

Facts About Toy Injuries

Prevent Blindness wants everyone to know about the potential hazards some toys may have. In fact, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that there were an estimated 262,300 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments in 2011. The CPSC also reported the following statistics:

- > 44 percent of the estimated emergency department-treated injuries are classified as lacerations, contusions, or abrasions.
- > Forty-five percent of the estimated injuries were to the head and face area, the most commonly affected area of the body.
- > Males accounted for 154,800 (59 percent) of the estimated toy-related injuries in 2011.
- > Of the 262,300 estimated toy-related, emergency department treated injuries, an estimated 193,200 (74 percent) happened to children younger than 15 years of age; an estimated 184,100 (70 percent) occurred to children 12 years of age or younger; while an estimated 92,200 (35 percent) happened to children younger than 5 years of age.

Prevent Blindness strongly recommends:

- > Read all warnings and instructions on toys.
- > Avoid toys with sharp or rigid points, shafts, spikes, rods, and dangerous edges.
- > Keep toys intended for older children away from younger children.
- > Avoid flying toys and projectile-firing toys; these pose a danger to all children, particularly those under five years old.
- > Be aware of items in playgrounds and play areas that pose potential eye hazards.



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Source: Tu, Yongling, 2012, Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries, Calendar Year 2011, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Nov. 2012, (<http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/133613/toymemo11.pdf>)