



# The Human Tide: Beach Attendance and Bathing Rates for Southern California Beaches

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## Abstract

Five years of daily beach attendance was collected for 75 beaches along the Southern California coastline. Over 129 million beach visits occurred each year, with 54% of visits occurring at only 15 beaches. An average of 45% of beach attendees swims in the coastal waters. Beach attendance exhibits distinct patterns with the calendar. The magnitude and distribution of beach usage across the region produces data for predictive modeling, beach management, tourism, and public health.

## Biosketch

Dr. Dwight is Director of the Coastal Water Research Group based in Huntington Beach, California. The groups' research efforts focus on coastal water pollution and the impacts on public health. Dr. Dwight received his B.A. in General Biology from U.C. San Diego in 1988, and his doctorate in Environmental Health Science and Policy from U.C. Irvine in 2001. He has held professional positions in both the private and public sectors. He was a marine microbiologist and research diver at Scripps Institution of Oceanography where he collected and tested marine organisms for new medicines. He has worked at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., where he was involved in a range of governmental and non-governmental projects. Dr. Dwight has also held positions at law firms, a consulting firm, and positions as a teacher and researcher.