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Scholastic DynaMath
 (Vol. 27, No. 8)
 May/June 2009, pp. 6+

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Math on Guard

By Carli Entin

- Read a chart to see the types of statistics a lifeguard must keep track of.

Maureen Robe gets to spend many of her days at one of her favorite places: the beach. But she's not surfing or searching for shells. She's saving lives! Maureen is a lifeguard in San Diego, California. She watches the water to make sure the beach's visitors are safe. If someone is hurt or unable to stay afloat, Maureen helps him or her get out of the water safely. Maureen told *DynaMath*, "I get to be in the water and help people at the same time!"

It's a very important job, and a very busy one. Maureen said, "We've had days in the summer where we've had to rescue 100 people!"

Each time Maureen helps someone at the beach, she has to fill out a report. Maureen said, "At the end of the month, we have a tally sheet." All of her reports are organized into a chart showing how many people she helped on each day of the week, the ages of the people she helped, and lots of other information.

The information gathered by lifeguards helps them do their jobs better. For example, if lots of rescues take place on Saturdays, extra lifeguards might need to be on the beach on Saturdays.

Now, **read a chart** like the ones Maureen has to make. It'll be like being a lifeguard--only you don't have to get wet!

What to Do

The chart below shows how many rescues Maureen made in a sample month. Answer the questions based on the chart.

1. How many of the people who needed to be rescued were ages 20-29?
2. How many total rescues did Maureen make in the month on the chart? (Add the totals of either the Day or Age chart.)
3. There were five Mondays and four Tuesdays in the month from the chart. On average, how many more or fewer people did Maureen rescue on Mondays than on Tuesdays?



4. Say a new lifeguard is assigned to Maureen's beach. On what day of the week would he probably be the most helpful? Why?

5. Of all the people Maureen needed to rescue, 49 were surfers. What fraction of the people who needed to be rescued were surfers? (Write your answer in simplest form.)

Supermath

Sometimes, people need to be rescued by a lifeguard riding on a Jet Ski or in a lifeboat. Say Maureen made $\frac{1}{7}$ of her rescues by using a Jet Ski. How many did she rescue with the help of a Jet Ski?

Talk It Over:

What factors other than day of week and age of person rescued might affect how many rescues a lifeguard needs to make? Explain.

Answers

1. 27 people
2. 196 total rescues
3. 1 more rescue
4. Sunday. It seems to be the busiest day.
5. $\frac{1}{4}$

Supermath: 28 people

Talk It Over: Answers will vary.

RESCUES MADE IN ONE MONTH, BY DAY, AND BY AGE OF PERSON RESCUED	
Day	Rescues
Sundays	51
Mondays	20
Tuesdays	12
Wednesdays	16
Thursdays	18
Fridays	33
Saturdays	46
Age of Rescued	Rescues
0-9	29
10-19	32
20-29	27
30-35	25
40-49	28
50+	22
Unknown	33

Chart: Lifeguard Rescues

(Credit: SCHOLASTIC DYNAMATH)

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