

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

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## US CPSC RELEASES STATISTICS ON INJURIES AND DEATH ASSOCIATED WITH NURSERY PRODUCTS AMONG CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN AGE 5

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff recently released statistics<sup>1</sup> on injuries and deaths among children below the age of five. The staff report recounts available injury data based on emergency room treated injuries in hospitals across the country for the period ending 2011.

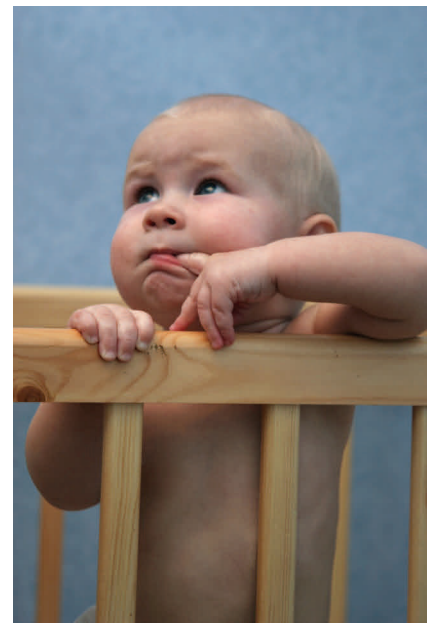
There were an estimated 74,100 emergency room (ER) visits reported in 2011 involving nursery products and children younger than 5 years of age<sup>2</sup>. Among the 30 different product types, Infant carriers/car seat carriers, strollers/carriages, cribs/mattresses, and high chairs were associated with the highest number (67%) of all the injuries. Falls were the leading cause of injury with the head being the most frequently injured body part. The CPSC report notes that "internal organ injuries, contusions/abrasions, and lacerations accounted for 74% of the injuries."

For the 3-year period 2007-2009, CPSC staff reported an average of 114 deaths each year from these types of incidents, with most deaths occurring in sleeping and bathing environments. A breakdown of the 341 total deaths associated with (but not necessarily caused by), nursery products during the 2007-2009 period showing number of deaths by product type is reproduced in table 1 from the CPSC report.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia13/os/nursery11.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Source: National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) is a national probability sample of hospitals in the U.S. and its territories. Patient information is collected from each NEISS hospital for every emergency visit involving an injury associated with consumer products.

<sup>3</sup> Of the 10 deaths in this category in 2007-2009, two were from toddler beds. One of these was an entrapment between side rails of an upside-down toddler bed and the other was a strangulation death on a bumper pad used around a toddler bed. There were two suffocation deaths involving a cloth covered shared sleep product; in both cases, the product was placed on a couch. There were two asphyxiation deaths in infant hammocks. Additionally there was one death from an infant getting wedged between a mattress and portable youth bed-rail.



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**TABLE 1. REPORTED DEATHS BY TYPE OF NURSERY PRODUCT AMONG CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 5 YEARS OF AGE**

PRODUCT CATEGORY	TOTAL DEATHS		AVERAGE ANNUAL DEATHS	
	2007-2009	2006-2008	2007-2009	2006-2008
TOTAL	341	304	114	101
Cribs/Mattresses	148	124	49	41
Bassinets/Cradles	61	57	20	19
Playpens/Play Yards	37	35	12	12
Infant Carriers/Car Seat Carriers (Excludes Motor Vehicle Incidents)	37	30	12	10
Baby Baths/Baby Seats/Bathinettes	22	29	7	10
Baby Bouncer Seats	5	4	2	1
Portable Baby Swings	4	3	1	1
High chairs	4	4	1	1
Baby Gates/Barriers	4	2	1	1
Baby walkers/Jumpers/Exercisers	3	4	1	1
Changing tables	3	3	1	1
Strollers/Carriages	3	2	1	1
Other <sup>3</sup>	10	7	3	2

Cribs/mattresses, bassinets/cradles, playpens/play yards, infant carriers/car seat carriers, and baby baths/bath seats/bathinettes were associated with 89% of the reported fatalities. Causes of death included positional asphyxia, strangulation, and drowning, among others. In some cases the fatalities were associated directly with the product, while in other cases the fatalities resulted from a hazardous environment in or around the product.

148 deaths were associated with cribs/mattresses between 2007 and 2009. The majority of these deaths were due to extra bedding in the crib leading to asphyxiation of the child. Approximately 27% of the deaths resulted from a range of hazards associated with the crib due to incomplete or incorrect assembly; missing, broken or non-functional components. Some of these incidents were from older, reassembled, and recalled or second hand cribs.

The majority of the 61 deaths reported in bassinets/cradles between 2007 and 2009 were attributed to extra bedding in these products. Positional asphyxia, where an infant suffocates on extra bedding placed inside the playpen/play yard, was the major cause of some 37 deaths between 2007 and 2009. The balance of the incidents was due to hazardous conditions such as access to cords from window coverings and non-fitting mattresses in or around the playpen.

There were 37 deaths associated with infant carriers and car seat carriers between

2007 and 2009. Strangulation death from the restraint straps of these products was the most common cause. Some other causes included unrestrained infant left unsupervised for an extended period of time. Some fatalities also resulted from tip over when placed on non-rigid surfaces.

There were 22 deaths from baby baths/bath seats/bathinettes between 2007 and 2009. All of the fatalities occurred when parent or caregiver attention was diverted from the infant while the infant was in the product.

The CPSC notes that a detailed analysis of the hazard patterns from the incident reports indicates that the "many fatalities involving nursery products were not caused directly by the failure of the product."

SGS has been designated as the Principal Laboratory for the US Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) for testing of juvenile products for JPMA program certified products for the US market. SGS works closely with JPMA, CPSC, ASTM and NGOs in the standard development process, education, and promotion of safe nursery products. SGS Consumer Testing provides physical, mechanical and analytical testing of nursery products to meet US, EU and other international market compliance requirements through a network of SGS global laboratories. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.



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