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NEISS Product Code Comparability Table

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NEISS Product Code Comparability Tables

Introduction

The National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) has been an important source of information on consumer product-related injuries since 1972. NEISS has been redesigned and updated several times since its inception. Major revisions to the NEISS sample occurred in October 1978, January 1990, January 1991 and January 1997.

The October 1978 system redesign included other improvements. The codes were expanded for injury diagnoses, body parts, fire and motor vehicle involvement, accident locales, and child-resistant closures on containers for drugs and other potentially toxic products. Also, NEISS hospitals were required to specifically code two consumer products and indicate involvement of a third product should more than two products be cited on the emergency department record for an injury accident.

In January 1994, additional changes were made to the codes for fire and motor vehicle involvement, locale, disposition and age. These changes are described in the NEISS Coding Manual.

This NEISS Product Code Comparability Table lists in numerical order all product codes ever used at CPSC. It also specifies any changes made to the product code including the dates of the changes. An asterisk (*) in the left-hand column denotes a code no longer in use. The "Notes" in this Comparability Table enable the users of NEISS data as well as data in CPSC's death certificate files, in-depth investigation (INDP) file, and the Injury and Potential Injury Incident (IPII) file to determine the evolution of each consumer product code. The alphabetic NEISS Coding Manual contains additional details on product code assignments and code definitions.

A significant part of the 1978 NEISS redesign was the reduction in the large number of product categories for the purpose of improving accuracy in coding consumer products associated with injuries. Some of the seldom used categories were combined under one code; other product groups were divided into more specific categories and several codes were added for new products. These coding changes became effective October 1, 1978. Additional major coding revisions were made as of October 1979, January 1983, January 1994, and January 1995.

In 1983, many product codes were again compressed into smaller groups and quite a few codes were deleted. Products were deleted which had few injuries associated with them or which injuries were not likely to be addressed by the CPSC. In the January 1994 revision, some of these codes were reinstated and in response to new products on the market, several new product codes were added. In the January 1995 revision, several product codes were again deleted and a few new product codes were added.

The 1997 edition included 16 new product codes, and indicated the deletion of 13 product codes. Several of the deleted codes were expanded into the new codes.

The TIME SPAN columns indicate for deleted product codes the date range(s) during which the code was in use; for restored product codes, the 2-digit year in which the product code was reinstated; and for current codes, the year of initiation. The dashed line following the year indicates that the code is currently in use. The Time Spans cited in the NEISS Product Code Comparability Table are explained below.

Product codes derived from previous codes have "Notes" indicating the nature of the change. For instance, Code *0104/Washing machines with electric dryers* has an explanation saying that the product category was combined with Code *0105/Washing machines with gas dryers* to form new Code *0135/Washer-dryer combinations (within one frame)*. Conversely, the note for Code *0135/Washer-dryer combinations (within one frame)* indicates that products in that category used to be coded as either Code *0104/Washing machines with electric dryers* or Code *0105/Washing machines with gas dryers*. When a code has been changed in this way, a user should search for data under all the involved product codes.

The term “Deleted” in the “Notes” means that the particular code was simply dropped from the system without creation of a new product category in its place. The product code titles given in these tables list the most recent form of the title. In some cases, code titles were reworded for uniformity in format without changing the scope of the product category or the code number. For example, Code 1819 now has the title “Nails, screws, tacks or bolts” instead of the title “Nails, screws, carpet tacks, or thumbtacks” found in earlier editions of the NEISS Product Code Comparability Table and the NEISS Coding Manual.

A change of major importance in coding consumer products occurred in the redefinition of sports equipment and activities. In 1978, product code 1210 which listed several items of fishing equipment was replaced by Code *3223/Fishing (activity, apparel or equipment)*. In addition, many sports codes were expanded into codes for “organized”, “informal” or “not specified” sports activities. In 1994, these sports codes were compressed back into their original single codes. For example, Code *1267/Soccer*, which had been divided into *3225/Organized soccer (activity, apparel or equipment)*; *3241/Informal soccer (activity, apparel or equipment)*; and *3271/Soccer (activity, apparel or equipment), not specified*, has been restored to its original single code, *1278/Soccer (activity, apparel or equipment)*.

Starting July 1, 2000, the coding of third product was dropped, and was replaced by the coding of intent. In addition, fire/motor vehicle coding was changed to fire department attendance only. Thirty-six product codes which were deleted from NEISS in December of 1994 were reactivated. On July 1, 2000, the new All-Trauma Study began in 66 hospitals (those already reporting work-related cases). Sixteen product codes covering some products not under CPSC’s jurisdiction were reactivated, to be used by these 66 hospitals. Additionally, the <5 age restriction was lifted from ten product codes for the hospitals participating in the All-Trauma Study.

Effective January 1, 2010, there was a major revision of the “toy codes.” The product code *5004/Toys, not elsewhere classified* was replaced by several new codes, including *1395/Toys, not specified* and *1381/Toys, not elsewhere classified*, along with the implementation of a number of new toy codes to capture and refine the coding of products formerly coded as 5004.