



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

# **Safety Shortcuts:** *Children's Product Recalls in 2003*

**February 2004**

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## **Introduction**

As proven each year children's products are still not safe. Companies that promote cognitive learning are using lead paint, children's clothing can burn faster than newspaper, helmets don't protect against impact, night lights explode, and crib mobiles leak battery acid on infants. Although this list sounds so absurd it could only be a joke, it's not. These are just a few examples of the dangerous, poorly-designed products that are being sold and used in our homes.

**“99% of moms expressed that product safety is a major factor  
when choosing brands for their children.”**

In a 2004 marketing report, statistics showed that “99 percent of moms expressed that product safety is a major factor when choosing brands for their children.”<sup>1</sup> However, dangerous products are sold by both “off-brand” and “brand-name” companies. Without more stringent regulation by the government dangerous children's products will continue to be sold by all manufactures, compromising the safety of our children.

## **The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) was created in 1972 by Congress under the Consumer Product Safety Act and began operating in 1973. In the Consumer Product Safety Act, Congress directed the CPSC to protect the public “against unreasonable risks of injuries associated with consumer products.”

The CPSC has jurisdiction over more than 15,000 kinds of consumer products, and is charged with protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children. Anne Brown was the Chairman of CPSC from March 10, 1994 until November 1, 2002. President George W. Bush nominated Hal Stratton as Chairman of CPSC and the U.S. Senate confirmed him on July 25, 2002. He will serve a term that expires in October 2006.

## **Methodology**

All recall information for the report was obtained from monthly lists of CPSC 2003 press releases. Press releases are issued jointly by a product manufacturer and the CPSC. The press release outlines the incidents, failures, and injuries caused by the product prior to the date of recall. All numbers, facts, and figures were taken from these reports. Only children's products under the jurisdiction of the Consumer Product Safety Commission were considered. This excludes carseats and booster seats that are regulated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. However, CPSC does have oversight over car seats that might double as an infant carrier, for their use outside of cars. Additionally requests for more detailed information about specific products were filed under the Freedom of Information Act. Data collected from additional sources is cited in endnotes.

## **Definitions**

A children's product is defined as any product designed or intended for the care of, or use by, children. Products that pose a potential danger to children but are not intended for their use are not counted as children's products, such as cigarette lighters with faulty child resistant locks.

Children's products were further categorized by type of product: clothing, nursery, sports, and toys. The product name, manufacturer, number of units recalled, type of hazard, and incidents of failure, injury, and death were recorded for children's products recalled in 2003. (Appendix A)

## Review shows significant drop in CPSC recalls

Children's product recalls dropped dramatically in 2003. In the past four years (2002-1999) children's product recalls have, on average, comprised 50% of the total number of recalls. However, 2003 marked the lowest percent of children's recalls representing only 30% of all recalls. This decrease is also evident in the total number of recalled units, there were almost six times as many children's product units recalled in 2000 than in 2003.

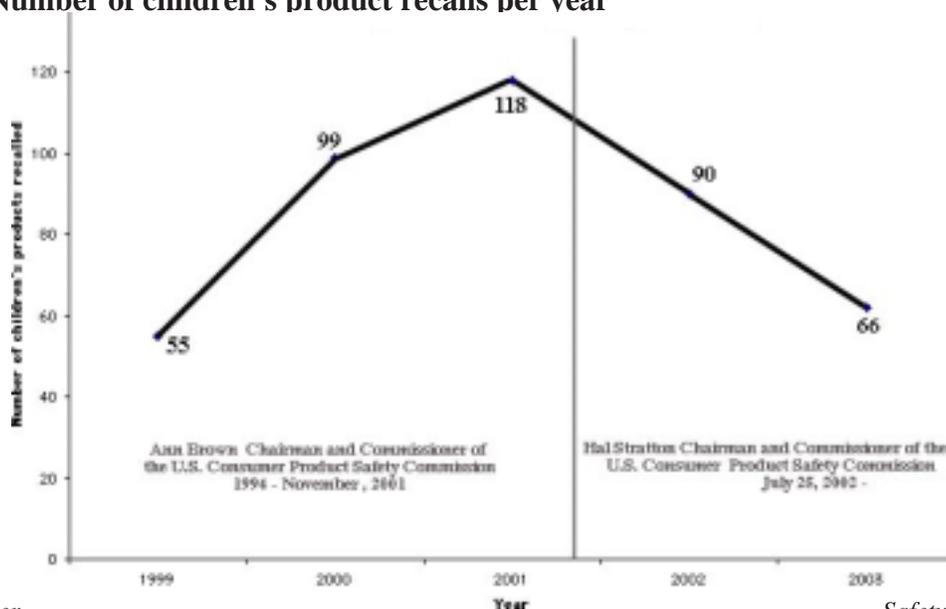
### **2003 marked the lowest percent of children's recalls, representing only 30% of all recalls.**

Chairman Hal Stratton has spoken publicly about the need for "cost-benefit" analysis of CPSC's actions, including recalls. Analysis of the 2003 recalls indicates that changes in policy reflecting his position might be a factor in the decrease in recall activity, more so than an actual decline in the number of dangerous children's products. An increasing percentage of the recalls were based on mandatory federal standards, rather than a more time-consuming and costly analysis of incident data or design flaws.

