



IMPROVING  
CHILDREN'S  
PRODUCT  
SAFETY

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## Straight from the Source

### *New study of reports on SaferProducts.gov show dangerous products, emerging hazards.*

(CHICAGO) Kids in Danger (KID) released an analysis today of the first four months of public reports to Saferproducts.gov at the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) as they relate to children and children's products.

"Since our founding in 1998, KID has been frustrated with the secrecy at the CPSC, stated Nancy Cowles, Executive Director. "Consumer reports of product related incidents or injuries were kept secret until and unless there was a recall. But all that changed with the 2008 law requiring a publically accessible database – now consumers can both report product experiences and read others' reports before purchasing an item."

As part of the CPSIA passed in 2008, Congress mandated that CPSC set up a public database. CPSC set up a system that provided information in a timely manner, while maintaining the veracity of the reports. KID looked at the first four months of data from the system in ***Straight from the Source***. The findings show the value of the database, both identifying potentially hazardous products and the need for better dissemination of recall information. They include:

- About 20% of the reports to CPSC during the period involve children's products or injuries to children.
- Injuries were reported in 44% of the incidents involving children. Thirty percent of those reports involved injuries requiring medical treatment and 2% involved a death. The most frequently cited injuries fell into the bodily injury category.
- One might expect reports of injuries from higher risk products such as trampolines and pogo sticks and there were many. But, the injuries reported were for product failures, not just from use or misuse of the product. Consumers are using the database for its intended purpose – to alert CPSC and others to product defects or hazards.

"Most alarmingly, many of the reports and injuries involved products that had been recalled, stated Cowles. ***One in seven reports involved a recalled product***, with most of the incidents happening ***after*** the product was recalled."

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“An ineffective recall system leaves dangerous products in consumers’ hands. The data in SaferProducts.gov bears that out. With new standards, testing requirements and attention to safety reducing the number of recalls needed CPSC and advocates can turn their attention to making those that do happen more effective.”

Another part of the law passed in 2008, named after Danny Keysar, requires a system for product registrations – both via postage paid cards and online – which will help parents learn when their products are recalled. “KID has a full list of manufacturer registration sites and more information at our website,” added Cowles. “Registering products is a tool already available to improve recall effectiveness.”

The full report is available at [www.KidsInDanger.org](http://www.KidsInDanger.org).