



Unsafe While Sleeping: Children's Sleep Environment Recalls

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Report by:

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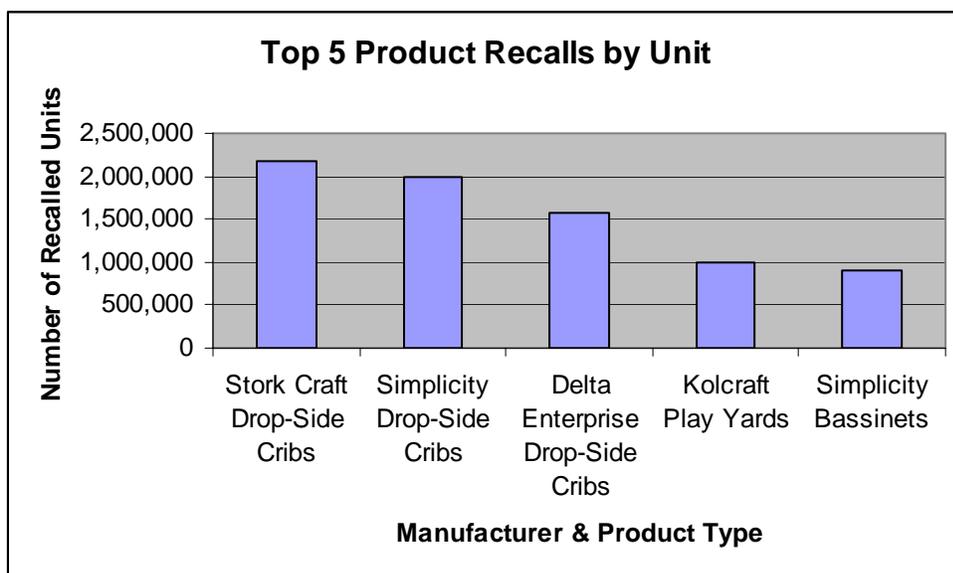
Babies and young children are particularly vulnerable while sleeping. Cribs and other sleep environments are meant to keep children safe while asleep. Unfortunately, many unsafe sleep environment products still make it onto store shelves and into children’s homes. These dangerous products pose risks of entrapment, strangulation, suffocation, falls, and lead poisoning. This report looks at recalls and other product safety information for children’s sleep environment products. Recall information was obtained from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, whose duty is to protect the public from risks and injuries associated with consumer products. All recall information was gathered from press releases generated by the CPSC and issued jointly by product manufacturers and the CPSC.

Recalls of Children’s Sleep Products

Since September 1, 2007, 24 recalls have been issued for children’s sleep environment products, totaling over 9.4 million (9,449,118) individual units in homes or childcare facilities. Among these recalled products, over 2,200 incidents of product malfunctioning have been reported, leading to 16 deaths and reports of at least 70 injuries.

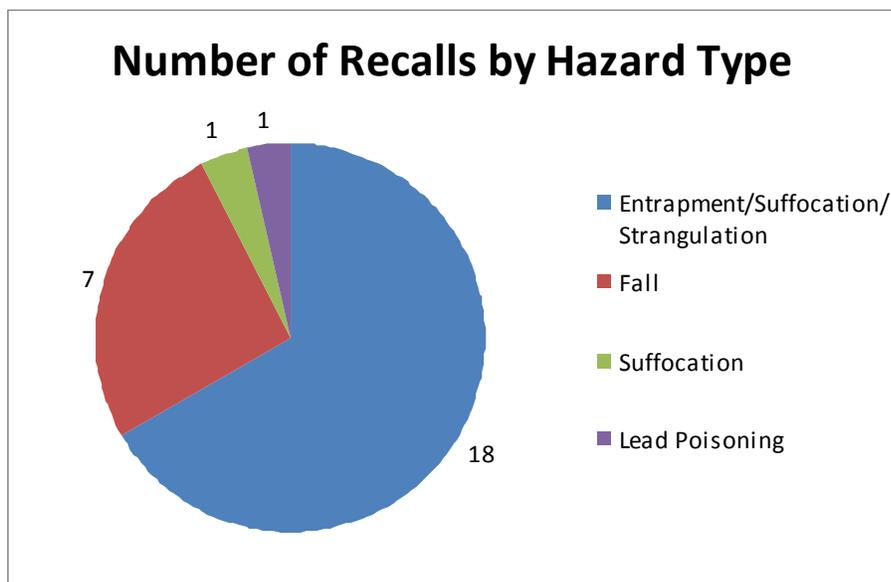
Recalls by Manufacturer

Several recalls involved one million or more units. The top five recalled products by unit were: Stork Craft Drop-Side Cribs – 2,181,000; Simplicity Drop-Side Cribs – 2,000,000; Delta Enterprise Drop-Side Cribs – 1,585,000; Kolcraft Play Yards – 1,000,000; Simplicity Bassinets – 900,000. Two manufacturers, Simplicity and Stork Craft, accounted for 62% of all recalled units with 33% and 29% of total recalled units respectively. Simplicity products also accounted for 69% of reported incidents of product malfunctioning and 8 out of 16 deaths.