**Table 1: Children's product recalls 1999-2003**

Year	# Recalls	# Children's Product Recalls	% Recalls that are Children's Products	# Units of Children's Product Recalls
2003	214	66	30%	6,140,691
2002	210	90	43%	11,155,631
2001	214	118	55%	22,992,667
2000	190	99	52%	37,559,600
1999	131	55	42%	56,544,620

**Graph 1: Number of children's product recalls per year**



## Toys continue to lead children’s product recalls

Children’s product recalls break down into four categories: toys, clothing, sporting goods, and nursery products. Toys represented over half of children’s product recalls in 2003.

**Table 2: 2003 recalls**

	# of Recalls	% of Total Recalls	% of Children's Product Recalls	# Units
<b>All Recalls</b>	214	100%	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
<b>Children's Recalls</b>	66	30%	100%	6,539,254
<b>Clothing</b>	7	3%	11%	265,713
<b>Nursery</b>	14	6%	21%	1,561,331
<b>Sports</b>	8	4%	12%	285,800
<b>Toys</b>	37	17%	56%	4,875,470

### Several recalls involve over one million units

In 2003 three children’s product recalls accounted for over one million units per recall. The largest was L.M. Becker & Co. Inc.’s recall of **1.4 million** toy necklaces that were sold in vending machines nationwide for about 50 cents. The metal pendant of the necklace contains high levels of lead, posing a risk of poisoning to young children. The poisoning risk was discovered when a child swallowed the pendant, resulting in dangerously high levels of lead in her blood.

The second largest recall was of **1.3 million** Nickelodeon “Spit Smatter” Spray Foams by JAKKS Pacific Inc. The “Spit Smatter” spray comes in a pressurized can and emits a colored foam when activated. The aerosol cans can forcefully break apart, posing a serious injury to nearby consumers, as well as property damage.

The third largest recall added an additional **1.2 million** Cosco Arriva and Turnabout infant car seats/carriers to a previous 1999 recall of 670,00 of the same infant car seats. When the seat is used as a carrier, the plastic handle locks can unexpectedly break or release from the carrying position, causing the seat to unlatch or flip forward. When this happens, an infant can fall to the ground and suffer injuries.

**Table 3: Top ten children’s product recalls by unit**

Product	Manufacturer	# Injuries	Hazard	# Units
Toy Necklaces	L.M.Becker & Co. Inc.	1	Lead Poisoning	1.4 million
"Spit Smatter" Spray Foam	JAKKS Pacific	1	Bodily Injury	1.3 million
Infant Car Seats/Carriers	Dorel Juvenile Group	9	Bodily Injury	1.2 million
Plush Bears and Snowman Dolls	Dollar Tree Stores Inc.	0	Choking	628,000
Evenflo & Gerry Portable Wood Cribs	Hufco-Delaware Company & Evenflo Company, Inc.	17	Bodily Injury	364,000
Children's Board Book Sets	Random House, Inc.	0	Choking	360,000
Magic Start Crawl n' Stand	Playskool	26	Bodily Injury	300,000
Drumsticks Sold with Toy Drum Sets	Battat Incorporated	1	Choking	300,000
Fisher-Price	Sparkling Symphony Mobile	6	Chemical Burns	233,000
"Comforts" Pacifiers	Apothecary Products Inc.	0	Choking	154,000

## Numerous companies with multiple recalls

Seven companies recalled more than one product in 2003. Fisher-Price led the industry with four recalls totaling 385,000 units. Their largest recall was of the Sparkling Symphony Crib Mobile Toys. The batteries in the mobile toys can leak from the battery compartment resulting in burns to babies.

Magic Cabin recalled three products due to choking hazards, although their three recalls combined only resulted in 927 total recalled units. American Greetings Corp., BRIO, Schylling Associates, Inc., International Play Things, and Swimways Corp. each had two recalls in 2003.

**Table 4: Multiple recalls per manufacturer**

Manufacturer	Product	# Units	Hazards	Injuries
	Little People Animal Sounds Farms	67,000	Choking	1
	Lightening PAC Scooters	30,000	Bodily Injury	2
	MX3 Mini Bikes	55,000	Bodily Injury	2
	Sparkling Symphony Crib Mobile Toys	233,000	Chemical Burns	6
	Wooden Teething Ring	107	Choking	0
	Big Boy Trucks (Dump Truck & Tow Truck)	220	Choking	0
	Sonato Wooden Toy Car	600	Choking	0
	"Ambi Bird" Trumpet Toy	4,000	Choking	0
	Plan Toys Solid Drums	2,100	Choking	0
	DesignWare Zipper Pulls	122,700	Choking	0
	DesignWare Crazy Bounce Balls	17,000	Choking	0
	Bear Jack-in-the-Box toy	300	Choking	0
	Cat in the Hat & Circus Jack-in-the-Box toy	14,400	Choking	0
	Earlyears Bobbie Bear Stacking Rings	5,000	Choking	0
	Toy Vehicles	126,000	Choking	1
	Pool Dive Sticks	25,000	Bodily Injury	0
	Swim Trainers	3,400	Drowning	0

## Choking leads hazards caused by recalled products

Choking was the most common hazard from recalled children's products (55%). Toys are the most common cause of choking hazards. 73% of all toy recalls are due to choking hazards. This most commonly occurs when a small piece breaks off the toy.

