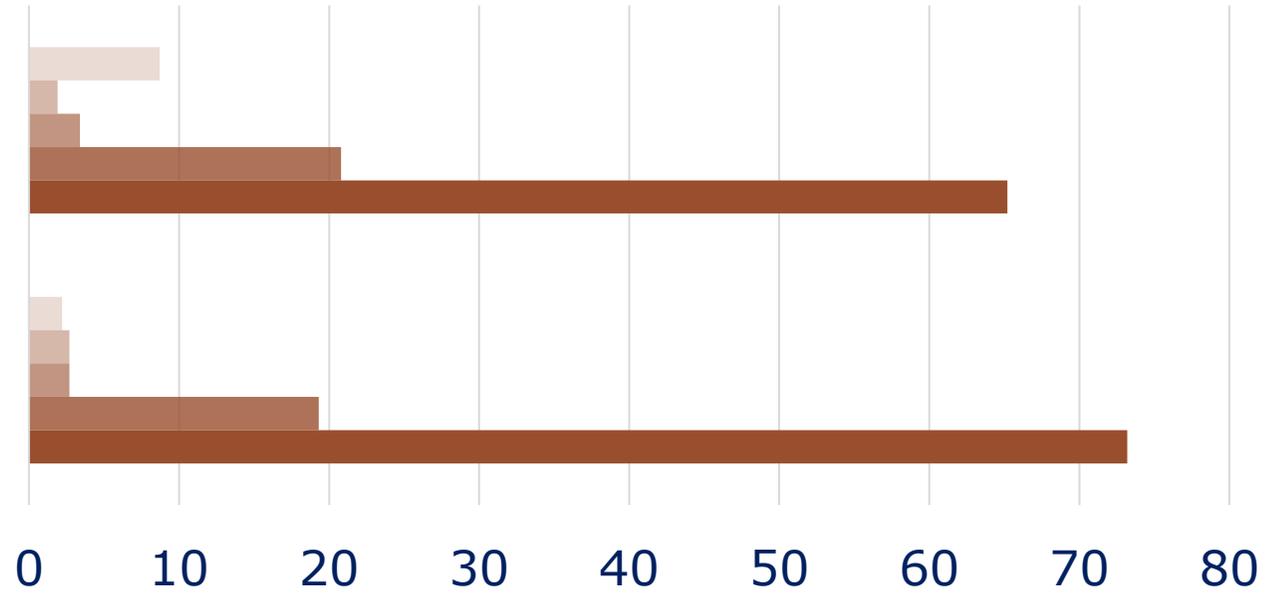
I let older children look after my child when my child is in/near water

When the doorbell or phone rings, I leave my child playing in/near water alone for a while

■ Don't know ■ Always ■ Often ■ Sometimes ■ Never

Other parents around me behave just like me in situations where children are near water

■ Does not apply ■ No ■ Yes



**Parents show  
incorrect beliefs  
about nearly  
drowning**



**They  
underestimate the  
risk of drowning  
and the  
importance of  
supervision**



**Call for education  
to increase risk  
awareness among  
parents**

# Social media campaign



Translation:  
Head under goes silently  
and quickly

Prevent drowning with 4  
safety rules in and around  
water

Banner inflatable bath:  
[Banner opblaasbadje](#)





# Kopje onder gaat geluidloos en snel.

Voorkom verdrinking met  
de 4 van veilig in en om water.

... I make sure  
I can always  
see my child

... I don't let  
myself be  
distracted

Als ik in de buurt van water ben, dan...

1 ...zorg ik dat ik mijn  
kind altijd kan zien.



2 ...laat ik mij nergens  
door afleiden.



... I stay as close  
to my child to  
touch him

3 ...blijf ik zo dichtbij dat ik  
mijn kind kan aanraken.



4 ...loop ik nooit even  
weg bij mijn kind.



... I don't leave  
my child alone  
for a second

Poster  
"4 rules for  
safe and fun  
water play"

# Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

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