

# From the laundry room to the nursery and everywhere in between: emerging hazards for children.

MIPA Summit 2015



Presenter: Nancy Cowles— Executive Director



**Unintentional Injuries**  
are the  
**leading cause of death**  
among children



**121 children die yearly** in  
child product related  
incidents

**336,100 children** are treated  
in hospital emergency rooms for  
product related incidents

***Awareness and action can help change these numbers***

# Laundry Packets

In 2015, through October 31, poison centers received reports of 10,497 exposures to highly concentrated packets of laundry detergent by children 5 and younger.



# Injuries & Deaths

- Symptoms include: excessive vomiting, wheezing and gasping, sleepiness, breathing problems, some serious enough to need a ventilator. There have also been reports of corneal abrasions.
- In 2014, 4,110 people sought medical treatment and 59 became critically ill.
- There have been 7 confirmed deaths: a 7 month old and 16 month old, three with ages unknown and 2 senior citizens with dementia.

# Action

- Sen. Dick Durbin (D., Ill.) and Rep. Jackie Speier (D., Calif.) proposed the Detergent Poisoning and Child Safety Act
- ASTM has developed and published standard addressing access, labeling and individual packets.
- Data will be collected to see if injuries drop. If not, more may be done

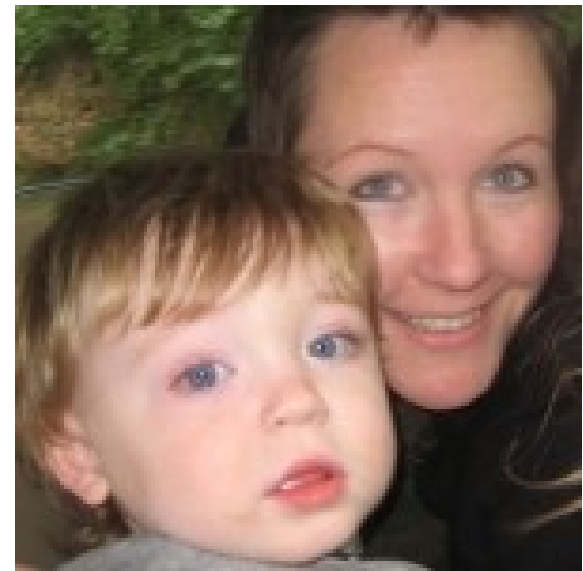
# Furniture & TV Tip-overs

- About 4 times an hour - 38,000 times a year - furniture and TV tip-overs send someone, usually a child, to an emergency room.
- More often than every two weeks, a child dies.



# Shane's Foundation

Shane's Foundation (ShanesFoundation.org) located in Illinois, was founded after the death of Shane Siefert when his dresser fell on him. The organization is dedicated to safety, especially furniture tip-over.





# Action

- Efforts underway to strengthen ASTM standard addressing clothing storage units.
- Meeting in NC with industry show some dressers barely meet the standard. Other recent press shows some don't meet it at all.
- CPSC launched **#AnchorIt** to encourage the use of furniture anchoring straps.

# Moving Forward

- Through a grant from the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, KID, along with Shane's Foundation will be conducting research to identify weaknesses in the current standard or its adoption across the industry.
- We have worked with engineering students at Northwestern University Segal Design Institute to address the design issue.



# Safety tips



## Furniture/ TV Tip Overs:

- Mount TV to wall, anchor furniture.
- Part of the child-proofing process
- Chests: remove locks, add air holes.

# Bounce Houses

- There were an estimated 113,272 emergency department-treated injuries associated with inflatable amusements from 2003-2013, 90% from bounce houses.



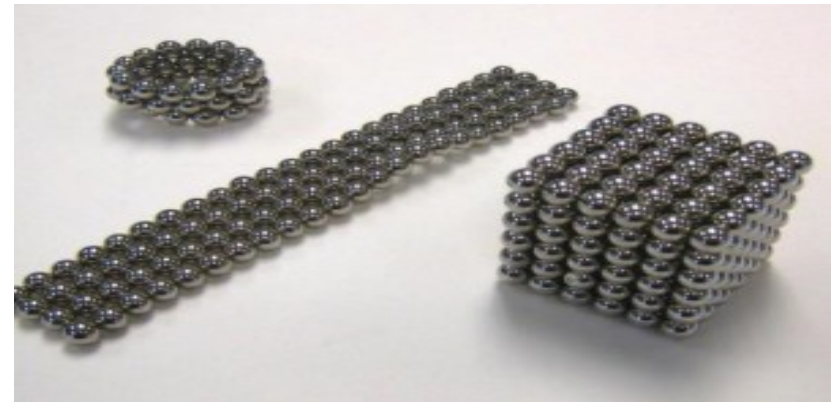
# Action Taken

- There is a new voluntary standard for inflatable play structures for home use in 2012
- There is also guidance for commercial inflatable amusements
- 20 states have adopted the standard as mandatory
- Injuries aren't dropping