Fisher-Price's Little People Animal Sounds Farms, which sold 67,000 units, was one of the most publicized products recalled for choking hazards. Jeanine Richards of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois had to rush her 15-month-old to the emergency room where x-rays showed that a screw from his Fisher Price farm had lodged in his trachea, and had to be removed by emergency surgery.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 5: Children's product recalls by hazard**

Hazard	# Children's Product Recalls	# of Units	% of Total
Choking	35	2,114,430	55%
Bodily Injury	18	2,134,537	26%
Burns	4	395,500	6%
Lead Poisoning	4	1,479,800	6%
Strangulation	4	13,024	6%
Drowning	1	3,400	1%

## Products can fail hundreds of times before recall

There were three recalls in 2003 that had over 100 failure incidents reported prior to recall. CPSC learns of failures through consumers, health professionals, or media reports. Additionally under Section 15(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act, product manufacturers are required to self-report incidents they receive from consumers to CPSC.

It is important to note that failure incidents (as well as injuries and deaths) only include those made prior to the date of recall. Often after the publicity of a recall numerous additional incidents are reported.

**Table 6: Recalls with over 100 failures**



**700:** Hedstrom Corp. received about 700 reports of one or more welds breaking from the trampoline frame rails during use. The reported incidents resulted in the recall of about 116,000 trampolines.



**416:** The Dorel Juvenile Group received 416 reports of the handle locks unexpectedly breaking or releasing from the carrying position of the Arriva and Turnabout carseat, before adding an additional 1.2 million carseats to their original 1999 recall of 670,000 carseats.



**240:** Battat Incorporated received 240 reports of the drumsticks sold with the Parents Bee Bop Band drum sets breaking creating small pieces that are choking hazards to young children. The 240 reports eventually led to the recall of 300,000 drumsticks.

**Table 7: Children’s products with the most failures before recall**

<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b># Failures</b>	<b>Hazards</b>
Hedstrom Corp.	Trampolines	700	Bodily Injury
Dorel Juvenile Group Inc.	Infant Car Seats/Carriers	416	Bodily Injury
Battat Incorporated	Drumsticks Sold with Toy Drum Sets	240	Choking
Fisher-Price	Lightening PAC Scooters	56	Bodily Injury
Playskool	Magic Start Crawl n' Stand	44	Bodily Injury

**Mandatory recalls: recalling products under Federal standards**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is given jurisdiction to recall products they determine unsafe under Section 15 of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, however they are *required* to recall all products that violate specific federal standards. Of the 66 products recalled in 2003, approximately 27% were recalled due to violations of federal standards.

**Table 8: Recalls because of violations of federal standards**

**Bunk Beds (2)**

Large openings between the guardrails can allow a child’s body to slide between the openings and his head to become trapped, causing a strangulation hazard. There were two bunk beds recalled in 2003 because of this hazard.

**Bicycle Helmets (2)**

The helmets failed impact testing and labeling required under federal standards.

**Presence of Lead (4)**

Four products in 2003 were recalled because they exceed federal standards for children’s products. One was the Learning Curve toy, which was painted in lead paint, two were recalls of sidewalk chalk containing lead, and the fourth was a toy necklace sold in vending machines.

**Pacifier (1)**

The pacifier failed federal safety tests, comes apart, and can pose a choking hazard to infants and small children.

**Sleepwear Garment (1)**

A series of pajamas from Zutopia Girl’s Loungewear’ were recalled because they do not meet the standard for flammability under the Federal Flammable Fabrics Act. This means that the fabric burns faster than newspaper.

**Dive sticks (1)** There was one toy that failed to meet the federal standard for dive sticks. Children have fallen or landed on rigid dive sticks in shallow water and suffered impalement injuries.

**Small Parts (~ 7)**

There were approximately 7 toys that were recalled because they failed to meet the federal standard for small parts and presented a choking hazard to young children.

## Almost one-third of recalled products violate mandatory standards

It is difficult to approximate how many children’s products were recalled because of specific violations of federal regulations. This information is not available in the press releases, and the guidelines are extremely esoteric. Through process of elimination it was found that approximately 7 of children’s products were recalled because they violated the small parts code of the Children’s Product Safety Act. In addition to the seven toys recalled under the Children’s Product Safety Act, twenty toys were recalled because “permanent” pieces of the toy came off posing a choking hazard. Statistics, such as 73% of toys recalled for choking hazards, illustrate that when a piece of a toy falls off (under general or more specific Federal regulations) it provides a “easy” recall, often resulting in recalls after only one incident. However, when there is a more general product design flaw, recalls become more difficult since there is not a specific piece to point to as the failure. This often leads to high reports of incidents and injuries before recall.

