



Keeping Children Safe from Drowning

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Primary Hazards

- Drowning/Near Drowning
- Entrapment/Entanglement

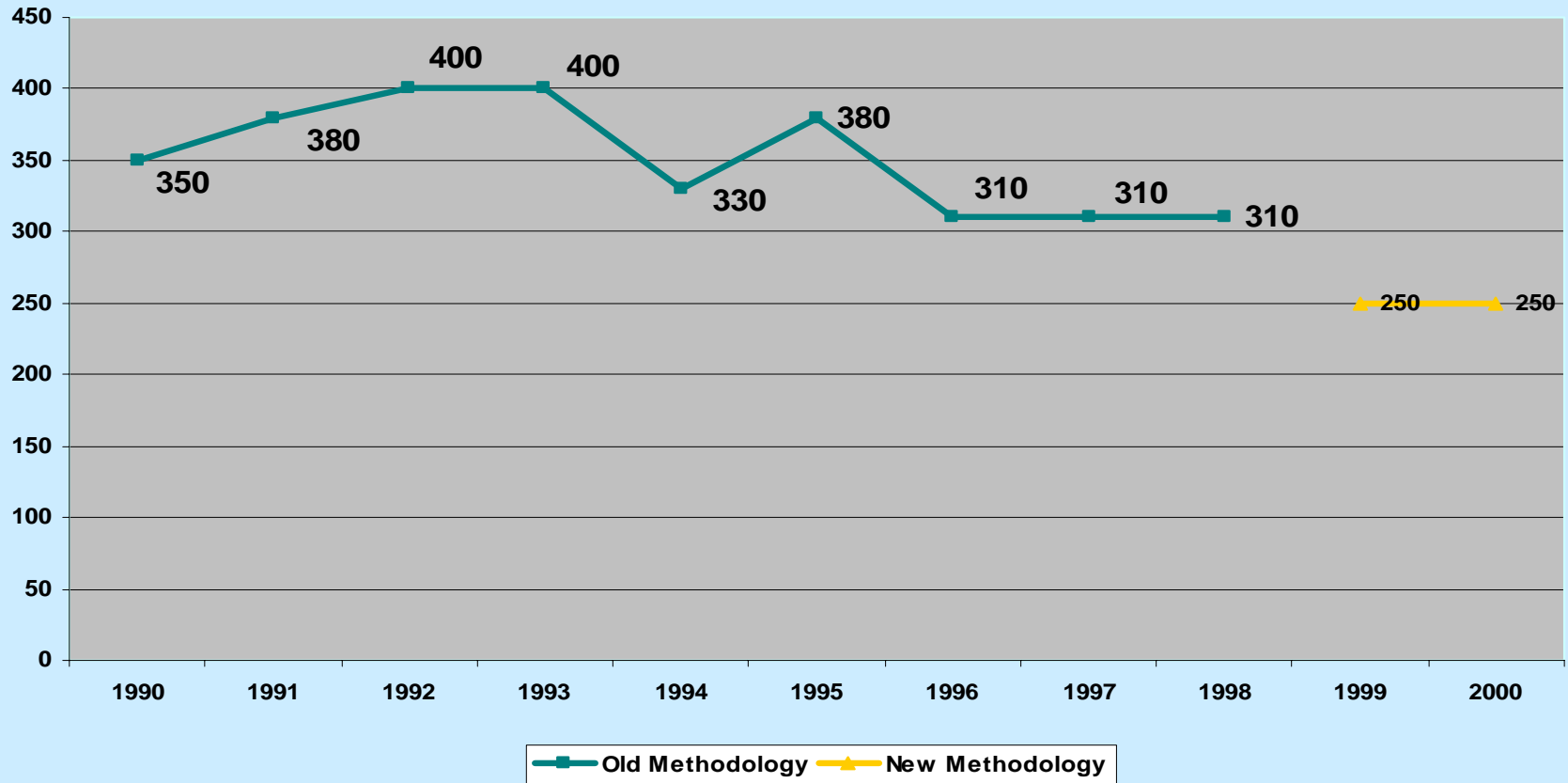
Drowning/Near Drowning Size of the Problem

