

I. Background

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC or the Agency) is an independent agency of the United States government. It was created in 1972 through the Consumer Product Safety Act. CPSC works to save lives and keep families safe by reducing the unreasonable risk of injuries and deaths associated with consumer products and fulfilling its vision to be the recognized global leader in consumer product safety. CPSC does this by: issuing and enforcing mandatory standards or banning consumer products if no feasible standard would adequately protect the public; obtaining the recall of products and arranging for a repair, replacement, or refund for recalled products; researching potential product hazards; developing voluntary standards with standards organizations, manufacturers, and businesses; informing and educating consumers directly and through traditional, online, and social media, and by working with foreign, state, and local governments and private organizations; and educating manufacturers worldwide about its regulations, supply chain integrity, and development of safe products.

Communicating with the public is central to CPSC’s mission of ensuring that consumers are safe from unreasonable risk of injuries and deaths associated with consumer products. Since CPSC’s inception, consumers nationwide have engaged with the Agency by reporting unsafe consumer products, commenting in writing and through oral testimony on the Agency’s priorities and proposed rules, petitioning for agency action, and participating in incident investigations. This engagement informs the work of the Agency.

This engagement would be incomplete if it did not include individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). Almost 70 million people in the U.S., or about 22 percent of the population over the age of five, speak a language other than English at home.¹ More than five million people in the U.S. have limited proficiency in English.² Individuals are generally considered to have limited English proficiency if they speak a language other than English at home and speak English less than “very well.”³ Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken at home with approximately 42 million speakers; Spanish speakers also constitute the largest share of the LEP population.

¹ [Census Bureau Tables](#)

² [S1602: LIMITED ENGLISH ... - Census Bureau Table](#)

³ [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) About Language Use \(census.gov\)](#)

