



Mar 2007

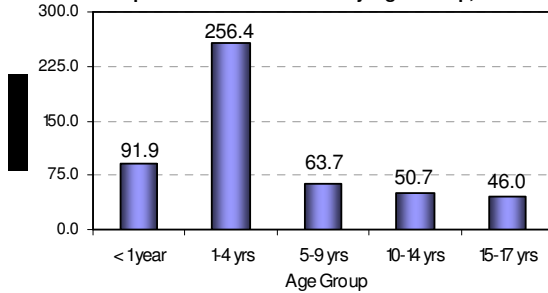
# Hospitalizations and Emergency Dept. Visits Due to Burns Children Aged 0-17 Years, Miami-Dade County, 2005

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INJURY FACTS

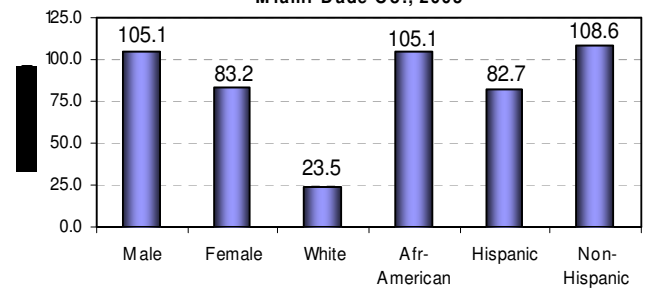
Burns are among the most painful injuries to young children. They often require the need for long rehabilitation and the possibility of physical scarring. Most young children suffer scald burns from hot liquids or steam. In 2005, there were 531 emergency department visits and 31 hospitalizations due to burns to county residents aged 0-17 years. No burn-related deaths occurred to this age group during 2005.



**Nonfatal Burn Rate per 100,000  
County Residents Aged 0-17 Years  
Hospitalized and ED Visits by Age Group, 2005**

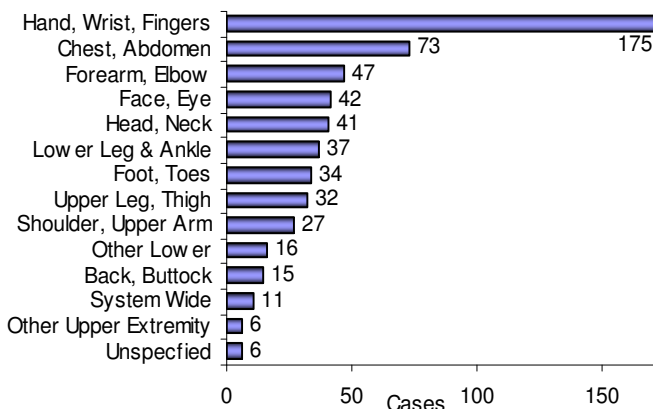


**Nonfatal Burn Rate per 100,000  
Residents Aged 0-17 Years  
Hospitalized and ED Visits by Gender, Race, Ethnicity  
Miami-Dade Co., 2005**

