



For Immediate Release
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Moving towards Safety: Children's Product Safety and Recalls in 2010

(CHICAGO) Children's product recalls increased in 2010, with 160 recalls for over 44 million units – facts that at first glance seem to indicate that the state of children's product safety had worsened in the last year. However, though children continue to be hurt and killed by unsafe products, there were marked improvements to product safety oversight in 2010 as a result of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) and other CPSC actions.

Kids In Danger (KID), a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety, released *Moving towards Safety: Children's Product Safety and Recalls in 2010*, an examination of children's product recalls and other US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) action in 2010 to improve children's product safety.

The report found that children's product recalls were up slightly from 2009, but that figure can be partially attributed to the numerous recalls to remove from use failure-prone drop-side cribs which have been linked to dozens of deaths over the past 15 years. Children's product recalls in 2010 totaled over 44 million units, including eleven recalls that involved 1 million or more units.

"The recalls show that we still have a long way to go before children are fully protected from unsafe products," stated Nancy Cowles, executive director of Kids In Danger, "but at the same time CPSC has taken actions that have had a measurable and definitively positive impact on children's product safety. We can take heart that we are moving in the right direction."

Additional findings of the report include:

- Forty-five percent (160) of the products recalled by CPSC were children's products.
- Nursery products were the most-recalled category with 29% of children's recalls, followed closely by clothing (mostly for drawstrings) at 28%.
- There were 11 recalls of 1 million or more units, totaling over 37 million units of recalled children's products. The largest single recall was of 12 million glasses from McDonald's tainted with cadmium, a dangerous heavy metal.
- The nursery product category had the most injuries prior to recall (108). The individual product with the most injuries prior to recall was the Step2 Push Buggy with 28.
- There were 18 deaths reported prior to recall in these products. Sixteen of the deaths occurred in nursery products, while two involved a toy gun (including one death here in Chicago).
- Four of the five products with more than 100 reported incidents before recall were nursery products, including a stroller, a gate and cribs. The product with the most incidents reported before recall was a trampoline, with 247 reported incidents.
- Twenty-nine sleep environment products were recalled, including drop-side cribs, beds, a sleeping device and mattresses.
- CPSC imposed a total of \$2.7 million in fines for companies who violated safety regulations, mostly for excessive lead in toys and drawstrings in children's clothing.

“It's notable that for nursery products, the category of children's products with the highest number of recalls, there were 108 reports of injury prior to recalls. One product, the Step2 Push Buggy, had 28 individual reports of injuries before the recall. It's examples like this that illustrate the importance of the forthcoming public database, which will allow consumers to access reports about unsafe products in a timely manner, so that preventable injuries can be avoided.”

Many steps were taken this year to improve children's product safety:

- CPSC and FDA warned consumers about the dangers of sleep positioners and urged against their use. Most retailers immediately stopped selling the product.
- CPSC issued general warnings on the use of baby slings and gave directions for parents for their safe use.
- A new mandatory standard for cribs and portable cribs was developed and adopted. It goes into effect June 28, 2011
- The CPSC public database was developed and goes into effect on Friday, March 11.

- Most nursery products are now covered by a requirement to provide a product registration card and website to assist in alerting consumers in the event of a recall.

US Representative Jan Schakowsky (IL 9) expressed her strong support for the improvements being brought about by CPSIA. “Today’s Kids In Danger report is an essential reminder of why we have to keep building on the work we’ve done already to make children’s safety and stronger regulations for kids’ products a top priority,” stated Schakowsky. “More progress is undoubtedly needed, but injuries are now being prevented and children’s lives are being saved. Amazingly, however, my work on the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, which set the strongest testing and regulations to date for children’s products, has been targeted by an anti-regulation Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. To those cynical, and frankly, heartless champions of deregulation, I say: we are not going back.”

Attorney General Madigan, while not at the conference, wrote of the ways CPSIA’s provisions have improved children’s product safety at the state level. “We have all worked extremely hard on ensuring that children’s products are free from dangerous defects, and 2010 brought us some real changes to celebrate,” stated Attorney General Lisa Madigan. “With the passage of the federal Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, many of the safeguards that we all have envisioned for years – such as stringent limits for dangerous toxins and mandatory testing on all children’s products – are now in place to protect our families.”

KID recommends that parents check the products used with their children at www.cpsc.gov and sign up for safety updates at www.KidsInDanger.org. In addition, parents should report problems with a product both to the manufacturer and to CPSC at www.saferproducts.gov, and urge elected representatives to protect CPSIA’s provisions and make children’s product safety a priority.

More information about Kids In Danger and dangerous juvenile products is available at (312) 595-0649 or www.KidsInDanger.org