




**PREVENTING CONSUMER
PRODUCT-RELATED INJURIES
AND DEATHS**

**THE VITAL ROLE OF MEDICAL
EXAMINERS**



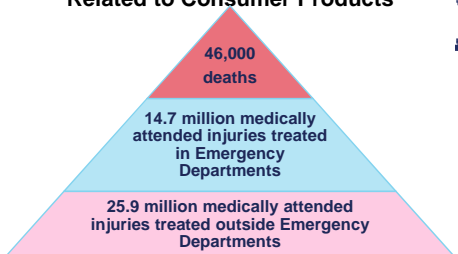

**MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND
CORONERS ALERT PROJECT**



Yolanda Nash, Program Analyst
CPSC's Division of Epidemiology
October 22, 2019

*This presentation has not been
reviewed or approved by the Commission and may not reflect its views.*

**Annual Burden of Injuries and Deaths
Related to Consumer Products**



Category	Value
Deaths	46,000
Medically attended injuries treated in Emergency Departments	14.7 million
Medically attended injuries treated outside Emergency Departments	25.9 million

Based on 2017 NEISS data and 2016 CDCNCHS mortality data

What Is the Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP)?



MECAP is a system of collecting fatality reports from medical examiners and coroner's offices by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

CPSC collects timely data about unintentional injury fatalities that involve a consumer product



4

Reports Collected



Over 3,000 MECAP reports are collected by CPSC annually



What Data Is Collected?



WHO?

- Age/gender/race
- Who was involved?

WHAT?

- What was the product?

WHERE?

- Locale of the incident
- Home? Work? Store?

WHEN?

- When did the fatality occur?

WHY?and HOW?

- How did the fatality occur?

Example of a Bucket Drowning



A 16-month-old-male infant was at home with his mother. His mother stepped outside for a few minutes. When she returned, the decedent was slumped over a 5-gallon bucket filled with water and a cleaning agent. The infant's head and face were submerged in the liquid. The decedent was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead.

Example of a Furniture and Television Tip-Over Investigated by CPSC



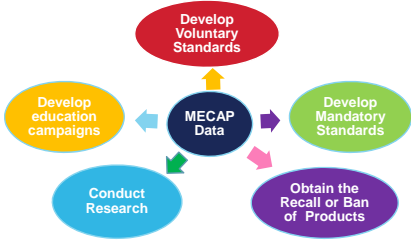
A 4-year-old female decedent died from a furniture tip-over where a television was involved. The decedent was in her room watching television when the mother heard a crash in the decedent's bedroom. The mother ran into the room and found the decedent on the floor with a large, old, heavy-tube television and dresser on her head and chest. The decedent was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where she was met by air ambulance and transferred to another hospital. The decedent was pronounced dead as a result of her injuries. The cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head.

Example of an Above-Ground Pool Drowning



A 2-year-old male was found unresponsive and submerged in an above-ground pool at his home. The decedent was last seen at bedtime and was discovered the following morning. He had wandered outside unnoticed to where an above-ground pool was located. He was discovered in the pool by his mother. First responders administered CPR at the scene and transported the decedent to a hospital. Despite resuscitative efforts, the child was pronounced dead in the ER. The pool had a 3-step ladder attached, but no covering or safety features. The cause of death was drowning.

How are MECAP reports used?



10

How are MECAP reports used? Develop Voluntary Standards

CPSC was first alerted to the problem of infants drowning in 5-gallon buckets by a MECAP report. Manufacturers have voluntarily placed warning labels on buckets in English and Spanish to inform and educate the public of the hazard.



CPSC's Major Safety Campaigns

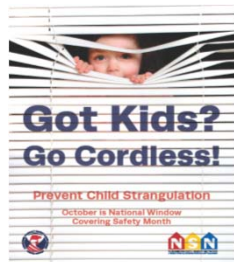
- Pool Safety
- Anchor It!



- Fireworks Safety
- Safe Sleep for Babies

Other CPSC Safety Campaigns

- Window Covering Safety
- Halloween Safety
- Holiday Toy Safety
- Holiday Decorating Safety
- Smoke/CO alarms
- Portable gas generators
- ATVs/ROVs
- Poison Prevention



Agency Websites

- CPSC.gov
- SaferProducts.gov
- PoolSafely.gov
- AnchorIt.gov



Filing a Report


- Internet at <http://www.saferproducts.gov>
- Phone to 1-800-638-8095
- Fax to (301) 504-0038
- E-mail epdsfax@cpsc.gov (e.g., Excel, MS-Access, Scanned Reports)



CPSC Stands for Safety 

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?



Contact Information

Yolanda Nash MECAP Coordinator ynash@cpsc.gov (301) 504-7502	Julie Ross Branch Chief jross@cpsc.gov (301) 504-7840	Tom Schroeder Director tschroeder@cpsc.gov (301) 504-7431
---	--	---

MECAP Reporting: www.saferproducts.gov
(Click on Report an Unsafe Product)
