
Unsafe Sleeping Environments: More Than Just “Co-sleeping”

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Content

Unsafe sleeping environments (other than beds and sofas)

How deaths may occur

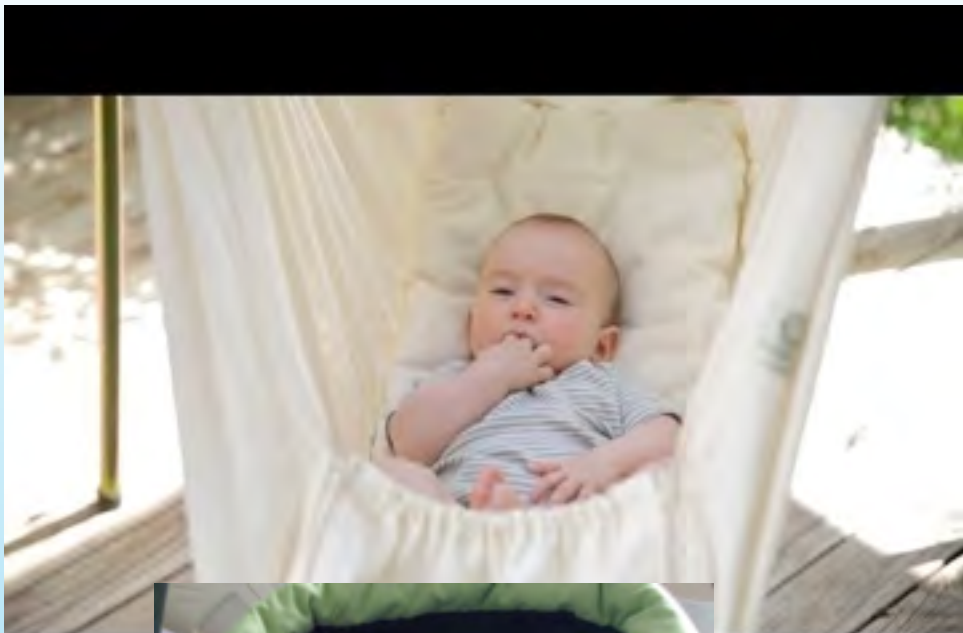
Information available to the public

Examples of cases

Questions to be asked

Definition

Unsafe sleeping environment: defined as bed-sharing or being placed on an unsafe sleeping surface



How deaths may occur

Asphyxiation

Entanglement

Trauma

Natural

“displacement of the jaw with oxygen desaturation can be obtained by any pressure on the chin, including forward flexion of the infant’s head onto it’s own chest in some cases”

NZMD 11 December 2009, vol 122



Slings

Product Safety Australia

- Rapid suffocation of the baby is pressed against adult's body
- Slow suffocation if placed in a C-position
- Falls

Babies <4 months, premature or low birth weight are at most risk

Around the world, at least 25 deaths documented, most recent April 2014



Sling recalls

SAFETY RECALL
RISK OF SUFFOCATION

INFANTINO "SLINGRIDER" and "WENDY BELLISSIMO"
BABY SLINGS



SlingRider Wendy Bellissimo Sling

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission warns parents and caregivers on the use of slings with infants younger than four months of age due to a risk of suffocation.

This recall includes all Infantino "SlingRider" and "Wendy Bellissimo" infant slings sold in retailers nationwide and online at Amazon.com from January 2001 through March 2010 for between \$25 and \$35.

CONSUMERS SHOULD **CEASE/TELL STOP** USING THE SLINGS AND CONTACT INFANTINO FOR A FREE REPLACEMENT PRODUCT, AND A RATTLE.

(866) 860-1361
(Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm PST)
Or register online at
www.infantino.com

Infantino Inc. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission File # CPSC 09028 02/2010



SIDS and Kids re: slings

<http://www.sidsandkids.org/news/slings-risk-highlighted/>

<http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/marketplace/product-safety/safety-initiatives/baby-slings>

<http://www.productreview.com.au/p/infantino-sling-rider.html>

“These have been recalled in both the USA and Australia. See the link here: <http://www.recalls.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/973859>”

“Whilst there was a recall on this product, I never had a problem with it & would use it again with no concern.”

www.productsafety.gov.au/keepingbabysafe

Good information about sling safety

TICKS checklist :

- T—Tight: Slings should be tight enough to hug your baby close to you.
- I—In view at all times: You should always be able to see your baby's face by simply glancing down.
- C—Close enough to kiss: By tipping your head forward you should be able to kiss your baby on the head.
- K—Keep chin off the chest: A baby should never be curled so that their chin is forced onto their chest as this can restrict their breathing.
- S—Supported back: The baby's back should be supported in a natural position so their tummy and chest are against you.



Hammocks

YAYITA BABY HAMMOCK 2009



Recall due to fall and strangulation hazard

AMBY BABY HAMMOCK 2009



Recall due to 2 reported deaths in the USA

Comments from Amby baby 2014

“There was a recall in 2009 in the USA and Canada for the USA company of the previous model Amby hammock, the recall did not affect any other country (Australia included).

It was proven that their hammocks were assembled and used incorrectly.

The hammocks were investigated and tested by authorities in Australia and Europe after the USA recall and they were found perfectly safe to use when the assembly instructions are followed.

The new design has been stringently tested to the British and European safety standards for cribs and cradles (BS EN 1130) to make sure our hammocks are 100% safe”

SIDS and Kids re: hammocks

“There is no Australian standard covering the use and manufacture of hammocks for baby.

Babies sleeping in hammocks are at risk of incurring a falling injury.

