



July 2011

# Fire-Related Injuries to Children Aged 0-17 Miami-Dade County, 2005-2009

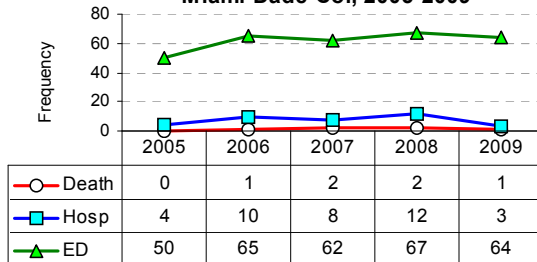
## Miami-Dade County Injury Facts



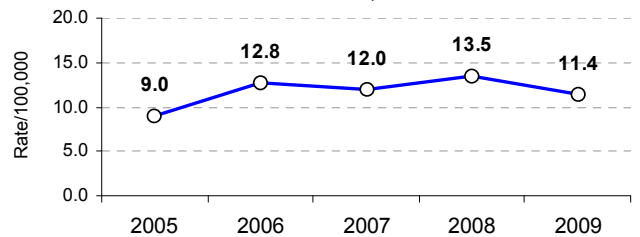
Most residential fire-related deaths and injuries are very preventable. Smoke alarms decrease the chances of dying in a house fire by up to 50%, but 1/4 of U.S. households lack working smoke alarms. Children under 5 years of age are one of the highest risk groups for deaths and injuries in residential fires.

Fatal and nonfatal injuries from fires have remained relatively low in Miami-Dade County over the past decade. Between 2005-2009, there were 6 deaths, 37 hospitalizations and 308 emergency department (ED) visits due to fires to Miami-Dade County children aged 0-17 years.

Fire Injuries, Residents Age 0-17  
Miami-Dade Co., 2005-2009



Fire Injury Rate, Residents Age 0-17  
Miami-Dade Co., 2005-2009

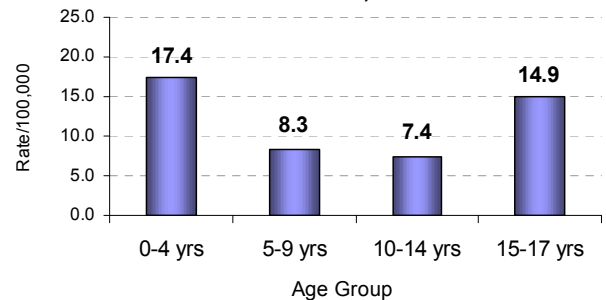


- The injury rate for fire-related injuries to children has increased 26% since 2005.
- Fire incidents did not cluster on any particular day of the week or time of the day.

### Who is At Risk?

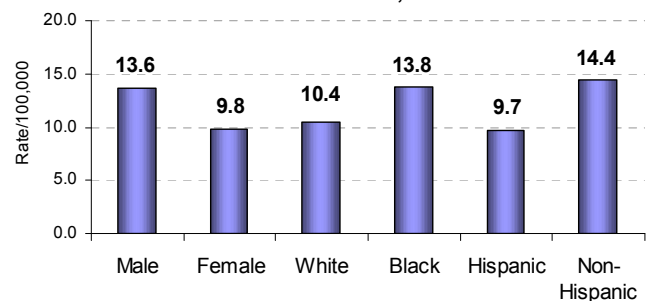
- Fire-related injuries occurred most often to children 0-4 years of age followed by children aged 15-17 years. Four of the 6 deaths occurred to children age 0-4.

Fire-related Injury Rate by Age Group  
Deaths, Hospitalizations and ED Visits  
Miami-Dade Co, 2005-09



- Male children suffered 59% of fire injuries and had a fire injury rate 39% higher than female children.
- Although white children suffered 63% of fire injuries, their fire injury rate was 25% lower than black children.
- The fire injury rate for Hispanic children was 33% lower than non-Hispanic children.

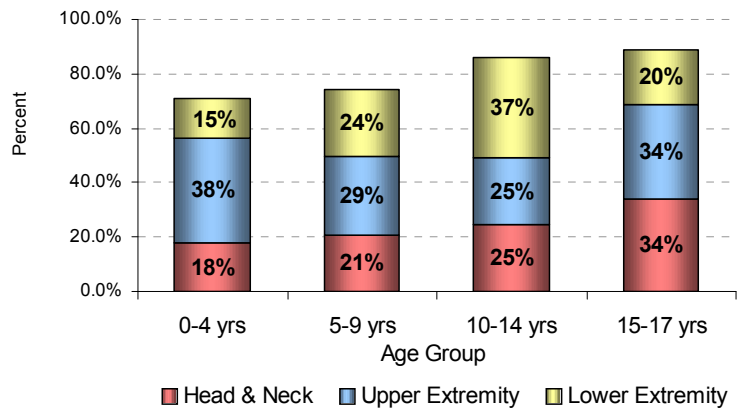
Fire-related Injury Rate by Gender, Race, Ethnicity  
Deaths, Hospitalizations and ED Visits  
Miami-Dade Co, 2005-09



## Body Region Injured by Fire Injuries

- When grouped by body region, 33% of child fire injuries involved upper extremities, 23% were to the head or neck region and 22% involved the lower extremities.
- Wounds to the hand, wrist or fingers were the most common site of injuries sustained from fires (22%) followed by injuries to the head/neck (10), face (5%), eye (7%), lower leg/ankle (8%) and foot/toes (7%).