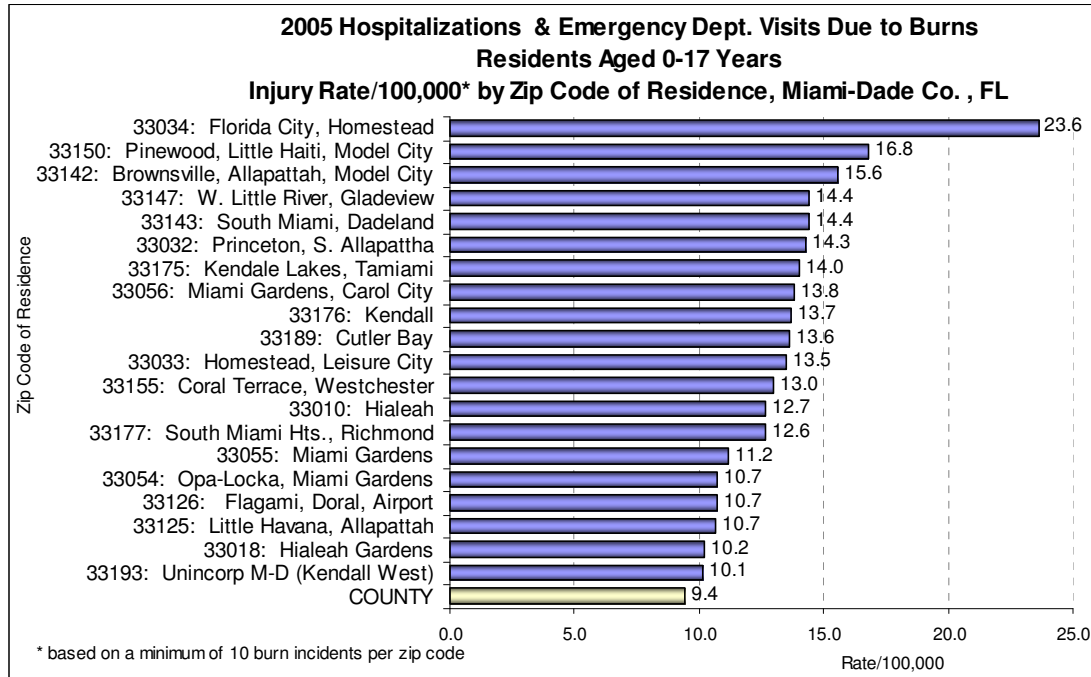


- Children aged 1-4 years had a rate of medically-treated burn injuries that was nearly 3 times greater than any other age group. Children aged less than 2 years old were treated for 209 (37%) of these burn injuries with 56 cases occurring to infants less than 1 year old.
- The rate of medically-treated burn injury for African-American children was more than 4 times greater than White children. Male and Non-Hispanic children had higher rates for burns than female and Hispanic children respectively.
- Wounds to the hand, wrist or fingers were the most common site of burn injuries. Overall, 45% of patients suffered burns to the upper extremities followed by lower extremities (21%), torso (16%) and head or face (15%).
- Nearly one-half of the burn-related injuries did not specify what agent caused the burn and were therefore classified an unspecified burns. Among the 249 injuries that documented the agent causing the burn, 89% were due to boiling or scalding liquids and the remaining 11% due to caustic substances.

**Body Region Injured Due to Burns  
Residents Aged 0-17 Years, Miami-Dade Co., 2005**



## Residence of Children Injured by Burns



- The zip code 33034 (Florida City and Homestead) and the communities that compose the adjacent zip codes 33150, 33142 and 33147 experienced the highest rates of child burn injuries among zip codes that had an incidence of at least 10 medically-treated burns in 2005.

## Reducing the Risk of Burns

Here are some safety tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (aap.org) to help prevent scalds

### Kitchen Concerns

- Enforce a "kid-free" zone 3 feet around the oven or stove when cooking. Use a playpen or high chair to keep kids in a safe place. Never leave a child alone in the kitchen when food is cooking.
- Use back burners if possible. When using front burners, turn pot handles towards the back of the stove. Never let them stick out where a child could grab them.
- Do not handle, eat or drink hot items while holding children.
- Never leave hot liquids, like a cup of coffee, where children can reach them. A child can get burned from hot liquids by pulling on hanging tablecloths. Consider replacing tablecloths with placemats.
- Test microwaved food for heat and steam before giving it to your child. (Never warm a bottle in the microwave. It can heat unevenly and burn your child.)

### Hot Water

- Make sure your hot water temperature is set for no more than 120° F (49° C).
- When using tap water, always turn on the cold water first, then add hot. Turn off the hot water first.
- Test the temperature of bath water with your forearm or wrist before placing your child in the water.
- If using a vaporizer, use a cool-mist. Hot water vaporizers can cause steam burns or spill on your child.
- Never leave children alone in the bathroom for any reason. They are at risk for burns.

Produced by the Miami-Dade County Injury Surveillance System

Data Sources: Hospital Discharge & Emergency Department Data

Agency for Health Care Administration

PHONE (IFCK): 305-804-7212 (MDCHD): 305-470-5649

E-MAIL: [sdearwater@med.miami.edu](mailto:sdearwater@med.miami.edu)

<http://dadehealth.org/injury/INJURYintro.asp>

