

Insights

Products that Cause Infant Deaths Should Be Recalled

The Fisher-Price Rock 'n Play Sleeper has been tied to 32 sleep-related infant deaths, according to a [statement issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP) urging Fisher-Price to recall the product. Fisher-Price issued a warning about Rock 'n Play Sleepers on April 5, but they still line store aisles, are available for order on websites, and are holding sleeping infants in homes across the country.

The Rock 'n Play Sleeper has been recalled. Learn about what you can do if you have one [here](#), and spread the word to your networks.

While overall infant mortality rates in the U.S. have declined in recent years, sleep-related infant deaths, including accidental suffocation and strangulation, [have risen](#). Removing products, like the Rock 'n Play Sleeper, that are tied to sleep-related infant deaths can help remove one risk factor for infants and make things easier for families.

“When you bring home your new baby, you’re trying to remember all the advice you were given—not just about safe sleep, but about how to feed your baby and keep your baby healthy,” says NICHQ Chief Health Officer Elizabeth Coté, MD, MPA. “Having unsafe products on the market makes it harder for families who are already juggling so much, and a warning isn’t enough. Not when there is any potential of death.”

Reducing these dangers for families means holding infant sleep products to the highest standard, says NICHQ President and CEO, Scott D. Berns, MD, MPH, FAAP. “Every year, we lose thousands of babies to preventable deaths, and that means we need to do more to help families understand and follow safe sleep practices—that includes protecting them from purchasing products that could cause harm. We should all be working to make things easier for families, not more confusing. As a national children’s health organization, we stand behind the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics.”

NICHQ currently leads multiple initiatives seeking to reduce sleep-related infant deaths, including the [Safe Sleep Infant Mortality Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network](#) and the National Action Partnership to Promote Safe Sleep Improvement and Innovation Network ([NAPPSS-IIN](#)). These initiatives both illustrate the critical importance of providing families with consistent messaging and education about safe sleep practices and products—whether by

[modeling safe sleep in hospitals](#) or raising awareness about safe sleep practices through [city-wide campaigns](#) and [targeted community outreach](#).

“As a leader in the effort to promote safe sleep as a national norm, NAPPSS-IIN members are speaking out in support of an immediate recall of the Fisher-Price Rock ‘n Play and other inclined sleepers that do not meet the AAP standards for a safe sleep environment,” says Michael Goodstein, MD, a neonatologist and faculty expert for NAPPSS-IIN. “Before another infant can be harmed, we are urging the breastfeeding and safe sleep communities to spread the word about the danger of unsafe products.”

Read the full AAP statement [here](#). And remember to always follow and spread the AAP’s [safe sleep recommendations](#).

Looking for resources to help support families? Check out NICHQ’s [Safe Sleep Video Quiz teaching tool](#) or these free [safe sleep social media graphics](#).