



UNITED STATES  
 CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20207

**Memorandum**

Date: NOV 8 2000

TO : The File

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SUBJECT : Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries, Calendar Year 1999

This memorandum provides information on toy-related deaths and injuries reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) that occurred during the January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999 time period.

**DEATHS**

Sixteen toy-related deaths were reported to the Commission that occurred in 1999.<sup>1</sup> The toys involved in these fatal incidents were as follows:

**Reported Toy-Related Deaths Calendar Year 1999**

Type of Toy/Cause of Death	# of Deaths
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>
Balloons (Choking/Aspiration)	4
Tricycles and Riding Toys (MVA and Drowning)	4
Toy Balls (Choking)	3
Miniature Pool Game Ball (Choking)	1
Suction Cup-Tipped Projectile from a Toy Dart Gun (Choking)	1
Toy Box (Asphyxia)	1
Half of a Spherical Plastic Toy Container (Asphyxia)	1
Unknown Type of Toy (Aspiration)	1

Source: CPSC Death Certificate, In-depth Investigation and Reported Incidents files, 1/1/99 through 12/31/99.

<sup>1</sup> This compares to 14 deaths reported for 1998. However, these numbers do not represent a sample of known probability of selection, nor do they include all the toy-related deaths occurring during the 1999 time period, in part because reporting is not complete for some data sources.

CPSC 6 (b)(1) Cleared  
 No Mfrs, PrvLbrs or  
 Products Identified  
 Excepted by *[Signature]*

Victims of the 16 fatal incidents ranged in age from 10 months to 11 years old. Eleven of the fatalities involved male victims. The cause of death in 10 of the 16 fatalities was choking or aspiration. Four children (5 and 11 years old, and 22 and 17 months old) choked on or aspirated balloons. Other toys involved in the choking or aspiration deaths were 3 toy balls of various types, a miniature pool game ball, the suction cup projectile of a toy dart and an unspecified type of toy.

Two children rode tricycles into pools, resulting in their deaths. A tricycle and a three-wheeled riding toy were involved in two motor vehicle-related fatalities. Two asphyxiation fatalities involved a toy container and a toy box. (Further details on all 16 toy-related deaths can be found in Appendix A, attached to this memorandum.)

### ESTIMATED INJURIES ( NEISS)<sup>2</sup>

In 1999 there were an estimated 152,600 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. There were no significant trends for estimated toy-related injuries for 1995 through 1999. The injury estimates for those years are shown in the table below.

Estimated Toy-Related Injuries 1995 to 1999

Calendar Year	Estimated Injuries	Adjusted Estimated Injuries <sup>3</sup>
1995	150,800	139,300
1996	140,700	130,000
1997	141,300	141,300
1998	153,400	153,400
1999	152,600	152,600

Source National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS)

Seventy-eight percent (118,300) of the injuries for 1999 were to children under 15 years of age and 46 percent (69,600) were to children under 5. Most of the victims (98%) were treated and released from the hospital.

Fifty-five percent of the total injuries (84,000) occurred to the head and face area, which includes head, face, eyeball, mouth and ear. Arms, from shoulder to finger, accounted for 18 percent of the injuries, while the leg and foot area accounted for 15 percent. The individual body parts having the most injuries overall were faces (37,800), heads (22,100) and mouths (13,500). Lacerations, contusions and abrasions were involved in over half of the total injuries (57%). Overall, males were involved in 60 percent of the toy-related injuries.

Riding toys<sup>4</sup> continue to be associated with more injuries than any other type of toy,

<sup>2</sup> The source of these data is the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), which is based on a statistical sample of hospital emergency room treated injuries.

<sup>3</sup> The NEISS sample was redesigned beginning in 1997. Estimates for 1995 and 1996 have been adjusted to be comparable to the 1997 data.

<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of this document the category of riding toys includes: tricycles, unpowered non-wheeled riding toys, children's wagons, unpowered scooters, powered riding toys, unpowered wheeled riding toys and unspecified types of riding toys.

accounting for 26,100 estimated injuries in 1999. Of the riding toys, wagons and tricycles were once again associated with the highest number of injuries, with about 7,700 and 6,000 injuries respectively.