Babies should not be left unsupervised in these devices as they are not designed as an infant sleeping place”

<http://www.productreview.com.au/p/amby-baby-hammock.html> latest entry Dec 2013

“The hammock is used quite extensively in daycare centres in Aust. so I don't think there is a safety concern”

Nap nanny recliner



6 baby deaths

Mostly <5/months; one 8 month

Product Safety Australia recalls June 2013

Most recent death May 2014 in the USA

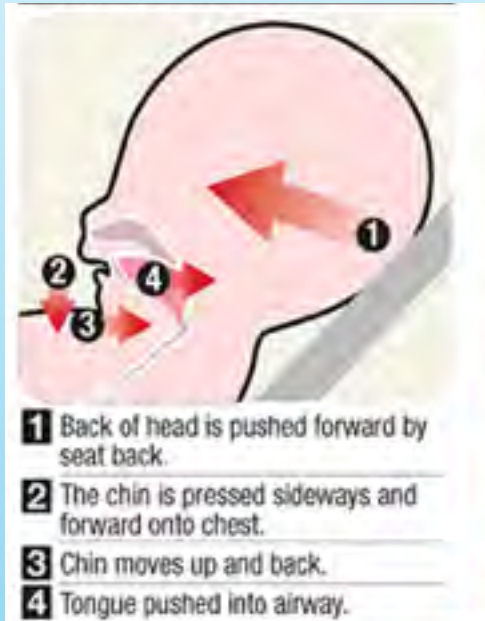
CPSC urged consumers to stop all use

SIDS and Kids re: Nap Nanny

“The Australian Competition Consumer Commission is warning parents about the recall of a ‘Nap Nanny’ infant recliner in Australia.

The recall follows reports of five deaths and more than 70 injuries associated with the product in the United States. The deaths and injuries were from falls, entrapment or strangulation. The ACCC is not aware of deaths or injuries in Australia.” June 2013

Car seats



Quebec study 2007

2 month old died in Quebec 2008

Other reported deaths in Hawaii and Florida

Very young children should not be allowed to sleep for more than an hour during car rides

Do not use unless in the car

Studies on infants in car seats, 2013

Episodes of transient mild to moderate desaturation were common in otherwise healthy full-term infants restrained in car safety seats.

Term infants have many more desaturations in a car seat than while resting in a crib (mean 17 vs 6 per hour).

Significantly lower mean and minimum oxygen saturations.

SIDS and Kids re: car seats

“Once the car journey is over it is very important that you remove baby from the car seat or capsule because it is not safe for baby to spend long periods in car seats, capsules or infant seats.

Research has shown that:

- car seats may cause baby’s neck to flex forward which may block baby’s airway not allowing airflow
- infants less than one month old left in a sitting position for a long period of time may be placed at increased risk for sudden infant death.
- falls from car seats used outside of the car as infant carriers are common, often involve children unbuckled in their car seats and represent a significant source of head injury.”

Examples of cases in Australia

Adelaide, 2010

- 2 day old suffocated in baby sling
- Cloth sling under mother's clothes
- Negative autopsy

Melbourne, 2011

- 5 month old
- Died in hammock during daytime nap
- Autopsy negative

Examples of cases in Australia

Queensland, 2013

- 3 week old
- History of recent cold
- Just been breast fed and was lying against mother in a sling
- Died 5 days later

Adelaide, 2014.....

Not all deaths are asphyxial....

Adelaide, 2014

- 1 year old
- 24 hours vomiting and “off colour”
- 0900 in a sling against his mother
- Cried out and “fitted” for 30s whilst gasping for air
- Resuscitation unsuccessful

Autopsy showed florid myocarditis

History of sudden death in maternal grandfather when in his 30's

Current safety initiatives

Slings

- Information available to consumers (USA, Canada, Australia)
- ACCC June 2014 www.productsafety.gov.au/keepingbabysafe

Hammocks

- Queensland, Canada
- www.qld.gov.au/law/your-rights/consumer-rights-complaints-and-scams/product-safety-for-consumers/safety-advice-and-warnings/baby-and-kids-products/baby-hammocks/
- Nothing on ACCC

Car seats

- Canada
- USA
- UK

What questions should be asked?

Can there be a reconstruction of the position?

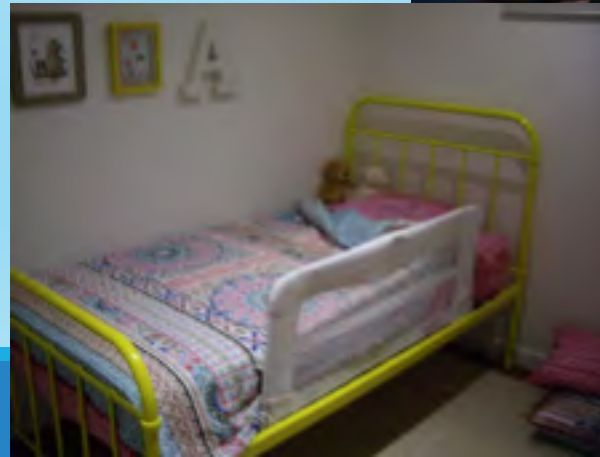
What position was the baby in?

State of health of the baby?

What clothing/bedclothes were worn?

Anything else in the hammock?

History of unexplained sudden death in the family, both children and adults?



What questions should be asked?

Is there appropriate information available for parents/carers?

Is it easily available?

Is the right audience being targeted?



Thanks to:

Coroner Johns, Adelaide

Coroner Parkinson, Melbourne

Coroner Lock, Queensland

Dr. H Bower, Melbourne

Prof. Byard, Adelaide

Dr. K Heath, Adelaide

Literature references available upon request.