



IMPROVING
CHILDREN'S
PRODUCT
SAFETY

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Media contacts:
Nancy A. Cowles
312.595.0649
nancy@kidsindanger.org

116 W. Illinois
Suite 4E
Chicago IL 60654
Phone: 312.595.0649
Fax: 312.595.0939
www.KidsInDanger.org

**Pacifiers Pose Risks of Choking, Laceration, and Poisoning:
Action Needed to Ensure Safety**

(CHICAGO) Kids In Danger (KID) released a [report](#) on pacifier hazards. The report analyzed data from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) that shows that some pacifiers can pose a risk to infants and toddlers. The report highlights pacifiers’ tendency to rip or become lodged while in a child’s mouth. This pattern represents a significant choking or laceration risk.

The databases reviewed include both recalls of pacifiers issued by the CPSC as well as reported incidents and injuries through SaferProducts.gov and hospital data from the [National Electronic Injury Surveillance System \(NEISS\)](#).

The CPSC has a standard for pacifier safety, but that standard has not been revised in years. Evidence suggests it may be time to reevaluate.

Key findings:

- Seventy-nine percent of injuries reported to the CPSC involved babies choking on pacifier pieces and/or the pacifier impeding airflow to the child by getting stuck in the child's mouth or throat.
- Recalled pacifiers have been known to break and leave sharp pieces inside children’s mouths. The broken pacifier pieces also inflict lacerations inside and around the mouth due to sharp, exposed edges.
- In the time studied, there were 97 incident and injury reports and 11 recalls.

KID regards awareness of pacifier safety as just as important as other children’s products, but chose to write a report specifically about pacifiers because of the high risk of serious injury or death inherent to the injuries that pacifiers can create-- especially choking. A child choking can die within minutes.

“Pacifiers have a unique combination of being almost ubiquitous yet inherently very risky due to the fact that they go into a child’s mouth,” says KID researcher Diana Suder. “That makes it extremely important to assure the product meets strong safety guidelines.”

KID recommends that:

- Parents and caregivers make sure that the pacifier they buy for their child is not a recalled model. Check for recalls on [saferproducts.gov](#) or [kidsindanger.org](#).
- If a pacifier has any rips, cracks, or signs of significant wear, it must be replaced immediately.
- If you experience an incident with a pacifier, report it at SaferProducts.gov to help spread awareness.

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“In addition to steps parents and caregivers can take, KID recommends CPSC take action to improve the safety of pacifiers,” stated Nancy Cowles, KID Executive Director. “These incidents and recalls should lead to a reexamination of the current standard for pacifiers and perhaps point to the need for stronger surveillance to assure only those that meet the standard are reaching the marketplace.”

KID is a non-profit organization devoted to keeping children safe by improving children’s product safety. A copy of this research report, and all of KID’s past reports, is available to download at KidsInDanger.org under the research section.

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