- Drowning is 2nd leading cause of death from unintentional injuries to children under 5
- In 1999-2000, an average of about 250 children under age 5 drowned in swimming pools each year
- In 2002, an estimated 1,600 children under age 5 were treated in hospital ERs for swimming pool submersion injuries; 58% were hospitalized

Drowning

What's Happened Over Time

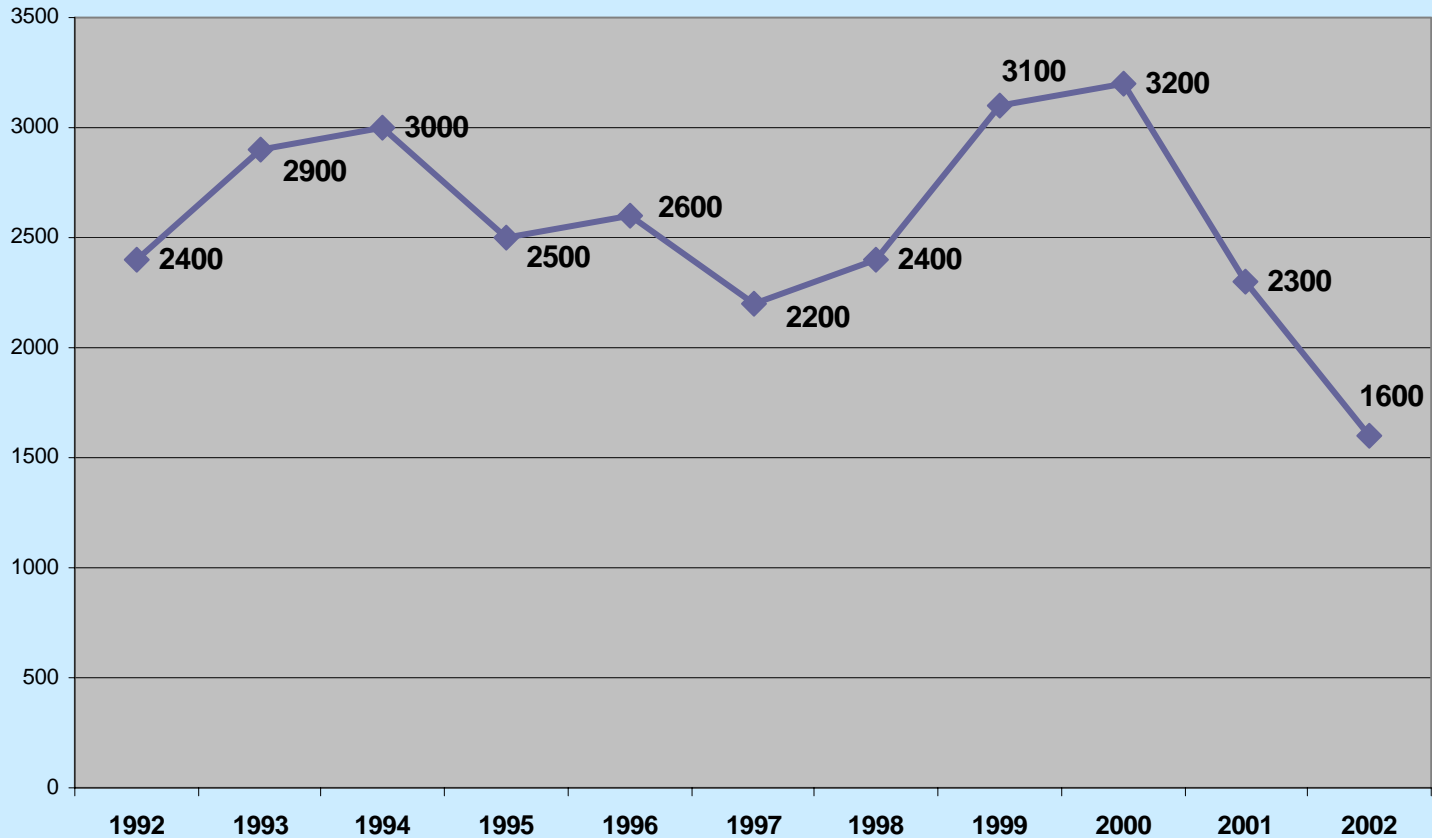
Number of Pool Drowning Deaths to Children Under the Age of Five Years, by Year, 1990 - 1998 and 1999 - 2000



