



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

Memorandum

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TO : The File

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SUBJECT : Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries, Calendar Year 2000

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, 2000 through December 31, 2000 time period.

DEATHS

Seventeen toy-related deaths were reported to the Commission that occurred in 2000.¹ The toys involved in these fatal incidents were as follows:

Reported Toy-Related Deaths Calendar Year 2000²

Type of Toy/Cause of Death	# of Deaths
TOTAL	17
Riding Toys, excluding Scooters (Drowning, Motor Vehicle Incident, Brain Injury)	5
Scooters (Motor Vehicle Incident, Fall)	3
Toy Balls (Asphyxia due to Choking)	2
Balloon (Aspiration)	1
Small Ball from Toy Caterpillar's Antenna (Asphyxia due to Airway Obstruction)	1
Half of a Spherical Plastic Toy Container (Suffocation)	1
Toy Building Block (Aspiration)	1
Marble (Aspiration)	1
Large Stuffed Bear (Suffocation)	1
Toy Box (Mechanical Asphyxia)	1

¹ This compares to 16 deaths reported for 1999. However, these numbers do not represent a sample of known probability of selection, and they may not include all the toy-related deaths occurring during the 2000 time period, in part because reporting is not complete for some data sources.

² These data are based on reports from the In-depth Investigation file, the Injury Incident and Potential Injury file, the Death Certificate file and the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System for 1/1/2000 to 12/31/2000.

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Victims of the 17 fatal incidents ranged in age from 4 months to 7 years old. Fifteen of the fatalities involved male victims. The cause of death in 6 of the 17 fatalities was choking or aspiration. Two children choked on small toy balls. Other toys involved in the choking or aspiration deaths were a balloon, a small ball from the end of a toy caterpillar's antenna, a toy building block and a marble.

Four of the riding toy and scooter-related fatalities involved motor vehicles. The products in those fatal incidents were two scooters, one tricycle and a powered toy motorcycle. Two children drowned; one rode a low slung tricycle into a swimming pool and the other rode a battery-powered tricycle into a pond.

There were two suffocation deaths. One suffocation death involved a plastic hemisphere that had been half of a toy container and became lodged over the victim's nose and mouth. The other involved a large stuffed bear that was found on top of the victim. The remaining fatal incidents were due to head trauma, mechanical asphyxia and a fall injury. The severe head trauma incident occurred when a riding mower was backed over a child on a plastic play tractor. The mechanical asphyxia occurred with a toy box. The fall fatality was attributed to a scooter. (Further details on all 17 toy-related deaths can be found in Appendix A, attached to this memorandum.)

ESTIMATED INJURIES (NEISS)³

In 2000 there were an estimated 191,000 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. There was a rise in estimated toy-related injuries from 1999 to 2000. The increase from 1999 to 2000 can be primarily attributed to a rise in injuries associated with unpowered scooters (i.e., from 3,281 injuries in 1999 to 42,505 injuries in 2000). The injury estimates for the years 1996 to 2000 are shown in the table below.

Estimated Toy-Related Injuries 1996 to 2000

Calendar Year	Estimated Injuries	Adjusted Estimated Injuries ⁴
1996	140,700	130,000
1997	141,300	141,300
1998	153,400	153,400
1999	152,600	152,600
2000	191,000	191,000

Seventy-nine percent (150,800) of the injuries for 2000 were to children under 15 years of age and 37 percent (70,900) were to children under 5. Overall, males were involved in 61 percent of the toy-related injuries. Most of the victims (98 percent) were treated and released from the hospital.

³ 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.

⁴ The NEISS sample was redesigned beginning in 1997. The estimate for 1996 has been adjusted to be comparable to the 1997 through 2000 data.

Forty-seven percent of the total injuries (90,100) occurred to the head and face area, which includes head, face, eyeball, mouth and ear. Arms, from shoulder to finger, accounted for 24 percent of the injuries (45,900), while the leg and foot area accounted for 18 percent (33,500). The individual body parts having the most injuries overall were faces (43,500), heads (22,800) and fingers (13,000). Lacerations, contusions and abrasions were involved in over half of the total injuries (52 percent).