Recalls by Hazard

Entrapment is the leading hazard for children’s sleep environment products, with 75% of recalls due to this danger. Entrapment is associated with strangulation in 30% of the recalls and with suffocation in another 30% of the recalls. Almost 4% of reported incidents resulted in injury or death and many of the incidents involved potentially lethal circumstances, such as infants becoming entrapped between their mattress and crib side. Falls from sleep environment products also pose a significant danger to young children, accounting for 29% of recalls and nearly 66% of injuries.



Hazards by Product Type

Most of the reported injuries occurred in cribs and play yards, with 61% of injuries occurring in cribs and 37% in play yards. Drop-side cribs pose a significant danger in that they account for over half of reported injuries and 10 out of 16 deaths. Falls caused most of the injuries in play yards. Entrapment and suffocation caused the deaths in cribs. It is important to note that these numbers do not include all of the deaths of children in cribs, only those deaths that occurred in products that have been recalled, prior to the recall.

Product Type	Incidents	Injuries	Deaths
Cribs	383	43	10
Bassinets	6	0	4
Play Yards	1,758	26	1
Convertible Cribs	86	1	1

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's 2009 report, "[Nursery Product-Related Injuries and Deaths Among Children Under Age Five](#)," cribs, play yards, and bassinets were among the products associated with the highest percentage of reported deaths. This report estimates that in 2008 there were 11,500 injuries associated with cribs/mattresses and 1,400 injuries with playpens/play yards. Between 2004 and 2006 there were 93 deaths associated with cribs/mattresses, 33 deaths in play yards, and 33 deaths in bassinets/cradles. In some cases, the fatalities were caused by the product, while in other cases fatalities resulted from environmental hazards near the product.

Tips for Protecting Children in their Sleep Environment

Parents and caregivers can use the following tips and guidelines to protect children from dangerous sleeping environments.

- Infants should not sleep in a crib made before 1999 because it will not meet current safety standards.
- Check new and used cribs against the recall list at www.cpsc.gov and make sure to follow assembly directions, being mindful that all parts are accounted for and fit together snugly.
- Parents and caregivers should pay close attention to the space between crib slats (if a soda can fits, it is too wide), any corner post extensions that could catch on a child's clothing or toys, any hardware that is loose, missing, or protruding, and the fit of the mattress against the crib sides (2 fingers should not be able to fit between the mattress and crib's side).
- Crib mattresses should have tight-fitting sheets and pillows.
- Blankets and toys should be removed while infants sleep.

The multitude of recalls and the associated hazards illustrated in this report demonstrates the need for stronger mandatory standards for children's sleep environment products, as well as more rigorous testing of these products before they reach store shelves and the homes of children. The recent recall of over 2.1 million Stork Craft cribs on November 23, 2009 shows that this dangerous problem continues in the absence of strong industry and regulatory leadership to take responsibility for protecting the lives of vulnerable children.

List of Recalled Products from September 1, 2007 – November 23, 2009

Baby Appleseed Davenport Cribs (500)
Bassettbaby Wendy Bellissimo Hidden Hills Collection Cribs (550)
Bassettbaby Wendy Bellissimo Collection Convertible Cribs (8,900)
Bassettbaby Wendy Bellissimo Hidden Hills Collection Drop-Side Cribs (18)
Delta Enterprise Drop-Side Cribs (1,585,000)
Dorel Juvenile Group Eddie Bauer Soothe & Sway Play Yards (71,000)
Fisher-Price/Simplicity Rainforest Portable Play Yards (200,000)
Jardine Cribs (472,450)
Kolcraft Travelin' Tot, Sesame Beginnings, Carter's, Jeep, Contours Play Yards (425,000)
Kolcraft Play Yards (1,000,000)
LaJobi Bonavita Cabana Drop-Side Cribs (2,000)
LaJobi Bonavita Hudson, Babi Italia Pinehurst Drop-Side Cribs (2,900)
Mother Hubbards Cupboards Cribs (1,300)
Munire Majestic Curve Top and Flat Top, Essex, Brighton/Sussex, and Captiva Cribs (24,000)
Munire Newport Rubbed Black Cribs and matching furniture (9,000)
NettoCollection Moderne and Loft Cribs (400)
PlayKids USA Convertible Cribs (2,000)
Simplicity Bassinets including Graco and Winnie the Pooh brand (900,000)
Simplicity Drop-Side Crib (2,000,000)
Simplicity Travel Tender Play Yards (25,000)
Stanley Furniture 2nd Nature Built to Grow Crib (1,200)
Stork Craft Baby Cribs (some with Fisher-Price logo) (535,000)
Stork Craft Drop-Side Cribs (some with Fischer-Price Logo) (2,181,000)
Suntech Enterprises SunKids Convertible Cribs (1,900)