Near Drowning

What's Happened Over Time

Estimated Number of Emergency Room-Treated Pool-Related Near Drownings to Children Less than 5 Years of Age, by Year, 1992 - 2002



Drowning/Near Drowning

Cost of the Problem

- Societal Costs of almost \$2 billion each year
- Near drownings can result in severe brain damage with high costs
- Severe impacts on families

Drowning/Near Drowning History of CPSC Involvement

- Late 1980s – Extensive Study of submersion incidents in California, Arizona and Florida
- Results
 - most victims were boys between 1 and 3 years old
 - almost 50% of victims were last seen in house
 - 23% were last seen on porch, patio or in yard
 - 69% of the victims were not expected to be in or at the pool

*Drowning/Near Drowning
History of CPSC Involvement
- Continued -*

- 65% of incidents occurred at pool owned by victim's immediate family
- 33% of incidents occurred at pool owned by relatives or friends
- less than 2% of incidents were result of trespassing
- 77% of victims missing 5 minutes or less when found

Drowning/Near Drowning History of CPSC Involvement - Continued -

Summary

- Toddlers are inquisitive and impulsive and lack sense of danger
- Incidents happen fast
- Incidents are silent – no splashing or screaming

Conclusion

- Barriers are needed to prevent young children from gaining access to the pool

Drowning/Near Drowning

What Has CPSC Done

Late 80s/Early 90s

- Stressed Importance of Supervision
- Recommended Layers of Protection
- Developed Barrier Guidelines working with pool industry and many others

Primary Barriers

- Barrier completely surrounding the pool
 - At least 48” high
 - No handholds or foot holds

Drowning/Near Drowning

What Has CPSC Done

- Continued-

- If house serves as one side of barrier
 - door alarms (UL standard)
 - power safety cover (ASTM standard)
 - other equivalent means of protection
- Secondary Barriers
 - Semi-automatic / manual safety covers (ASTM standard)
 - Pool alarms (ASTM Standard)
- 1990s
 - Model building codes
 - State legislation

*Drowning/Near Drowning
What Has CPSC Done
- Continued -*

- Supported Development of Voluntary Standards
 - safety covers (ASTM)
 - door alarms (UL)
 - pool alarms (ASTM)
- Supported I & E Campaigns

Entrapment/Entanglement Size of the Problem

Pool/Spa Entrapment Incidents
January 1990 – October 2003

	Total	Deaths
Hair Entrapment	40	11
Body Entrapment	73	12
Disembowelment	2	0
Other/Unknown	11	2
Total	126	25

Entrapment/Entanglement

What Has CPSC Done

- 1996 – Roundtable
- 1998 – Guidelines

Layers of Protection

- a minimum of 2 drains/pump
 - back-up system to shut down pump/relieve suction
 - drain covers meeting ASME/ANSI A112.19.8
 - maintenance program
- 2003 – Draft Revised Guidelines
 - Pool depth considered
 - Back-up system stressed for lower depths

Entrapment/Entanglement
What Has CPSC Done
- Continued -

- Sent Letters to State Officials
- Supported Development of Voluntary Standards
 - Suction fittings (ASME/ANSI)
 - SVRS (ASTM)
- Released Safety Alerts

Swimming Pool Safety

What Is CPSC Doing

Strategic Goal

- Reduce the rate of swimming pool and other at-home drownings of children under 5 years old by 10% from the 1999/2000 average by the year 2013

Strategies

- Data Collection
- Regional Meetings
- Voluntary Standards
- Codes
- Revised Barrier/Entrapment Guidelines
- Partnerships