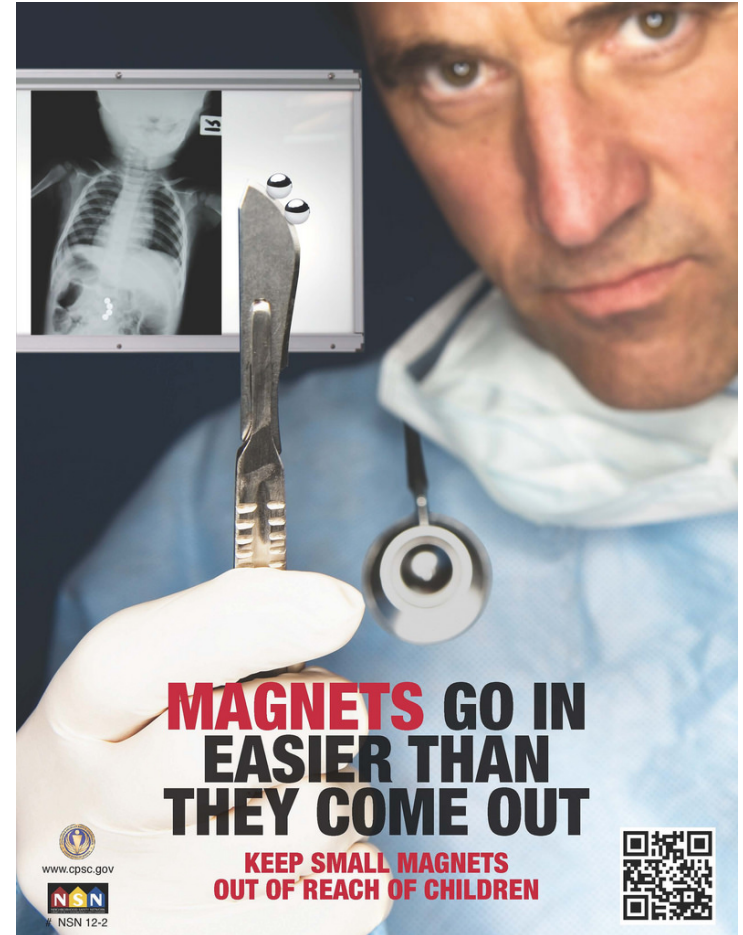
# Magnet ingestion

- Powerful magnets in toys  
→ hundreds of injuries.
- Adult toys that have **great appeal** to children entered the market.
- Difficult to diagnose, can require surgical removal.



# Action

- Powerful magnets removed from toys in toy standard in 2006.
- In 2014 CPSC banned small powerful magnet sets.
- Data should show decrease in injuries and ingestion.





# Safe Sleep

- Counties around the Midwest continue to report infant deaths in unsafe sleep environments.
- Adding to the issue are new products marketed to help with sleep, but posing dangers





# Action

- Retailers such as Target and Ikea have stopped selling bumper pads.
- We have been unable to pass a ban in Illinois but do have one in Maryland and Chicago.
- ASTM standard very weak on bumpers. They are looking at setting a standard for bed sharing devices.
- CPSC says “Bare is Best”

# Other hazards



**Button batteries-** found in almost everything, cause internal damage within hours



**Crumb Rubber Turf-** calls for new research over cancer concern



**Window Blinds** – Every three weeks for decades a child is strangled

# CPSC Resources

- Statistics
- Posters
- Videos



# Connect with KID



**Blog and website**

**[www.KidsInDanger.org](http://www.KidsInDanger.org)**



**YouTube:**

**[www.youtube.com/KidsInDanger](http://www.youtube.com/KidsInDanger)**



**Facebook:**

**[www.facebook.com/KidsInDanger](http://www.facebook.com/KidsInDanger)**



**Pinterest:**

**[www.pinterest.com/KidsInDanger](http://www.pinterest.com/KidsInDanger)**



**Twitter:**

**[www.twitter.com/KidsInDanger](http://www.twitter.com/KidsInDanger)**  
**@KidsInDanger**



**LinkedIn:**

**[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)**  
**Group Name: Kids InDanger**





**Kids In Danger**

**116 W Illinois Street**

**Suite 4E**

**Chicago IL 60654**

**Phone: 312-595-0649**

**Fax: 312-595-0939**

**Email: [Nancy@KidsInDanger.org](mailto:Nancy@KidsInDanger.org)**

**[www.KidsInDanger.org](http://www.KidsInDanger.org)**