

This Month in
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THE EDITORS' PERSPECTIVES

Safety of bumper pads

As the Back to Sleep program has effectively decreased the incidence of SIDS, the residual causes of accidental deaths in infancy become more apparent. The recent discussions about the characteristics of bedding material, bed sharing and associations with smoking are examples of the scrutiny given to accidental deaths. In this issue of *The Journal*, Thach et al identify bumper pads used in cribs as another source of risk for injury and accidental death for infants. Their conclusions are based on the databases of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, which depend on what gets reported. Thus, there is neither an accurate numerator for the actual number of attributable injuries and deaths nor a denominator about frequency of use of bumper pads. Nevertheless, the probably low estimates do raise significant concerns that need to be recognized.

—Alan H. Jobe, MD, PhD
page 271 (article)
page 237 (editorial)

Treatment of childhood obesity: What works?

The epidemic of childhood obesity has left clinicians with important questions concerning effective management strategies. In this issue, van den Akker et al present the 1-year follow-up results of a multidisciplinary cognitive behavioral therapy approach to treat obese children. The program uses group therapy with a variety of behavioral therapy techniques. They found a weight loss of approximately 19% after 1 year in those who completed follow-up. Unfortunately, 33% of the patients dropped out. It is clear that behavioral therapy can be beneficial for some children who are overweight and obese. Further research is needed to determine more effective strategies for those children who drop out of therapy. In this study, the dropouts were older, had higher BMI at baseline, and were less successful in weight management at the early stages of therapy.

—Stephen R. Daniels, MD, PhD
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