## Recalled products injure almost 100 children prior to recall

According to CPSC recall press releases there were 97 children injured by products recalled in 2003. This number does not represent injuries from unrecalled products or injuries after the recall date.

**Table 7: Recalled children’s products that caused the most injuries before recall**

Manufacturer	Product	# Injuries	Type of Injury
Playskool	Magic Start Crawl n' Stand	26	One minor concussion, various bumps, bruises, black eyes, and cut lips from the toy falling over and hitting babies.
Hufco-Delaware & Evenflo	Portable Wood Cribs	17	Bumps, bruises and scratches from the mattresses falling through the crib.
Babi Italia/LaJobi Industries	Tiffany & Josephine Crib Drop-Side Rails	11	Ten children fell out of the crib when the slats came out, and one child became entrapped between slats that came loose.
Dorel Juvenile Group Inc.	Infant Car Seats/ Carriers	9	Bruises and scratches to the head and face.
Fisher-Price	Sparkling Symphony Crib Mobile Toys	6	Minor burn injuries.



## But Not Always Safe Products

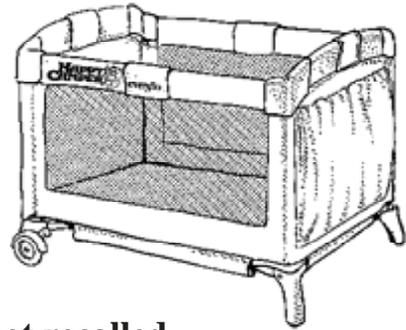
Wal-Mart *exclusively* sold three products recalled in 2003 including the Home Trends Kiddy Sling Chair, the Playskool Magic Start Crawl ‘n Stand toy, and party poppers. The three recalls totaled 379,000 recalled units.

This year has not been an aberration either. In the past they have exclusively sold numerous dangerous children’s products ranging the gamut from faulty bicycles that caused injuries such as a blood clot in the brain to infant clothing with lead zippers.

Even when faced with the fact that their products are unsafe they neglect their responsibility of protecting their customers, as evident in the \$750,000 fine they paid for delays in reporting exercise equipment hazards in 2003.

## Previously recalled products continue to kill

In 2003 there was one known death caused by a previously recalled product. A two-year old male from Wisconsin was found face down and unresponsive in his Evenflo Happy Camper portable crib. The crib, which was recalled in 1997, was one of five recalled for the faulty side rails that collapse to create a V-shaped strangulation hazard. The child was the 16<sup>th</sup> to die in a crib of this faulty design.



## Dangerous products that hurt and kill children are not recalled

Statistics such as children's product recalls representing only 30% of all recalls down from 50% in the past four years might indicate that children's products are progressively becoming safer, however, these assumptions do not correlate with the number of products that have proven dangerous but have not been recalled. These "almost recalls" have left unsafe products on the market, with minor or no warnings.

### Crib that kills not recalled

Wanting to show Elizabeth's grandparents how at 13-months she would yell "come in!" when someone knocked on the door, Elisabeth's father grew nervous when he heard no reply to his knock. He opened the door to find his daughter's head lodged between the side rail and the attached changing table of her Graco Pack-n-Play play yard. Elizabeth Morgan Davis was killed by this dangerous product design.



Instead of recalling the Pack-n-Play, CPSC and Graco simply issued a warning label to be placed on the crib cautioning parents and caregivers to remove all attachments before placing a child in the crib. This was the first known corrective measure taken in light of a death that did not result in a recall.

### The original Graco label:

The warning label on the interior side of the changing table accessory read:

**To protect your child from falls and other injuries:**

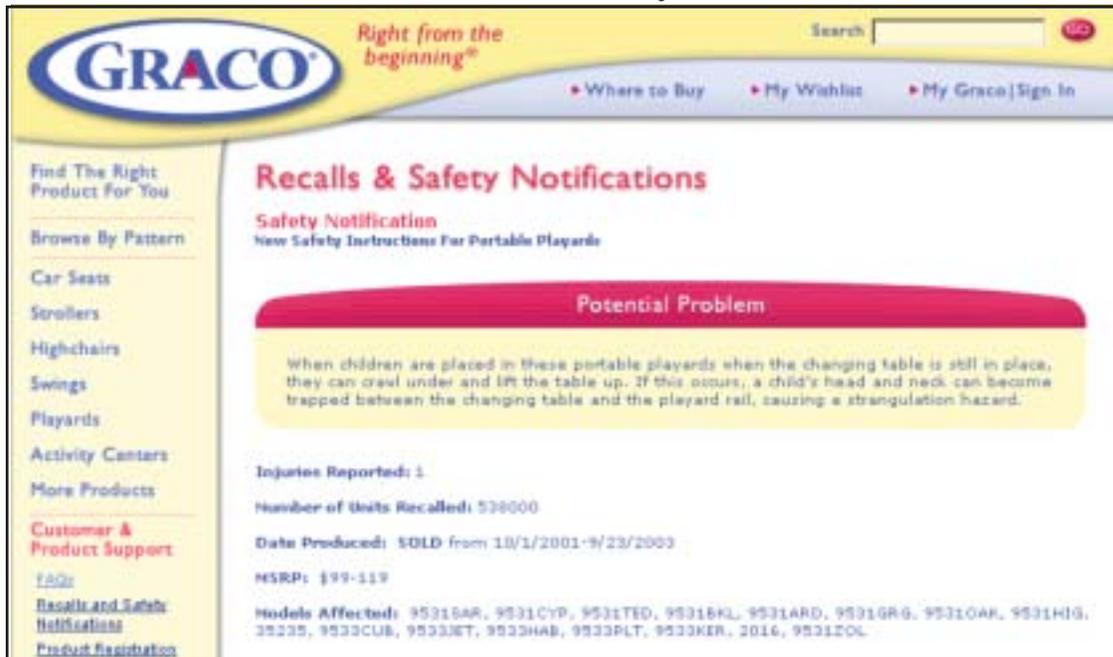
- Always stay within arm's reach of your child when using the changing table. Always use waist belt when child is on the changing table. Never leave child unattended.
- Use changing table only on this model. Check that it is supported by the Pack-n-Play by pushing down into center of changing table.
- Do not use on the floor, bed, counter or other surfaces.
- Do not use changing tables as sleeping or play area.
- Always remove the changing table when your child in the Pack-n-Play without the bassinet.

