

# EPA's BEACH Report:

## American Samoa 2011 Swimming Season

September 2012

EPA 820-F-12-041

### Introduction

The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000 authorizes EPA to provide grants to coastal and Great Lakes states, territories, and eligible tribes to monitor their coastal beaches for bacteria that indicate the possible presence of disease-causing pathogens and to notify the public when there is a potential risk to public health. The BEACH Act requires that recipients of those grants report their coastal beach monitoring and notification data to EPA. This fact sheet highlights the data submitted to EPA by American Samoa for the 2011 swimming season.

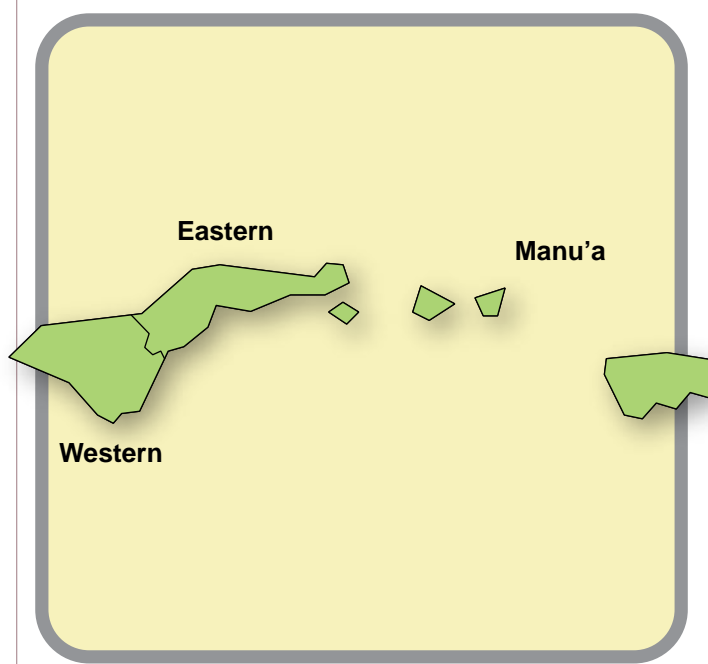
### 2011 Swimming Season Monitoring and Notification Actions

American Samoa monitored 50 coastal beaches in three districts during the 2011 swimming season (Figure 1 and Table 1). When monitoring results at swimming beaches show that levels of specific indicator bacteria in the water exceed applicable water quality standards, American Samoa officials issue a beach advisory, warning people of possible risks of swimming.

#### How many beaches had notification actions?

In 2011, of the 50 coastal beaches that American Samoa monitored, 46 (92 percent) had at least one notification action. This is approximately the same as in previous years (Figure 2).

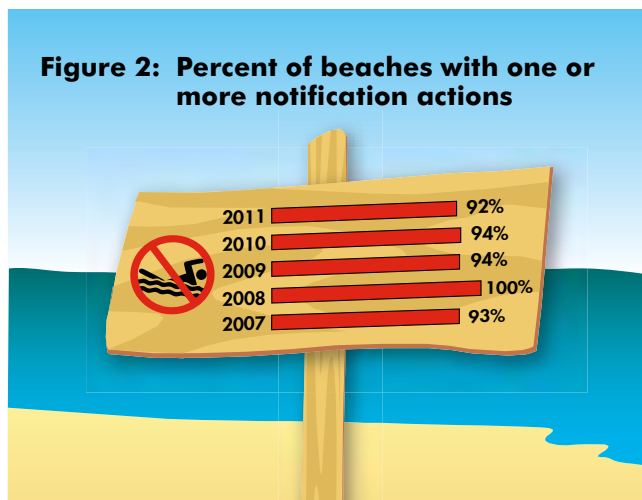
**Figure 1. American Samoa coastal districts.**



