

CPSC Magnet Injuries Grossly Exaggerated, According to Health Canada

Analysis of the same NEISS data by Health Canada shows that certain narratives from the Consumer Product Safety Commission have been profoundly misleading.

DENVER, CO, August 8, 2013

/EINPresswire.com/ -- "1,700 injuries requiring hospitalization! Warnings don't work! This is an epidemic!" The

[CPSC](#) has pulled the fire drill on magnets, furiously flailing for a ban on sets of high powered magnet spheres such as Buckyballs and [Zen Magnets](#), pulling unprecedented legal maneuvers, pressing for an all ages ban, and brushing off record breaking public outcry. Analysis of the

same NEISS data by Health Canada (HC) shows that certain narratives from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) have been profoundly misleading.

“

They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety”

Benjamin Franklin

The commission estimates 1,700 incidents of rare-earth magnet sets such as Buckyballs and Zen Magnets being swallowed and requiring emergency room care, in some cases surgery, in the three years beginning in January 2009, according to NEISS data. However, the U.S. federal safety

agency has been casually silent about injury data (using the same search filters and methods) from the 3 years before magnet spheres were introduced to market with the same search applied. Likely, because looking for magnet sphere injuries (in a period before the introduction of magnet spheres), would show only 6% increase in injuries (without accounting for the 1% annual U.S. population increase.) Of over 3 million sets sold during the 2009-2011, 94% of the alleged injuries that could be attributed to "magnet sets" also occurred in the period before magnet sets were even introduced to market. After a quarter of a million sets were sold in Canada, two recorded ingestion of Buckyballs were not enough of a data sample for meaningful investigations, thus leading Health Canada to the CPSC's NEISS data for further analysis. On page 12 of the Health Canada Risk Assessment:

"The definition of similar magnet is one [result] that comes up in a search using the same criteria



that could have been applied to identify a magnet set in the absence of the explicit mention of a magnet set's marketed name.

The following sets of words and variants of these words were used to scan for records that may have involved a magnet set or similar magnet: ball; sphere; round; powerful; bead; bb; pea; lentil; marble; magnet set; cube; square; bucky; buckyballs; neo; nib; nano; zen; little; mini; circular; tiny; petit; puissant; fort; eraser head; and small."

Results are found on Page 31 of the [HC Risk Assessment](#). Unlike the 1,700 CPSC estimated injuries, the values counted by Health Canada were not projected national averages. The injuries were also categorized between major and minor. A minor injury is one in which the patient is released, in some cases after receiving treatment. A major injury means the patient was hospitalized for observation, and may have received surgical procedures in attenuated cases. If the total gauge of 1,700 injuries was extrapolated from 118 injuries, then the CPSC injuries were inflated 17 fold since 111 of those injuries were accounted for by past injuries. The data shows that a greater portion of recent magnet ingestion incidents have lead to hospitalization, compared to numbers of the previous period.

The Canadian consumer safety watchdog has the reputation of being led by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission on a proverbial leash. Yet, their own data shows such actions unnecessary. Even before knowledge of CPSC's injury statistic inflation, magnet spheres (including Buckyballs) were safer than many household objects and toys. Aside from Buckyballs, most magnet sphere brands never sold their product as children's toys, or placed their product on retail shelves next to toys directed at children. The remaining companies still facing an administrative complaint in the U.S. are not associated with any injuries, one of many unprecedented attributes to the CPSC's fight picked against magnets. Zen Magnets LLC and Star Networks are currently in litigation procedures.

To this day, junior leadership at the CPSC is still leading the global push to ban magnet spheres, in the country that deeply values freedom, including the notable freedom to bear firearms. (A common quip is that the easy way to circumvent the CPSC, would be to to sell Buckyballs and Zen Magnets as ammunition for guns.) And if there **were** 1,700 injuries due to magnet spheres from 2009-2011, you should still be more afraid balloons, skateboards, trampolines and

Table 5b NEISS (US) data: Proportions of various diagnoses regarding reported magnet-related cases (years 2006-2011)

Data Source	Years	Injury Severity	Type of Diagnosis						Totals [†]	Ann. Avg. [‡]
			Aspirated		Ingested		Foreign Body			
			Total	Annual Avg.	Total	Annual Avg.	Total	Annual Avg.		
NEISS (US)	2006-2008 (3 years combined) Prior to Magnet Sets on US Market	Minor	5	<2	269	90	49	16	323	108
		Serious	2	<1	7	2	0	0	9	3
		Totals (3 years) and Annual Avg's. for Each Diagnosis 2006-08	7 (2%)	2	276 (83%)	92	49 (15%)	16	332 (100%)	111
	2009-2011 (3 years combined) Magnet Sets on US Market	Minor	3	1	283	94	33	11	319	106
		Serious	1	<1	31	10	2	<1	34	11
		Totals (3 years) and Annual Avg's. for Each Diagnosis 2009-11	4 (1%)	1	314 (89%)	105	35 (10%)	12	353 (100%)	118

[†]Values are not projected national estimates.
[‡]Annual average is presented for the sole purpose of facilitating comparisons.

Found on Page 31 of the HC Risk Assessment

swimming pools. By the way, there *aren't*.

Source: <http://savemagnets.com/massive-cpsc-misinformation-health-canada-analysis-shows/>

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