



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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Memorandum

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TO : The File

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

This memorandum provides estimates for CY 2000 nursery product-related injuries¹, as well as information on deaths associated with nursery products that occurred during the three-year period of 1996-1998.

Nursery Product-Related Injury Estimate for CY 2000

As shown in Table 1, there were an estimated 69,100 children under age five treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2000 for injuries associated with nursery products.² This figure represents an increase from the 1999 estimate of 65,400, but it is not statistically significant.³ The decline in nursery product-related injuries observed in previous years⁴ was primarily associated with baby walkers.

The leading cause of all nursery product-related injuries reported through NEISS for CY 2000 was falls.

¹ 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.

² This estimate excludes incidents of diaper rash, making the 2000 estimate comparable to the previous estimates from 1996 to 1999. The diagnosis of diaper rash had not been collected in NEISS since June 1, 1986. Beginning in May of 2000 under the NEISS expansion to an all injury system, diaper rash incidents were again collected and the number of injuries associated with diapers rose significantly. The result was that while the 1999 estimate for diaper-related injuries was 601, the same estimate for 2000 was 8,469. If incidents of diaper rash were included in the 2000 diaper sample count the total national estimate for nursery product-related injuries would be 77,000.

³ This is based on year-to-year comparisons of estimates adjusted for the 1997 NEISS sample change.

⁴ In 1999, there were an estimated 65,400 children under age five who were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with nursery products. The figure represents a significant drop from the 1998 estimate of 71,000.

Table 1: Estimated Injuries to Children under Age 5 Associated with Nursery Products, CY 1996-2000

Calendar Year	Estimated Injuries	Adjusted Estimated Injuries
1996	77,600	72,500
1997	71,400	71,400
1998	71,000	71,000
1999	65,400	65,400
2000	69,100	69,100

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

Deaths Associated with Nursery Products for 1996 to 1998⁵

The Commission's data files contained 231 deaths (or an annual average of 77 deaths) associated with nursery products that occurred from 1996 through 1998.⁶ About forty-two percent (97 total or 32 annually) of the deaths reported involved cribs. Playpens had the second highest number of deaths reported with 36 or 12 annually. Baby bath seats had the third largest number of reported deaths with 24 or 8 annually.

Summary

On the following page, Table 2 provides a summary of nursery product-related estimated injuries for CY 2000 along with the total and average annual deaths for 1996 through 1998.

⁵ Although other databases are used in the death count, death certificate data collection is complete only through 1998. Therefore, death counts for later years were not included.

⁶ These deaths do not constitute a statistical sample of known probability and do not include all nursery product-related deaths that occurred during the 1996 to 1998 period. They do, however, provide a minimum figure for deaths associated with nursery products during that time.

Table 2: Nursery Product-Related Injuries and Deaths to Children under Age Five by Product⁷

PRODUCT CATEGORY	ESTIMATED INJURIES CY 2000	TOTAL DEATHS 1996-1998	AVERAGE ANNUAL DEATHS 1996-1998
TOTAL	69,100	231	77
Infant Carriers and Car Seats (Excludes Motor Vehicle Incidents)	14,530	19	6.3
Strollers and Carriages	12,520	6	2
Cribs	11,640	97	32.3
Baby Walkers and Jumpers	8,310	7	2.3
High Chairs	7,770	7	2.3
Changing Tables	3,170	1	0.3
Baby Gates and Barriers	1,130	1	0.3
Playpens and Play Yards	1,600	36	12
Baby Bath Seats	-----⁸	24	8
Other	8,810	33	11

Source: National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) for the CY 2000 injury estimates; and In-depth Investigation File, Injury and Potential Injury Incident File, Death Certificate File and NEISS for 1996 to 1998 for reported deaths, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

⁷ 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. Those car seat injuries related to a motor vehicle incidents have been deleted from the infant carriers and car seats estimate. In addition, the average annual deaths do not add up to total due to rounding.

⁸ The national estimate of injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms for baby bath seats was an extremely small number, based on a sample count of only one incident collected through NEISS. Therefore, an estimate is not presented here.