



Burn Injury Fact Sheet

Burn injuries continue to be one of the leading causes of unintentional death and injury in the United States.

Between 2011 and 2015, approximately 486,000 fire or burn injuries were seen at Emergency Departments.¹

In 2016 alone, there were 3,390 civilian deaths from fires, which includes 2,800 deaths from residential structure fires, 150 deaths from non-residential structure fires 355 from vehicle fires, and 85 from outside and unclassified fires other than structure or vehicle fires.²

One civilian fire death occurs every 2 hours 35 minutes.²

The lifetime odds of a U.S. resident dying from exposure to fire, flames or smoke are 1 in 1,498.³

The primary causes of burn injury include fire-flame, scalds, contact with hot object, electrical and chemicals.

Nine out of ten people seen at emergency departments for fire or burn injuries in 2011-2015 were treated and released. (91% treated and released, 2% with disposition of observed/left AMA/unknown. 7% were hospitalized or transferred).²

Males are more likely to be burned than females (68% males and 32% females were seen at a burn unit). The difference was less pronounced in fire and burn injuries seen at emergency departments where 52% of the injured were male.²

Most of the burn injuries treated in burn centers occur in the home (73%) followed by work (8%).⁴

Tragically, children, and the disabled are especially vulnerable to burn injuries. Almost one-quarter (24%) of all burn injuries occur in children under the age of 15.²

Unintentional fire or burn injuries were the 5th leading cause of injury deaths in the United States in 2015 for children age 1-4, and the 3rd for those age 5-9. In those >65 burn injury was the 8th leading cause of death.⁵

In 2011-2015, children under five are 2.4 times as likely as the general population to suffer burn injuries that require emergency medical treatment.²

Young adults ages 20-29 have a probability of burn injury that is roughly 1.5 times the risk of the general population.²

Today, 96.7% of those treated in burn centers will survive.⁴ Unfortunately, many of those survivors will sustain serious scarring, life-long physical disabilities, and adjustment difficulties.



#NBAW

**National Burn
Awareness Week**

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¹ Produced by: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC, using WISQARS, Data Source: NEISS All Injury Program operated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission for numbers of injuries. Bureau of Census for population estimates. Accessed 10/13/2017

² Hylton J.G. Haynes, [Fire Loss in the United States during 2016](#)

³ National Safety Council (2017) *Injury Facts®*, "Lifetime Odds of Death for Selected Causes, United States, 2014," 2017 Edition, Itasca, IL. Author.,

⁴ American Burn Association, [National Burn Repository® 2016. Version 12.0.](#), Chicago, IL: Author.

⁵ Produced by: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC, using WISQARS, Data Source: National Center for Health statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics System. Accessed 10/17/2017