



**UNITED STATES  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20207**

**Memorandum**

Date: November 22, 2004

TO : The File

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SUBJECT : Nursery Product-Related Injuries and Deaths to Children under Age Five<sup>1</sup>

This memorandum provides estimates for CY 2003 nursery product-related injuries<sup>2</sup>, as well as information on deaths associated with nursery products that occurred during the three-year period of 1999-2001.

**Nursery Product-Related Injury Estimate for CY 2003**

As shown in Table 1, there were an estimated 60,700<sup>3</sup> children under age five treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2003 for injuries associated with nursery products. There is no statistically significant difference between this figure and the estimates from the previous two years.

The leading cause of all nursery product-related injuries reported through NEISS for 2003 was falls.

**Table 1: Estimated Injuries to Children under Age 5 Associated with Nursery Products  
CY 1999-2003**

Calendar Year	Estimated Injuries
1999	65,400
2000	69,100
2001	69,500
2002	67,000
2003	60,700

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

<sup>1</sup> This analysis prepared by CPSC staff, has not been reviewed or approved by and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission.

<sup>2</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>3</sup> This estimate has been adjusted to exclude diaper rash from the diaper code.

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## **Deaths Associated with Nursery Products for 1999 to 2001<sup>4</sup>**

The Commission's data files contained 149 deaths (or an annual average of about 50 deaths) associated with nursery products that occurred from 1999 through 2001.<sup>5</sup>

About 32 percent (47 total or 16 annually) of the deaths reported involved cribs. Baby bathtub seats or rings had the second highest number of deaths reported with 23 or about 8 annually. Infant/child car seats and baby carriers had the third largest number of reported deaths (excluding fatalities from motor vehicle-related crashes) with 17 or about 6 annually.

### **Summary**

Table 2, on the following page, provides a summary of nursery product-related estimated injuries for CY 2003 along with the total and average annual deaths for 1999 through 2001.

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<sup>4</sup> Although other databases are used in the death count, death certificate data collection is complete only through 2001. Therefore, death counts for later years were not included.

<sup>5</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 1999 through 2001 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 Product<sup>6</sup>**

<b>PRODUCT CATEGORY</b>	<b>ESTIMATED INJURIES CY 2003</b>	<b>TOTAL DEATHS 1999-2001</b>	<b>AVERAGE ANNUAL DEATHS 1999-2001</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,700</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>49.7</b>
<b>Infant Carriers and Car Seats (Excludes Motor Vehicle Incidents)</b>	<b>13,200</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Strollers and Carriages</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Cribs</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>15.7</b>
<b>High Chairs</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Baby Walkers and Jumpers</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Changing Tables</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Baby Gates and Barriers</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Playpens and Play Yards</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Baby Bouncer Seats</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Portable Baby Swings</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Baby Bath Seats</b>	<b>----</b> <sup>7</sup>	<b>23</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Bassinets and Cradles</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4.0</b>

Source: National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) for the CY 2003 injury estimates; and In-depth Investigation File, Injury and Potential Injury Incident File, Death Certificate File and NEISS for 1999 to 2001 for reported deaths, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

<sup>6</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>7</sup> Due to the fact the injury estimate for baby bath seats is very small and has a high coefficient of variation, it is excluded from Table 2.