See owner's manual for additional warnings.

### The new Graco safety instructions:

To obtain the new warning label a consumer first must hear about the new safety instructions. Next the consumer must take the time to contact Graco to acquire the new label, and upon receiving the label two weeks later remember to attach it to the play yard. If a consumer hears about the new safety instructions and accesses the Graco website to find out more, the severity of the danger is well concealed. The strangulation hazard is listed under “Potential Problems,” and Elizabeth’s death is listed only as an “injury”.

## Graco website information on the Pack-n-Play



Without access to full incident data, it appears that the Graco Pack-n-Play was the first faulty portable crib design that killed a child without resulting in a recall of the product. For example, in 1998, almost ten million playpens were recalled because of the strangulation hazard caused by children catching clothing and pacifier strings on protruding rivets. There were eight reported deaths in ten years due to eight playpens with this faulty rivet design. The extreme number of playpens recalled is characteristic of recalls in response to deaths. When the Okla Homer crib killed a child because the slats of the crib came out, all 278,000 cribs were recalled in 1995. In the past, evidently, the protocol was to recall cribs that kill.

## New safety instructions becoming the norm?



In addition to the Graco Pack-n-Play First Years Inc issued a new safety instruction sheet for 120,000 “2-In-1 Fold-Away Tub and Step Stools.” When used as a tub, babies’ body parts can be pinched if the footrest is not fully extended so that it clicks into place firmly. There have been 20 reports of babies being pinched while using these tubs, including bruising of a baby boy’s genitalia and 10 reports of abrasions to toes and feet. Even though this product has the second highest report of injuries in 2003, the product was not recalled. Much like the Graco Pack-n-Play the new safety instructions for the tub are not easily accessible. The company has stopped selling the product but never recalled 100,000 previously sold tubs that are still in use with little to no warning of their danger.

## Yo-yo balls banned in 6 countries but not even recalled in America

Yo-yo balls, are liquid filled balls attached to a rubbery stretch cord. Like a yo-yo, it can be thrown 4 to 5 feet and the stretchy cord retracts to return the ball. Among the concerns about the toy are that the cord can quickly wrap around a child's neck, and the rubbery substance of the cord can stick to itself and tighten causing a strangulation hazard. Additionally the rubber is a diesel hydrocarbon that is flammable, and poisonous. There could be as many as one toy for every two to three children in the 4 to 12 age range in use.



Incidents involving the yo-yo ball are not uncommon. Lisa Lipin of Skokie, Illinois had to save her five-year-old son from being strangled by the toy. "I was kind of stunned," says Lipin. "It wrapped four times around his neck. I didn't have time to look for a scissor. I took my hands and stretched the rubber, you know, smooching his face, and you know, up over his nose, eyes and ripped that thing off his head."<sup>3</sup> Her son was left with strangulation marks for a few days after the incident.

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**“Our government is not doing its job protecting us. We know that it is dangerous but don't do anything about it. Do we have to have a kid that dies first?” - Lisa Lipin**

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When Lipin reported the incident to the CPSC she found out that they already knew about the potential risks of the toy. In response to her inquiry Ken Giles, a spokesman for the CPSC, announced that “We are still investigating yo-yo water ball incidents. We have many reports, we want more.”<sup>4</sup>

Because of these hazards, the yo-yo ball has been banned in Canada, France, Luxembourg, Brazil, Australia, and the United Kingdom. CPSC has received more than 260 reports of incidents. In response to consumers' concerns, CPSC conducted an investigation of the toy. In their September 24 report they stated the toy “poses a low risk of strangulation” and “based on the pattern of incidents, the number of products involved, the low likelihood of strangulation<sup>5</sup>” the toy does not meet congressionally mandated standards for product recall.

