



UNITED STATES  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

**Memorandum**

Date: July 5, 2002

TO : The File

THROUGH : Susan Ahmed, Ph.D., Associate Executive Director  
Directorate for Epidemiology  
Russell Roegner, Ph.D., Director  
Division of Hazard Analysis

FROM : Joyce McDonald  
Division of Hazard Analysis

SUBJECT : Nursery Product-Related Injuries and Deaths to Children under Age Five

This memorandum provides estimates for CY 2001 nursery product-related injuries<sup>1</sup>, as well as information on deaths associated with nursery products that occurred during the three-year period of 1997-1999.

**Nursery Product-Related Injury Estimate for CY 2001**

As shown in Table 1, there were an estimated 69,500<sup>2</sup> children under age five treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2001 for injuries associated with nursery products. This figure is comparable to the 2000 estimate of 69,100.

The leading cause of all nursery product-related injuries that were reported through NEISS for 2001 was falls.

**Table 1: Estimated Injuries to Children under Age 5 Associated with Nursery Products  
CY 1997-2001**

Calendar Year	Estimated Injuries
1997	71,400
1998	71,000
1999	65,400
2000	69,100
2001	69,500

Source: National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

<sup>1</sup> The source of the injury estimates is the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), a statistically valid injury surveillance system. NEISS injury data are gathered from emergency departments of hospitals selected as a probability sample of all the U.S. hospitals with emergency departments. The surveillance data gathered from the sample hospitals enable the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to make timely national estimates of the number of injuries associated with specific consumer products.

<sup>2</sup> This estimate excludes incidents of diaper rash, making the 2001 estimate comparable to the previous estimates from 1997 to 2000.

## Deaths Associated with Nursery Products for 1997 to 1999<sup>3</sup>

The Commission's data files contained 195 deaths (or an annual average of 65 deaths) associated with nursery products that occurred from 1997 through 1999.<sup>4</sup> About forty-one percent (80 total or 27 annually) of the deaths reported involved cribs. Playpens and play yards had the second highest number of deaths reported with 23 or 8 annually. Infant carriers and car seats, and baby bath seats both had the third largest number of reported deaths with 18 or 6 annually.

### Summary

Table 2 provides a summary of nursery product-related estimated injuries for CY 2001 along with the total and average annual deaths for 1997 through 1999.

**Table 2: Nursery Product-Related Injuries and Deaths to Children under Age Five by Product<sup>5</sup>**

<b>PRODUCT CATEGORY</b>	<b>ESTIMATED INJURIES CY 2001</b>	<b>TOTAL DEATHS 1997-1999</b>	<b>AVERAGE ANNUAL DEATHS 1997-1999</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,500</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>65.0</b>
<b>Infant Carriers and Car Seats (Excludes Motor Vehicle Incidents)</b>	<b>15,370</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Strollers and Carriages</b>	<b>13,070</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>Cribs</b>	<b>11,380</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>26.7</b>
<b>High Chairs</b>	<b>7,430</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Baby Walkers and Jumpers</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>Changing Tables</b>	<b>1,990</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Baby Gates and Barriers</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Playpens and Play Yards</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Baby Bath Seats</b>	<b>-----<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>10,140</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>11.3</b>

Source: National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) for the CY 2001 injury estimates; and In-depth Investigation File, Injury and Potential Injury Incident File, Death Certificate File and NEISS for 1997 to 1999 for reported deaths, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

<sup>3</sup> Although other databases are used in the death count, death certificate data collection is complete only through 1999. Therefore, death counts for later years were not included.

<sup>4</sup> These deaths do not constitute a statistical sample of known probability and do not include all nursery product-related deaths that occurred during the 1997 to 1999 period. They do, however, provide a minimum figure for deaths associated with nursery products during that time.

<sup>5</sup> The injury estimates do not add up to total due to rounding and since two or more nursery products are sometimes associated with a single injury. In addition, the average annual deaths do not add up to total due to rounding.

<sup>6</sup> The national estimate of injuries treated in hospital emergency room for baby bath seats and bath rings was an extremely small number, based on a sample count of only three incidents collected through NEISS. Therefore, an estimate is not presented here.