

CPSP survey takes pulse of injuries from baby products

With recalls of baby products announced regularly, parents have to be vigilant about the equipment they use with their babies. Well-informed paediatricians can help uncover and prevent potential risks by raising the subject with families in their office.

The Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program (CPSP) recently took a snapshot of concerns about baby equipment safety. The 27% of paediatricians who responded to the one-time survey reported that they still see serious injuries with strollers, baby walkers—despite a ban on them—and cribs. The major risks are concussions and fractures to the skull and the upper and lower extremities. Of the respondents, over 80% said they spent time counseling families about safe baby products.

The Canadian Paediatric Society is a longtime advocate for safer baby products and tighter regulations. According to CPS Medical Affairs Director Dr. Danielle Grenier, the CPS was instrumental in the 2004 baby walker ban. “The survey results show however that some parents are still using them, and preventable and serious injuries are still occurring,” she said.

When it comes to injuries, “strollers are the new kid on the block,” she added. Several cases in the literature have been serious, including reports of amputated fingers after they were caught in the hinge mechanism where the stroller folds.

“A one-time survey just takes the pulse of an issue,” Dr. Grenier continued. But as other organizations collect similar data, the case for safer products becomes stronger.

The results of the survey will be used to support advocacy efforts around Bill C-36, the new Consumer Product Safety Act that was introduced in the House of Commons in June.



Paediatricians report seeing injuries with strollers, baby walkers and cribs.

The survey also aimed to assess how frontline health care providers become aware of bans, advisories or recalls on baby products. More than 75% of respondents said they learned of these notices through


media reports (newspapers, radio, television, internet). They also said more educational material would be helpful in their practices.

Dr. Natalie Yanchar, medical director at IWK Trauma Care in Halifax and Chair of the CPS Injury Prevention Committee, agrees.

“We have to make sure that we are basing our advocacy on good evidence,” she said. In the meantime, paediatricians should continue to talk to families about the safety of baby products.

To design the survey, CPS partnered with the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Consumer Product Safety Bureau at Health Canada.

Learn more at www.cps.ca

- To learn about all advocacy work at the CPS, select **Advocacy** from the left navigation bar.
- For details on this and other CPSP studies, select **Surveillance** from the left navigation bar. 

New online courses adapted from conference sessions

Five new additions have joined the roster of online continuing medical education (eCME) courses offered by the CPS.

Adapted from sessions held at the 2010 annual conference, the new courses help extend the reach of the curriculum beyond conference delegates. Course developers chose the topics based on needs assessment results and input from CPS expert committees and sections.

You can complete these courses through the AdvancingIn Paediatric Health website, accessible through www.cps.ca.

Each course meets the accreditation criteria of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and most have also been accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.