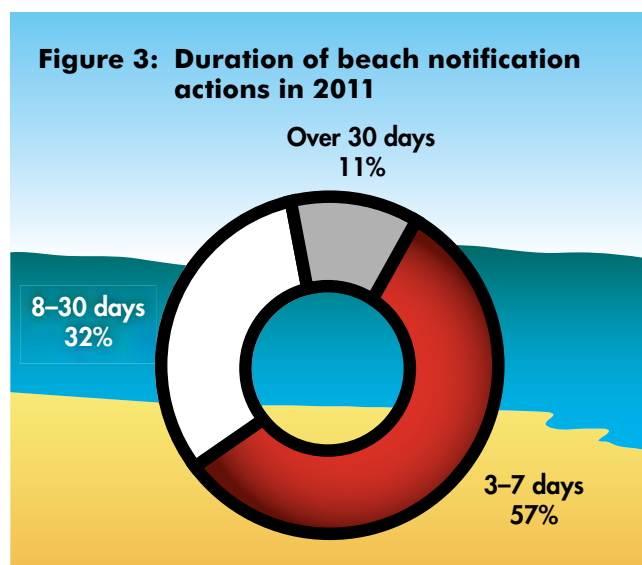
**Table 1. Number of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2011.**

District	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
EASTERN	36	36	0
MANU'A	5	5	0
WESTERN	9	9	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>

**Figure 2: Percent of beaches with one or more notification actions**



**Figure 3: Duration of beach notification actions in 2011**



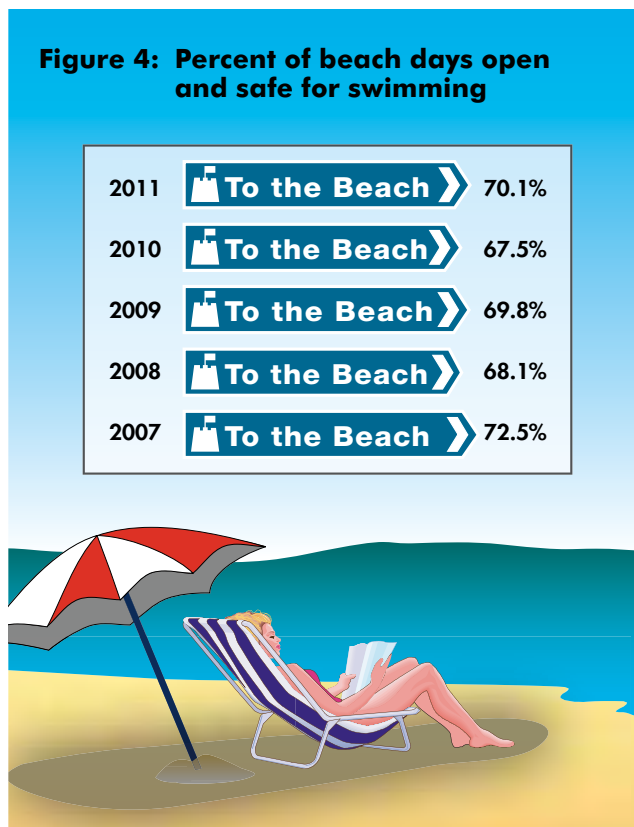
***How many notification actions were issued and how long did they last?***

American Samoa issued 359 notification actions during the 2011 swimming season. Typically American Samoa lifts an action when follow-up monitoring indicates that water quality complies with applicable standards. For the majority of actions (57 percent), water quality returned to normal and beaches were deemed safe for swimming within a week or less (Figure 3).

***What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?***

EPA calculates the total available beach days and the number of beach days with notification actions to better track trends over time. Total available beach days are determined by multiplying the

**Figure 4: Percent of beach days open and safe for swimming**



length of the beach season by the number of beaches in the state. For 2011 EPA calculated that 18,250 beach days were associated with the swimming seasons of the 50 monitored American Samoa beaches. American Samoa reported notification actions on 5,460 days, meaning that beaches were open and safe for swimming about 70 percent of the time. This is consistent with percentages of open beach days in previous years (Figure 4).

**For More Information**

For information about the American Samoa beach program contact:  
 Christianera Tuitele  
 Environmental Protection Agency  
 Tel: 684-633-2304  
 e-mail: [christianatuitele3@gmail.com](mailto:christianatuitele3@gmail.com)

For general information about beaches visit:  
<http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/beaches/>.

For information about a specific beach visit:  
<http://watersgeo.epa.gov/beacon2/>.