The yo-yo ball brings up a curious contradiction. In 2003, 39 out of the 66 children's products recalled received minimal incident reports (0-2), and no reported injuries, but the yo-yo ball which has hundreds of incident reports and many injuries has not been recalled. Yo-yo ball injuries include broken blood vessels affecting eye, eyelids, cheeks, neck, scalp or the area behind the ears, as well as more serious strangulation hazards even resulting in one six year old boy who had to spend the night in the hospital being treated for near strangulation.<sup>6</sup>

Additionally the CPSC Health Sciences investigation of the toy stated that “while the likelihood of injury is relatively low, it cannot rule out the possibility that this product could cause a fatal strangulation in an unattended child. If not relieved within a few minutes, the resulting congestion of the head's vasculature would ultimately compromise the brain's oxygenated arterial blood supply.”<sup>7</sup> Thus, this report is evidence that the CPSC is aware of the potential lethal characteristics of the toy.

In addition to the physical hazards, the Detroit Fire Department's Training Academy found very different results than CPSC. “The ball burned fast...for a full five minutes before firefighters extinguished the burning toy.”<sup>8</sup> It is possible with many manufacturers, 10 million yo-yo balls sold, and similar or no packaging, that the 5 yo-yo balls CPSC tested were safer versions of the others. Yet they drew conclusive findings, choosing not to recall or ban all yo-yo balls, based on only a few models.<sup>9</sup>

It has been suggested that since there are so many yo-yo balls in circulation, economic analysis suggests as many as 11 to 15 million, that the CPSC does not have the resources to recall them. In a letter to Congresswoman Schakowsky, CPSC chairman Hal Stratton stated that every recall in the past several years has been voluntarily recalled by the companies involved, and in order to seek an involuntary recall or ban of a product there must “be a reasonable relationship to its costs.”<sup>10</sup> Thus, the products that are recalled every year are the ones whose companies comply, leaving dangerous products such as the yo-yo ball on the market.

## **Conclusion**

The year 2003 marked a decided change in recall practices at CPSC. As stated, children’s product recalls comprised only 30% of all recalls, a dramatic drop from almost 50% which has been the average for the past four years. Products such as the yo-yo ball, the Graco Pack-n-Play, and the First Years 2-In-1 Fold-Away Tub and Step Stool exemplify the decline in recalling dangerous products. Although the CPSC may triumph the decline as the industry’s response to promoting safer products; instead by decreasing recalls they are increasing hazards as the dangerous products stay on the shelves, and in homes.

This year, CPSC is setting the standard of recalls for the twenty-first century, and it doesn’t look safe. Products that are not voluntarily recalled will stay on the market. Critics say that it would take a death to finally recall the yo-yo ball. However, as proven by the Graco Pack-n-Play even a death may no longer result in a recall. The decline in recalls, as well as recalled products that continue to hurt and kill children, highlight the need for a more stringent children’s product safety system.

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Additionally CPSC’s actions can only be categorized as reprimanding and not preventive. Their tactic seems to be to require the most straightforward recalls, involving few units, voluntary cooperation, and clearly violations of a mandatory standard. This pattern of “easy” recalls is evident in the Magic Cabin recall of Big Boy Trucks. Not only did Magic Cabin voluntarily recall the toy, but there were only 220 products recalled. In fact, seven recalls in 2003 involved fewer than 1,000 units.

Ease of recall should not be the deciding factor if a product is recalled. The “relationship” between recalling a product and its costs should be determined by the injuries reported, and the future possibility of injuries. In addition to transforming the “relationship” between CPSC’s perceived costs of recalls and the actual need for recalls, several preventative measures will protect children from dangerous children’s products.

## Recommendations

- As shown by this analysis of 2003 recalls, approximately 27% of all children's products were recalled because they directly violated a mandatory federal standard in the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. In addition 41% of all children's products were recalled for choking hazards presented by small parts, closely related to the mandatory standard. More stringent mandatory safety standards applicable to all children's products are needed to force the recall of other dangerous products. Currently in the House Subcommittee on Commerce Trade and Consumer Protection Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky introduced HR 2911, the Infant and Toddler Durable Product Safety Act, which calls for pre-market safety testing of products. If passed into legislation this act would require pre-market testing of durable juvenile products.
- In light of the sixteenth death caused by previously recalled faulty portable cribs, more must be done to inform parents and caregivers of product recalls, including paid advertising where appropriate, product registration cards, and innovative methods to contact likely owners of the dangerous products.
- State regulations are needed to prevent recalled children's products from being resold in second hand stores, as well as making it illegal for licensed childcare facilities to use recalled products. Currently seven states have adopted the Children's Product Safety Act, which includes these measures.
- In March of 2003 the CPSC denied a petition requiring product registration cards for children's products. CPSC chairman Hal Stratton stated that the petition for the registration cards "does not cover or embrace the broad perspective of the Commission's desire to comprehensively examine all potential areas to improve recall effectiveness." Instead of taking direct action to require product registration cards, which when returned by parents would create a direct database to contact in the case of a recall, the Commission instead held three meetings to examine the effectiveness of recalls. The meetings addressed questions such as: "What ideas could increase consumer response to product safety recalls?" "How do we measure whether we have motivated consumers?" as well as what new tools are available to promote recall effectiveness. Other than the minutes of each meeting as of yet there has been no publicized action on the findings of these meetings. Kids In Danger recommends that CPSC report on to Congress on subsequent actions they have taken to improve recall effectiveness.

