



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

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Half Of All Product Recalls In 2001 Were Products Intended For Children

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A new report released today by Kids In Danger (KID) highlights the dangers to children from recalled products. “Even though children’s products account for a small fraction of the more than 15,000 products regulated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission,” stated Nancy Cowles, KID executive director, “they make up more than half of the products recalled last year.”

Clear and Present Dangers: Children’s Product Recalls in 2001 showed that 118 of the 225 recalls issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in 2001 were for items intended for use by children or for the care of children. The categories include nursery or baby equipment such as strollers and high chairs, children’s clothing, toys and sports equipment. In 2001, as in previous years, CPSC recalled an average of two children’s products a week.

The report was released at Eyes on the Future Daycare in East Rogers Park. Kids in Danger was instrumental in passage of the Children’s Product Safety Act in 1999 which prohibits the use of recalled or dangerous products in childcare facilities. Senator Carol Ronen was the lead sponsor of that bill

“We passed the Children’s Product Safety Act in Illinois because we looked at similar data from past years and felt that the danger posed by recalled products was overwhelming,” stated Ronen in a written statement. “It is not enough for CPSC to issue press releases about dangerous products: steps must be taken to remove them from homes and childcare facilities.”

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DON'T LEARN ABOUT RECALLS FROM YOUR BABY

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Kate Sachnoff, director of the Early Childhood Network of Edgewater and Rogers Park (ECN), joined Ronen and KID. ECN provided funding to KID to conduct workshops with area childcare providers to help them recognize the dangers in children's products and meet the requirements of the law. The next workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 23 at the Edgewater branch of the Chicago Public Library.

"Childcare providers want to provide safe environments for their children," said Sachnoff. "These workshops will give them the tools they need to stay informed and weed out dangerous equipment and toys from their facilities."

Kids In Danger will offer additional workshops in other communities during 2002.

Other findings of the report include:

- Forty-one percent of all children's product recalls are for toys. Nursery products and sports equipment follow at 23% each and clothing at 14%.
- The largest recall was of 3.8 million kid's meals toys from Chik-Fil-A, followed by 3.4 million car seat/carriers by Evenflo. CPSC only has jurisdiction over car seats in their use outside autos. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regulates their use as transportation safety devices.
- The highest injury rates were for strollers recalled by Century Products (250 injuries reported of 650,000 sold) and highchairs by Graco Products (105 injuries of 860,000 sold).
- Two children died in products that were recalled in 2001: one in a Cosco playpen whose top rails collapsed, and one in a Burger

King net-enclosed play structure. In addition, two more children died in portable cribs of the same design that had already killed 13 children. These Baby Trend portable cribs had been recalled in 1993.

- Safety 1st had the most recalls of any children's manufacturer, with four different products accounting for almost 3.5 million units.

“We hope that parents and caregivers learning of these recalls will check their own homes and places their children spend time for these and other recalled items. The CPSC and manufacturers do a lackluster job of retrieving recalled products. Until that changes, it is up to consumers to protect themselves,” concluded Cowles. “We urge parents to visit our web site, www.KidsInDanger.org or the CPSC site at www.CPSC.gov for more information on recalled products.”

Kids In Danger is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety whose mission is to educate the public about dangerous products, promote the development of safer children's products and advocate for children. Chicagoans Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar founded KID in 1998 after their 16 month-old son died in a recalled portable crib. More information about Kids In Danger and dangerous juvenile products is available at 312-595-0649 or www.KidsInDanger.org.

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