Riding toys (including unpowered scooters) continued to be associated with more injuries (65,000) than any other category of toy. In 1999, riding toys (including unpowered scooters) were associated with an estimated 26,100 injuries. Riding toy injuries overall have more than doubled from 1999 to 2000 due to the rise in unpowered scooter-related injuries.

Appendix A						
Toy Deaths CY 2000						
	Document	Date	Age/Sex	City/State	Type of Toy	Narrative
1	000414CCC2445 X0030792A 0048017924 X0083517A	1/22/00	5 MO F	El Paso, TX	Plastic Toy Caterpillar	Playing with caterpillar toy and swallowed a small ball that was attached to one of its antennas. Died of asphyxia due to obstruction of airway.
2	C0095009A 000127CCN0077 G0010370A X0010237A	1/25/00	4 MO M	Lawrence, IN	Egg-shaped toy figure casing	Suffocated in his crib on a plastic hemisphere that had been half of a container for a toy. It became lodged over his nose and mouth.
3	0048010688 X0073157A	2/6/00	2.5 YR M	Austin, TX	Balloon	Swallowed and aspirated a balloon.
4	0048030154 I0030287A 000331HCC2406	3/25/00	13 MO M	Victoria, TX	Ball (superball type)	Child choked on a small bright green rubber ball that got stuck in his throat. Asphyxia; obstruction of airway by a foreign object.
5	0012052184 N0050107A X0072876A	4/19/00	2 YR M	Boca Raton, FL	Low slung tricycle	Believed to have fallen in swimming pool while riding a low slung tricycle. He was found floating face up with the tricycle floating nearby. He had been riding it on the pool deck. Drowning.
6	0048044863	4/20/00	3 YR M	Marshall, TX	Tricycle	Truck/tricycle incident. Truck backed up and ran over. Traumatic brain injury.
7	X0141426A	4/25/00	3 YR M	Rienzi, MS	Battery-Powered Tricycle	Drowned when he drove a battery powered tricycle into a pond at home.
8	000705HCC2643 X0062541A	5/9/00	14 MO M	Chicago, IL	Toy Building Block	Placed a toy building block in his mouth and began to choke. Death was due to asphyxia from aspiration of a foreign object.
9	N0050269A 000606HCC0728	5/17/00	2 YR M	Highland, NY	Plastic Play Tractor	Child approached his grandfather, who was on a lawn mower, from behind riding his play tractor and the grandfather backed up not seeing the boy. The boy went headfirst under the mower with his play tractor. The child died of severe head trauma.
10	010626CCC2611 0046003650	6/29/00	4 MO M	Rapid City, SD	Large stuffed bear	Found unresponsive in crib with a large stuffed bear lying on top of him. Suffocation caused by the stuffed animal.
11	0006146592 000905CCC3406 X0083865A	8/20/00	4.5 YR F	Vallejo, CA	Toy Plastic Ball (came in pack of four and when they touch each other or another object they light up)	Decedent took the 1 and 1/8 inch plastic ball to bed with her. She was found unresponsive with the ball stuck in her throat. Asphyxia due to choking on a toy ball.

12	010129HCC0261 X0110212B X00A4884A	9/21/00	7 YR M	Elizabeth, NJ	Unpowered scooter	Rode a scooter into moving traffic and was struck by a car and killed. Not wearing protective equipment. Concussion to head.
13	NEISS	9/30/00	6 YR M	Unknown	Scooter	Struck by a car while riding a scooter. Multiple trauma.
14	F00C5013A	12/5/00	3 YR M	Ocean View, CA	Scooter	Died the day after he fell several times while playing on a scooter. Found in bed unconscious.
15	010319HCC3215 X0131048A	12/17/00	4 MO M	Laguna Niguel, CA	Marble	Brother gave victim a 1.5 cm marble which the victim swallowed, obstructing his airway. Mechanical asphyxia due to aspirated foreign body.
16	010925HCC3448 0053039306	12/22/00	12 MO M	Puyallup, WA	Toy Box	Found with upper body inside a wooden toy box. The lid was closed, resting on his back. Mechanical asphyxia.
17	X0110121A	12/24/00	3 YR M	South Plainfield, NJ	Powered Toy Motorcycle	Struck by a car while riding on his powered toy motorcycle.
Total=17 deaths						