## About Kids In Danger



*Danny Keysar was killed by the Playskool Travel Lite portable crib. His parents founded KID just weeks after he died.*

Kids In Danger (KID) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety. KID was founded in 1998 by the parents of sixteen-month-old Danny Keysar who died in his Chicago childcare home when a portable crib collapsed around his neck. Although the portable crib had been recalled five years earlier, work of its danger had not reached Danny's parents, caregiver, or a state inspector who visited the home just eight days before Danny's death. To date, 16 children have died in cribs of similar faulty design.

KID's mission is to **promote** the development of safer children's products, **advocate** for a legislative and regulatory strategy for children's product safety and **educate** the public, especially parents and caregivers, about dangerous children's products.

## Endnotes

- 1 Silver, Michele. "Selling the 2004 Parent." *Earnshaw's*. January 2004. 54 - 55.
- 2 Kim, Jeannie. "Dangerous toys: Can you protect your child?" *Redbook*. December 2003. 132-135.
- 3 Jeff Stone. "Woman seeks ban on yo-yo balls." September 11, 2003. *Morton Grove Champion*.
- 4 Jeff Stone. "Woman seeks ban on yo-yo balls." September 11, 2003. *Morton Grove Champion*.
- 5 "CPSC Announces Results of Investigation of Yo-Yo Water Ball Toys." *News from CPSC*. September 24, 2003. "<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml03/03190.html>."
- 6 "Yo-Yo Balls May Be Health Hazard."  
"<http://www.thebostonchannel.com/buyer beware/2378909/detail.html>"
- 7 "Technical Assessments of the Yo-Yo Water Ball Toy." Granted from the CPSC under the Freedom
- 8 "Safety Experts Worry Flammability, Choking Risks."  
<http://www.clickondetroit.com/print/2335871/detail.html?use=print>
- 9 "Technical Assessments of the Yo-Yo Water Ball Toy." Granted from the CPSC under the Freedom of Information Act.
- 10 Letter to the Honorable Jan Schakowsky from Hal Stratton, Chairman of The Consumer Product Safety Commission. October 28, 2003.

## Appendix A: Children's Product Recalls in 2003

Recall Date	Product	Manufacturer	# Units Recalled	Hazard	# failure incidents	# injuries
1/23/03	Magic Cabin	Wooden Teething Rings	107	Choking	0	0
1/23/03	Evenflo & Gerry	Portable Wood Cribs	364,000	Bodily Injury	41	17
3/21/03	Raymond Oak Inc.	Toy Chests	200	Bodily Injury	1	1
5/6/03	Baby's Dream Furniture Inc.	Wooden Convertible Cribs	4,600	Bodily Injury	38	0
5/28/03	Starbucks Coffee	Children's Tumbler Cups	38,000	Choking	2	1
6/4/03	Babi Italia/LaJobi Industries	"Tiffany" & "Josephine" Crib Drop-Side rails	2,000	Bodily Injury/Entrapment	41	11
6/5/03	Trisonic	Nightlights	12,000	Burn Electrocution Electric Shock Fire	1	1
6/19/03	Fisher-Price	Sparkling Symphony Mobile	233,000	Chemical burns	30	6
6/25/03	NHTSA & Dorel Juvenile Group Inc.	Infant Car Seats/Carriers	670,000	Bodily Injury	416	9
7/31/03	Wal-Mart Stores Inc.	Home Trends Kiddy Sling Chair	75,200	Choking	2	0
9/10/03	Sun Tech Enterprises	"Sun Kids" & "Happy Baby" Walkers	4,100	Bodily Injury/Death	0	0
9/17/03	Apothecary Products	"Comforts" Pacifiers	154,000	Choking	0	0
9/25/03	Home Line Industries	Bunk Beds	3,600	Entrapment/ Strangulation	0	0
11/21/03	Merit Furniture Distributors	Bunk Beds	524	Entrapment/ Strangulation	0	0

Recall Date	Product	Manufacturer	# Units Recalled	Hazard	# of Failure Incidents	# Injuries
3/17/03	Lands' End, Inc.	Little Kids' Parkas	6,000	Choking	0	0
3/20/03	S. Rothschild & Co.	Girls' Hooded Winter Jackets	37,000	Choking	2	1
11/24/03	The May Department Stores	Girls' Hooded Fleece Jackets	57,660	Choking	0	0
11/24/03	Meijer Inc.	Children's jackets	7,500	Strangulation	0	0
11/26/03	American Greeting Corp.	DesignWare Zipper Pulls	122,700	Choking	0	0
12/2/03	LTD Commodities abcDistributing Lakeside Collection	Two-piece fleece pant set	29,353	Bodily Injury (due to drawstring)	0	0
12/12/03	Zutopia (Division of WET SEAL)	Zutopia Girls' Loungewear	5,500	Burn	0	0