Percentage of Fire-related Injuries by Primary Body Region Injured & Age Group

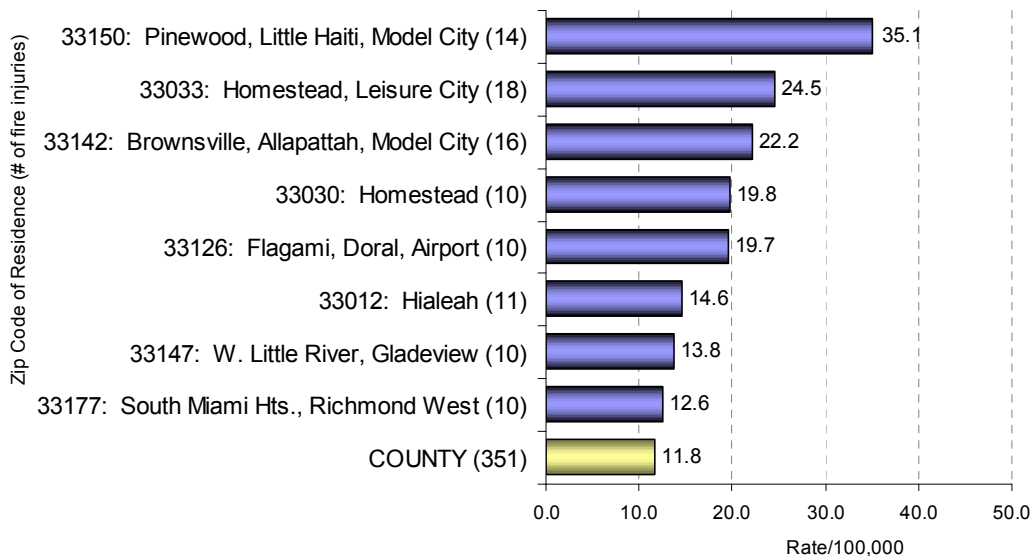


## Residence of Children Injured by Fires

Eight zip codes in the county experienced 10 or more child fire-related injuries between 2005-2009. Two areas of the county experienced higher rates of child fire-related injuries:

- The fire injury rate for 33150 (14 injuries) in the Pinewood/Little Haiti Model City area was more than 3-times greater than the county rate.
- Two other zip codes that are adjacent to 33150 also experienced high fire injury rates: 33142 (16 injuries) which includes Brownsville and parts of Allapattah and Model City and 33147 (10 injuries) which includes W. Little River and Gladeview.
- The Homestead area zip codes of 33033 (18 injuries) and 33030 (10 injuries) had the 2nd and 4th highest rates of child fire injuries.

Deaths, Hospitalizations & Emergency Dept. Visits Due to Fire Injuries Residents Aged 0-17 by Zip Code of Residence Miami-Dade Co., FL 2005-2009



## Reducing the Risk from Fires

- Keep matches, lighters, gasoline and other flammable materials locked away and out of children's reach.
- Two out of three cooking fires start with the stove. Never leave cooking unattended. If a pan of food catches fire, slide a lid over it and turn off the burner.
- Provide smokers with large, deep ashtrays. Wet the ashes before throwing ashes away. Never smoke while in bed or while drowsy.
- Give space heaters plenty of space. Keep them at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn. Unplug them when not in use.
- Working smoke alarms were not found to be present in 2/3 of residential fires in which a child is injured or killed. Install smoke alarms in your home on every level and in every sleeping room
  - Test them once a month
  - Replace batteries twice a year, when you re-set your clocks
  - Replace the alarm every 10 years
- More than one-half of children aged less than five who die from fires are asleep at the time. Plan and practice several fire escape routes from each room of the home and identify an outside meeting place.

### Produced by the Miami-Dade County Injury Surveillance System

Data Sources: Death Certificates, Office of Vital Statistics, FL Dept. of Health  
Medical Examiner Records, Miami County Medical Examiner Dept.  
Hospital Discharge & ED Data, Agency for Health Care Administration  
PHONE (IFCK): 305-804-7212 (MDCHD): 305-470-5649  
E-MAIL: [stephen.dearwater@jhs-miami.org](mailto:stephen.dearwater@jhs-miami.org)  
WEBSITE: <http://dadehealth.org/injury/INJURYintro.asp>

