Burn and Scald Injuries Among Children Age 0 through 17 Years

Arizona, 2008

In 2008, 2,491 Arizona children were hospitalized or seen in an emergency department for a non-fatal burn injury.

4 children died from fires or burns.

The longest hospital stay for a non-fatal burn injury was 44 days.

99.4% of all burn/scald injuries among children were unintentional.

Children ages 1 through 4 years had the highest number and rate of non-fatal injury from fire or burns (n=1,264; 314 per 100,000 residents).

2,242 of the non-fatal hospitalizations and ED visits were from unintentional contact with hot objects or substances (90.6%)

233 of the non-fatal hospitalizations and ED visits were from unintentional fire or flames (9.4%)

Prevent burn injuries from fire and hot objects

- Set your water heater to 120 degrees or less
- Test bath water before putting a child in it
- Keep electrical cords out of children’s reach, so they can’t pull hot appliances down
- Watch children around space heaters
- Store chemicals and cleaning products in a locked cabinet
- Create and practice a family fire escape plan
- Make sure cigarettes are completely out
- Never leave candles unattended
- Install smoke alarms in your home
- Seek immediate medical attention for burns to the face, hands, or feet

The 2,324 non-fatal emergency department visits totaled over $3.1 million in hospital charges.

On average, each non-fatal inpatient hospitalization resulted in $62,629 in hospital charges.

Total hospital charges for all non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations were over $10.4 million.

Among the 2,242 unintentional burns from hot objects or substances:

- Hot/boiling tap water: 7% (n=151)
- Caustic or corrosive substances: 8% (n=187)
- Hot liquids or vapors: 36% (n=808)
- Other hot objects: 47% (n=1,042)
- Unspecified hot objects or substances: 2% (n=53)

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