

Facts about burn injuries in children

- Burns and fires are one of the leading causes of death for children.
- Burn injuries are the second most common cause of death in children, second to motor vehicle accidents.
- Thousands of children are hospitalized every year with burn injuries.
- Approximately 3,000 children die a year from burn injuries.
- Approximately 500 children die in fires annually.
- Approximately 83, 000 children are treated in emergency departments annually for burn injuries.
- If burn injuries are severe, the survivors suffer varying degrees of permanent physical disfigurement and psychological trauma.
- Burns are widely regarded as one of the most painful and complex injuries that a victim may endure.
- Survival and recovery from burn injuries is often very difficult and lengthy with serious complications along the way.
- Statistics show that children under four years old are two times more likely to sustain a burn injury than older children and therefore their death rate from burn injuries is higher.
- Death rates are highest in the younger population.
- Males and children are the most likely victims of serious burn injuries.
- The skin of younger children is thinner and therefore an injury from burns can cause a greater degree of injury.
- A young child's skin burns at a lower temperature and a greater depth than that of an older child or an adult's skin.
- Younger victims are less likely to survive due to the inability of their young bodies to endure the significant physical stress of injury and healing.
- The higher burn injury rate in young children can be attributed to the higher likelihood of sustaining injury from non-accidental burns in an abusive domestic setting.
- The developmental level of the child within a hazardous environmental setting is more likely to result in burn injury.
- Healthcare providers generally screen for non-accidental injury and hazardous environmental causes when burn injury victims are initially encountered in the clinical setting.
- Though a burn injury may be thought to be non-intentional, burn injuries are often preventable.
- Burn injuries are classified as flame contact injuries, flash injuries from combustible agents, thermal injuries, scalding injuries, chemical injuries or electrical burn injuries.
- Scalding burns from hot liquid are the most common cause of burn injury in younger children, while contact with flames resulting in burn injuries are more common in older children.
- House fires are responsible for very lethal injuries and are usually associated with inhalation injuries due to smoke exposure.

- A majority of burn victims are burned from residential fires.
- A majority of house fires or injuries involve cooking equipment or cigarettes.
- A majority of house fires occur during the winter months.
- Roughly 5% of burn . induced hospital admissions are due to house fires.
- Approximately 45% of house fire victims die as a result of their complex injuries.
- Death from house fires occurs more often in the African-American, Hispanic and Native American preschool population than in the non-Hispanic, white population.
- Over half the victims that are less than five years of age are sleeping at the time of the fire when they die.
- And of the population that is awake, approximately one third of the children are too young to respond appropriately to the circumstances during a fire.
- Inhalation injury is almost always associated with structural fire and accounts for a much early and late mortality.