

injury mechanism is different from the one being examined in this report and is discussed in detail in a separate report on mesh sided cribs and playpens.

- II. Drapery and Blind Cords - CPSC is aware of 41 fatal hangings involving window cords. Most of these reports specifically referred to the child being in a crib at the time of the accident. This is a particularly insidious hazard, because it is quite natural to place a crib by a window. The victims in these cases ranged in age from 6 months to 4 years. There were only two children less than 9 months old; however, and the bulk of the cases, 27, involved children between 9 and 12 months of age.
- III. Ropes and Chains - There are a total of 33 cases involving ropes and chains around the necks of children less than 5 years of age; 30 of these were fatal. The victims in these cases were typically older children than those injured with other products. One 12-month old died with clothesline around her neck. All of the other victims were at least 2 years old. Fifteen were 4 years of age. Simply stated, each of these products was functioning as intended, and it was the nature of the product which led to its involvement. With the exception of a few cases involving jump ropes, none of these products were really children's products, and were not intended for use by children less than 5 years old.
- IV. Pacifier Cords - Twenty-nine cases of strangulation related to cords on pacifiers have been reported; 29 of these were fatalities. This hazard has been addressed by a labeling provision of the mandatory pacifier regulation. CPSC received a petition in 1980 to prohibit grip rings on pacifiers with the intent of eliminating the place on the pacifier where many pacifier cords in fatal accidents have been fastened. The staff research into the available data at the time indicated that fatal accidents have also occurred when cords were tied to other parts of the pacifiers, including through the ventilation holes of a pacifier which complied with the mandatory regulation. Most of the cases reported occurred before the February 1978 effective date of the pacifier regulation. Of those cases which occurred subsequent to that date, seven were followed up. Two of these were found to be complying pacifiers, including the one discussed above in which the cord was tied through the ventilation holes. All but two of the victims in these cases were 12 months old or younger. The youngest was 6 months old. We do not know for sure how common is the practice of tying pacifiers on cords around infants' necks. Small scale surveys done in response to the petition on grip rings indicated that the practice is not very common and appears to be decreasing in frequency.

Pacifier cords have caught on crib cornerposts, crib toys, other crib projections, and other projections around the house. There have also been incidents in which the pacifier cord strangled the victim by tangling around the victim's neck without catching on anything.

Table A3. Strangulation and Near Strangulation
Incidents to Children Less Than 5 Years of Age
Primary Product by Sex of Victim
N=298

PRIMARY PRODUCT	Total	SEX OF VICTIM		
		Male	Female	Unknown
Total	298	179	109	10
Clothing—Subtotal	(67)	(34)	(31)	(2)
Clothing, General	35	21	12	2
Clothing Strings	20	9	11	-
Buttons	12	4	8	-
Window Cords	41	23	18	-
Ropes/Chains/ Clotheslines	33	26	7	-
Toys—Subtotal	(30)	(20)	(7)	(3)
Toys	17	9	5	3
Crib Toys	13	11	2	-
Pacifier Cords	29	16	13	-
Bedding (loose threads)	16	5	8	3
Children's Furniture Straps	14	9	5	-
Cords	10	6	4	-
Harnesses	9	6	3	-
Strings	8	5	3	-
Play Equipment	6	5	1	-
Electric Cords	5	4	1	-
Necklaces	5	4	1	-
Bibs	2	1	1	-
Slings	2	2	-	-
Miscellaneous	21	13	6	2

SOURCE: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Epidemiology