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	STATE	AGE	SEX	TOY TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NUMBER
1 990211CNE5095		NY	7 YR	M	BALL	CHILD CHOKED ON CLEAR, RUBBER BALL, 1 75 INCHES IN DIAMETER THAT HAD A PLASTIC FIGURINE MOLDED INTO BALL'S CENTER, LISTED AS SAFE FOR CHILDREN 4 AND UP HE WAS CHEWING ON THE BALL AND IT SLIPPED TO BACK OF HIS THROAT	199B0116A X99B3757A
2 X9961974A		FL	2 YR	M	TRICYCLE	CHILD APPEARED TO HAVE RIDDEN A PLASTIC TRICYCLE INTO HIS FAMILY'S SWIMMING POOL	N9920081A
3 991209HCC3062		CA	3 YR	M	TOY DART	CHILD CHOKED ON THE SUCTION CUP-TIPPED PROJECTILE FROM A TOY DART GUN WHILE JUMPING ON THE COUCH WITH HIS BROTHER DEATH DUE TO ASPHYXIA FROM OBSTRUCTION WITH A FOREIGN OBJECT.	
4 991214HCC0189		NC	5 YR	M	BALLOON	DIED WHEN A WHOLE BALLOON ("LEFT OVER FROM EASTER") LODGED IN HIS THROAT. CHILD SWALLOWED THE BALLOON	X9993081A
5 19970103A		TX	11 YR	F	BALLOON	CHILD ASPIRATED A LATEX BALLOON PRONOUNCED BRAIN DEAD SEVERAL DAYS LATER	
6 990924CCC3500		CA	4 YR	M	BALL	CHILD CHOKED ON A TOY BALL WHICH BECAME LODGED IN HIS ESOPHAGUS AND DIED THE NEXT DAY DEATH WAS DUE TO ASPHYXIA FROM SUFFOCATION SECONDARY TO CHOKING	9906150864 X9983047A
7 9906139219		CA	7 YR	F	TRICYCLE	RODE TRICYCLE INTO POOL DROWNING	
8 9947035896		TN	4 YR	M	TRICYCLE	MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION WITH A TRICYCLE SEVERE HEAD INJURY	
9 000211HCC0409		FL	22 MOS	F	BALLOON	CHILD ASPHYXIATED ON WHOLE, SMALL BALLOON WHEN IT SOMEHOW BECAME LODGED IN HER THROAT, OBSTRUCTING THE UPPER AIRWAY SHE WAS ATTENDING A COOKOUT AT APARTMENT COMPLEX.	X99A3658A, N99A0189A
10 9906153892		FL	3 YR	M	3-WHEELED RIDING TOY	3-WHEELED RIDING TOY VS AUTO IN DRIVEWAY BLUNT FORCE HEAD TRAUMA	X0052025A
11 991202CCC3050		CA	10 MOS	F	BALL	CHILD CHOKED ON A TOY BALL, 3 CM IN DIAMETER SHE SWALLOWED THE BALL AND IT BECAME LODGED IN HER THROAT ASPHYXIA DUE TO ASPIRATION OF A FOREIGN BODY.	9906157191 X99A3487A
12 000921HCC2865		TX	2 YR	M	TOY	ASPIRATED A TOY (TYPE OF TOY UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME)	9948118893
13 000626HCC2630		WI	17 MOS	M	BALLOON	ASPIRATED A PIECE OF A RUBBER BALLOON	X0062365A

14	991215HEP9003	IL	17 MOS	M	MINIATURE POOL BALL FROM A TABLE TOP GAME SET	CHILD AT DAYCARE IN A PLAYPEN CHOKED ON MINIATURE POOL BALL THE BALL, SLIGHTLY OVER 1 5 INCHES IN DIAMETER, BLOCKED HIS AIRWAY HE WAS DECLARED BRAIN DEAD SEVERAL DAYS LATER	X0020370A
15	991215CWE6001	CA	2 YR	F	TOY CONTAINER	HALF OF A PLASTIC TOY CONTAINER (IN THE SHAPE OF A HALF SPHERE) WAS FOUND COVERING THE CHILD'S NOSE, MOUTH AND CHIN THE PLASTIC BALL CONTAINER CONTAINED A NOVELTY TOY KEY RING, A COLLECTOR'S CARD, AND LITERATURE PRELIMINARY AUTOPSY FINDINGS WERE CONSISTENT WITH SUFFOCATION	F99C6001A H99C0179 9906219835 X0010237B
16	991216CCN0048	MI	13 MOS	M	TOY BOX	CHILD ASPHYXIATED WITHIN A HAND-ME-DOWN TOY BOX FILLED WITH TOYS AND DOLLS DEATH CAUSED BY POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA DUE TO WEDGING IN THE TOY BOX FACE UP WITH THE LID CLOSED.	G99C0142A, X0010002A 9926079524 X99C4297A X99C4347A