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

Annual Burden of Injuries and Deaths Related to Consumer Product

- 46,000 deaths
- 14.7 million ED-attended injuries
- 25.9 million medically attended injuries treated outside the ED

Based on 2017 NEISS data and 2016 CDC/NCHS mortality data.
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.

Reports Collected

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

What Data Is Collected?

- **WHO?**
  - Age/gender/race
  - Who was involved?

- **WHAT?**
  - What was the product?

- **WHERE?**
  - Location of the incident
  - Home? Work? Store?

- **WHEN?**
  - When did the fatality occur?

- **WHY? and HOW?**
  - How did the fatality occur?
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.

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.

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.
How are MECAP reports used?

Develop Voluntary Standards

Develop Mandatory Standards

Conduct Research

Obtain the Recall of Products

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.

How are MECAP reports used?

Public Education Campaign

Obtain the Recall of Products

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.
How are MECAP reports used?
Develop Education Campaigns

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 (e.g., Excel, MS-Access, Scanned Reports)

THANK YOU!
Thanks for all of your help in making this a successful project!
CONTACT INFORMATION

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MECAP Reporting:  www.saferproducts.gov  
[Click on Report an Unsafe Product]

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QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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