



## **FACTS ABOUT CHILDREN INJURED BY TOYS**

**The majority of the more than 3 billion toys and games sold annually in the United States are safe, but they can be dangerous if misused or used by children who are too young for them.**

- In 2003, at least 11 children ages 14 and under died from toy-related injuries. More than half of these children were ages 4 and under.
- In 2003, an estimated 155,400 children ages 14 and under were treated in hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries. Children ages 4 and under accounted for 34 percent of these injuries.
- The majority of toy-related injuries are minor. Approximately 97 percent of children seen in hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries are treated and released.
- The estimated annual cost of toy-related injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms among children ages 14 and under is approximately \$7.5 billion.

**The leading cause of toy-related death is choking or suffocation by a toy ball.**

- In 2003, 64 percent of toy-related deaths were due to choking; 71 percent of these involved toy balls. Other toy-related deaths were due to suffocation.

**Riding toys (including unpowered scooters) are associated with more injuries than any other group of toys.**

- In 2003, nearly 63,000 children were treated in hospital emergency rooms for riding toy-related injuries.
- Seventy-five percent of riding toy-related injuries are related to interaction with motor vehicles.

**Numerous safety laws and regulations protect children from potentially hazardous toys.**

- The Federal Hazardous Substances Act bans any toy or children's article that consists of or contains any hazardous substance, including hazardous levels of lead, or that presents an electrical, mechanical or thermal hazard.

- The Child Safety Protection Act bans any toy intended for use by children under age 3 that may pose a choking, aspiration or ingestion hazard. It also requires choking hazard warning labels for toys intended for use by children ages 3 to 6.
- The Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act mandates the labeling of hazardous art materials as inappropriate for use by children.
- Toy guns must conform to marking requirements under the U.S. Department of Commerce “Marking of Toy Look-Alike and Imitation Firearms” regulation.
- The toy industry has established voluntary toy safety standards under the Standard Consumer Safety Specification on Toy Safety (ASTM F963) to minimize the risk of injury from toys during normal intended use and reasonable foreseeable abuse.

