

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Secretary's Advisory Panel Meeting:
Use of Crib Bumper Pads
May 20, 2011

Charge and Questions

Charge: The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has appointed this advisory panel to review comments received and to consider available relevant information documenting the risks and/or benefits to infants associated with the use of crib bumper pads. In addition, the panel will advise the Secretary as to what action, if any, is warranted. Specifically, there are several issues for which Department would like recommendations from the panel.

1. Please discuss as a group the published research presented to the panel.

Question A: Does the evidence support a finding that the use of crib bumpers provides benefits to infants? Please explain your reasoning.

Question B: Does the evidence support a finding that the use of crib bumper pads poses a substantial risk to infants? Please explain your reasoning.

2. If there is concern for risks to infants, please discuss as a group whether labeling is a possible solution.

Question C: Could improved labeling mitigate the dangers associated with the use of bumper pads in infant cribs? Please explain your reasoning and if yes, please suggest the type of labeling you would recommend.

3. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is in the process of considering the safety of bumper pads.

Question D: Should the Department provide input to the CPSC on bumper pads, and if so, what should that input be?

4. One option for the Department is to issue a warning to consumers.

Question E: Is a warning to consumers about the use of all or certain bumper pads justified, and if so, what do you recommend regarding the content of the warning?

5. The Department can regulate "hazardous materials," defined in part as "a toy or other substance intended for use by children that presents an electrical, mechanical, or thermal hazard."

Question F: Should the Department pursue regulations that define crib bumpers as "hazardous materials:?"

Question G: If so, should those regulations address the labeling of bumper pads?
Please provide specific recommendations if applicable or refer to your answer in
Question C if appropriate.

Question H: If so, should those regulations address the marketing of bumper pads?
Please provide specific recommendations if applicable.

Question I: If so, should those recommendations address the sale of bumper pads?
Please provide specific recommendations if applicable.