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CONSUMER PRODUCT  
SAFETY COMMISSION

**PREVENTING CONSUMER PRODUCT-RELATED  
DEATHS  
THE VITAL ROLE OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS  
ALERT PROJECT  
OCTOBER 16, 2018  
by Yolanda Nash

This presentation was prepared by CPSC Staff. It has not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.



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**Overview**

- Need for Consumer Product Safety and Injury Surveillance
- What is the Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project?
- What Data is Collected?
- How are MECAP Reports Used?
- Reporting Options



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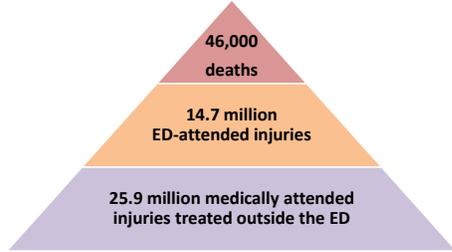
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**Annual Burden of Injuries and Deaths  
Related to Consumer Product**



Category	Value
Deaths	46,000
ED-attended injuries	14.7 million
Medically attended injuries treated outside the ED	25.9 million

Based on 2017 NERDS data and 2016 CDC/NCHS mortality data



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**What Is the Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project ?**

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

Collects timely data about unintentional injury fatalities that involve a consumer product



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**Reports Collected**

More than 5,300 MECAP reports are collected by CPSC annually



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**What Data Is Collected?**



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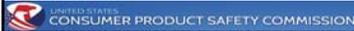
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**Example of a Bucket Pail Drowning**



A 16-month-old-male infant was at home with his mother. His mother went outside to smoke. When the parent returned, the decedent was slumped over a 5-gallon, bucket filled with water, soap, and cleaning agent. His head and face were submerged in the liquid. The child was taken to the hospital and pronounced dead.



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**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 the 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.



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**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 wandered away unnoticed and went outside where an above-ground pool was located. He was discovered in the pool by his mother. First responders arrived on the scene and administered CPR 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.



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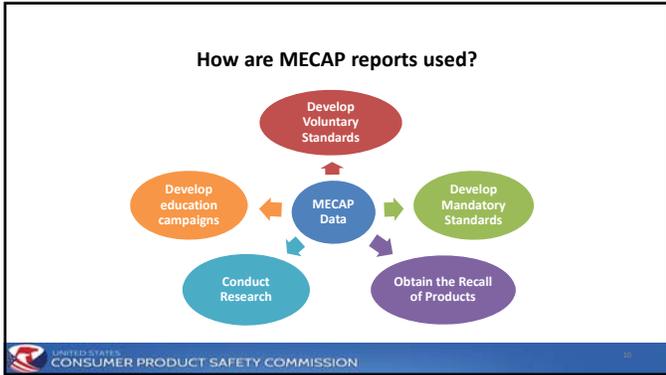
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### How are MECAP reports used? Develop Voluntary Standards

CSPC 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.





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### How are MECAP reports used? Public Education Campaign




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**How are MECAP reports used?**  
Develop Education Campaigns



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**Filing a Report**

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



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**THANK YOU!**

Thanks for all of your help in making this a successful project!



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**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?**



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MECAP Reporting: [www.saferproducts.gov](http://www.saferproducts.gov)  
(Click on Report an Unsafe Product)

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