Recall Date	Product	Manufacturer	# Units Recalled	Hazard	# Failure Incidents	# Injuries
3/18/03	MOSA Sports	Bicycle Helmets	1,250	Bodily Injury	0	0
4/17/03	Dynacraft Industries Inc.	BMX Bicycles	52,900	Bodily Injury	35	1
5/19/03	Swimways Corp.	Pool Dive Sticks	25,000	Bodily Injury	0	0
5/22/03	Monarch Velo, LLC	Catlike Kompact Bike Helmets	2,250	Bodily Injury	0	0
7/31/03	Hedstrom Corp.	Trampolines	116,000	Bodily Injury	700	10
9/10/03	Swimways Corp.	"Sandy Claws" Swim Trainers	3,400	Drowning	9	0
11/13/03	Fisher-Price	Lightening PAC Scooters	30,000	Bodily Injury	56	2
11/13/03	Fisher-Price	MX3 Mini Bikes	55,000	Bodily Injury	24	2

<b>Recall Date</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b># Units Recalled</b>	<b>Hazard</b>	<b># Failure Incidents</b>	<b># Injuries</b>
1/9/03	Soap Making Kit	Pace Products, Inc.	145,000	Burn	3	1
1/16/03	Build-A-Bear Workshop	"Founding Bear" & "Founding Bear II"	80,000	Choking	0	0
2/20/03	Playnation Play Systems	"Fun Buckets" Backyard Play Sets	1,400	Strangulation	2	0
2/25/03	Brio Corp.	"Ambi Bird" Trumpet Toy	4,000	Choking	0	0
2/27/03	The Betesh Group	"Busy Bug" Plush Toys	11,200	Choking	2	0
2/27/03	Random House, Inc.	Children's Board Book Sets	360,000	Choking	0	0
3/20/03	Walt Disney Parks and Resorts	Woody Dolls	40,000	Choking	1	1
4/2/03	Dollar Tree Stores Inc.	Plush Bears and Snowman Dolls	628,000	Choking	0	0
4/4/03	Learning Curve Int'l Inc.	Lamaze Activity Toys	3,800	Lead Poisoning	0	0
4/8/03	TNT Fireworks	Party Poppers	4,000	Bodily Injury	0	0
4/13/03	Kindermusic International	"Fiddlesticks" Instruments	32,000	Choking	0	0
4/15/03	Playskool	Magic Start Crawl n' Stand	300,000	Bodily Injury	44	26
4/17/03	Battat Incorporated	Drumsticks Sold with Toy Drum Sets	300,000	Choking	240	1
4/23/03	Fisher-Price	Little People Animal Sounds Farms	67,000	Choking	33	1
5/22/03	The Step2 Company	Toy Drumsticks	300	Choking	1	1
5/22/03	International Playthings Inc.	Toy Vehicles	126,000	Choking	1	1
6/5/03	Creative Kids	Children's Art Supply Sets	1,400	Bodily Injury	1	1
7/2/03	Small Small World	"Egg Dippers" Easter Plush Toys	75,000	Choking	2	0

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7/2/03	JAKKS Pacific	"Spit Smatter" Spray Foam	1,300,000	Bodily Injury	4	1
7/31/03	International Playthings Inc.	Earlyears Bobbie Bear Stacking Rings	5,000	Choking	3	0
8/4/03	MagicCabin	Big Boy Trucks (Dump Truck & Tow Truck)	220	Choking	0	0
8/4/03	HearthSong	"Happyvillagers" Toy Sets	3,250	Choking	0	0
8/21/03	Small World Toys	Puzzibilities Recycling Truck Puzzle	3,000	Choking	0	0
8/21/03	CDX Trading Inc.	Falcon Action Toy Jets	1,500	Choking	0	0
9/10/03	L.M.Becker & Co. Inc.	Toy Necklaces	1,400,000	Lead Poisoning	1	1
9/17/03	Simon & Schuster	Dora the Explorer Children's Board Book	26,000	Choking	0	0
10/9/03	Magic Cabin	Sonato Wooden Toy Car	600	Choking	0	0
10/29/03	Neurosmith	Pet Me Platypus	4,400	Choking	3	0
11/6/03	Brio Corp.	Plan Toys Solid Drums	2,100	Choking	0	0
11/7/03	Advantage Publishers Group	"Amazing Baby" Listen and Play activity books	5,300	Choking	0	0
11/13/03	Target Corporation	Mutil colored Sidewalk Chalk	26,000	Lead Poisoning	0	0
11/18/03	Schylling Associates, Inc.	Bear Jack-in-the-Box	300	Choking	0	0
11/24/03	Toys "R" Us	Sidewalk Chalk	50,000	Lead Poisoning	0	0
11/26/03	American Greetings Corp.	DesignWare Crazy Bounce Balls	17,000	Choking	0	0
12/12/03	First & Main Inc.	Flutterby Plush Toys	2,300	Choking	0	0
12/12/03	Schylling Associates, Inc.	"Cat in the Hat" & "Circus" Jack-in-the-Box type toy	14,400	Choking	0	0
12/29/03	Avon Products	Jack-in-the-Box Toys	56,000	Choking	1	0