



A nonprofit organization
dedicated to protecting children by
improving children's product safety

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**2002 Children's Product Recalls Show Need for Stronger Safety System:
Kids In Danger Responds With New Education, Awareness Campaigns**

(CHICAGO) Children's products caused half of all injuries from products recalled by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in 2002 even though they account for only 43% of total recalls, according to a study released today by Kids In Danger, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety.

A Minefield of Danger: Children's Product Recalls in 2002 finds that of 210 products recalled by the CPSC in 2002, 90 were items intended for use by or care of children (43%).

"Our children eat, sleep and play in a minefield of dangerous children's products," stated Nancy Cowles, Executive Director of KID. "The 2002 children's product recalls amount to over 11 million individual units that must be retrieved from homes, schools and childcare. Past recall statistics indicate that fewer than one-third of these dangerous items will be retrieved."

Genevieve Kirk, KID Program Director and author of the report detailed some of the other findings of the report:

- Fifty-six percent of children's product recalls in 2002 were toys. Sporting goods followed at 23%, nursery products at 13% and clothing at 8%.
- The recall of 4 million plush Snuggle bears was the largest children's product recall by unit in 2002. The eyes and noses of the bears can come off, posing a choking hazard to children. There were three recalls of over one million units.

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DON'T LEARN ABOUT RECALLS FROM YOUR BABY

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2002 Recalls, Add One

- The highest number of injuries reported was for mountain bicycles recalled by Brunswick Corp. Prior to the recall, the company received 31 reports of injuries to children and teenagers including serious head injuries, bodily abrasions, bruises and chipped teeth when the bike suspension forks broke apart, causing the rider to lose control of the bike. It should be noted that injury reports are only those received up until the time of the recall. Injuries continue to accrue from these products.
- With 29 recalls (32%), choking was the top hazard of children's product recalls in 2002. Falls followed at 23% and bodily injury at 14%.
- Several products were recalled in 2002 for failure to meet existing federal safety regulations including the Federal Hazardous Substance Act and the Federal Flammable Fabrics Act.
- Nursery products continue to be recalled for the same product faults that were identified in earlier recalls.

"Based on our findings in the report and our experience with dangerous children's products, Kids In Danger is announcing two new initiatives today to address these dangers," added Cowles. "First, we will continue our efforts to educate parents and caregivers through education and outreach. We now have a packaged workshop program that organizations, licensing agencies, parent groups and others can use to educate themselves about the children's product safety system."

Don't Learn About Recalls from Your Child provides parents and caregivers the tools they need to protect the children in their care from dangerous products. KID used this format to educate over 200 caregivers and parents in the Chicago area in 2002. Evaluation of the project shows that participants act to remove recalled products from use. Information is available at www.KidsInDanger.org or by calling KID directly.

"And perhaps most importantly, KID is announcing a new grassroots awareness campaign, **Test It Now!** Recent surveys of Illinois voters show that 98% support mandatory testing of children's products. KID, working with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and others, will work to build on this grassroots support nationally to move

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manufacturers and the government closer to mandatory standards and safety testing for durable children's products."

"In our Annual Survey of Illinois Voters, the support for mandatory testing of children's products tops any item we have polled on in the last decade," added Gail Siegel, Executive Director of the Coalition for Consumer Rights, a center for public interest research and education.

"The recalls detailed in this report show the pitfalls of a system that relies on finding the flaws in a product after it is in the consumer's hands," concluded Cowles. "We must put children's safety first and require safe products before they are put on store shelves."

U.S. Representative from Illinois' ninth Congressional District, Jan Schakowsky outlined her plans to address this issue in Congress, including the reintroduction of the Infant and Toddler Durable Products Safety Act. Schakowsky is now the Ranking Member on the House Sub-Committee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection.

KID's goal is to create a secure environment for children by ensuring that safer products are manufactured, improving recall effectiveness, and encouraging parents and caregivers to remove dangerous or recalled products from homes and childcare centers. This report is based on public information about recalls released by the CPSC.

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

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