United States
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20207

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCT 12 1999

TO : The File

Through: Susan Ahmed, Ph.D., Associate Executive Director
Directorate for Epidemiology

FROM : Joyce McDonald, Program Analyst
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SUBJECT: Nursery Product-Related Injuries and Deaths for Children Under Age Five

This memorandum provides updated estimates for 1998 nursery product-related injuries, as well as information on annual deaths associated with nursery products during the five-year period of 1992 through 1996.

Injury Estimates for CY 1998

There were an estimated 71,000 children under age five treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 1998 for injuries associated with nursery products. This figure is not statistically different from the 1997 estimate when the estimates are adjusted to reflect the change in the 1997 sampling frame. In fact, from 1996 through 1998 nursery product-related injuries have leveled off after a significant drop from 1994 through 1996.[1]

Calendar Year	Estimated Injuries	Adjusted Estimated Injuries
1994	93,900	88,000
1995	86,100	80,500
1996	77,600	72,500
1997	71,400	71,400
1998	71,000	71,000

Source: National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS)

[1] This is based on year-to-year comparisons of estimates adjusted for the sample change.

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In 1998, 96 percent of the estimated injuries were treated and released from the hospital emergency room. Over half (56%) of the injuries had a diagnosis of either contusion/abrasion or laceration. The leading cause of all the nursery product-related injuries reported though NEISS for 1998 was falls.

The majority (80 percent) of the nursery product-related injuries were to the head region (reported as head, face, mouth, eye and ear), as shown below:

1998 ESTIMATED INJURIES BY BODY PART

Body Part	Number of Injuries	Percent*
TOTAL	70,976	100%
Head Region	57,067	80%
Arm/Hand	6,254	9%
Leg/Foot	2,427	3%
Other	5,228	7%

Source: National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS)
* Column may not add to total due to rounding.

Of the head area injuries, 24,058 (42 percent) were either contusions, abrasions or lacerations, while 13,330 (23 percent) were attributed to internal injuries. The diagnosis of internal injury is often used for a suspected head injury when a child suffers a bump on the head. Although often the injury is not serious, there may be some cases where this diagnosis indicates a more severe injury.

Average Annual Deaths for 1992 through 1996

The Commission's Death Certificate file for the years 1992 through 1996 had an annual average of 57 deaths associated with nursery products. These deaths do not constitute a statistical sample of known probability and do not include all nursery product-related deaths that have occurred during the 1992 to 1996 period. They do, however, provide a minimum figure for average annual deaths associated with nursery products.

Summary

The attached table provides a summary of nursery product-related estimated injuries for CY 1998 and average annual deaths for 1992 through 1996.

Nursery Product-Related Injuries and Deaths to Children Under Age Five

PRODUCT CATEGORY	ESTIMATED INJURIES[2] CY 1998	AVERAGE ANNUAL DEATHS 1992-1996
TOTAL	71,000	57.4
Infant Carriers and Car Seats (Excludes Motor Vehicle Incidents)	14,230	4.4
Strollers and Carriages	13,510	1.8
Baby Walkers or Jumpers	12,410	0.2
Cribs, Bassinets and Cradles (Including Crib Mattresses & Pads)	9,920	39.8
High Chairs	8,050	1.8
Baby Gates or Barriers	2,080	0
Changing Tables	2,040	0.2
Playpens	1,700	7
Other	7,620	2.2

Source: The National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) for CY 1998 and Death Certificate Files, 1992 through 1996, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

[2] The injury estimates do not add up to the total since two or more nursery products are sometimes associated with a single injury. In addition, those car seat injuries associated with motor vehicle incidents have been deleted.