

# Burns

## Summary

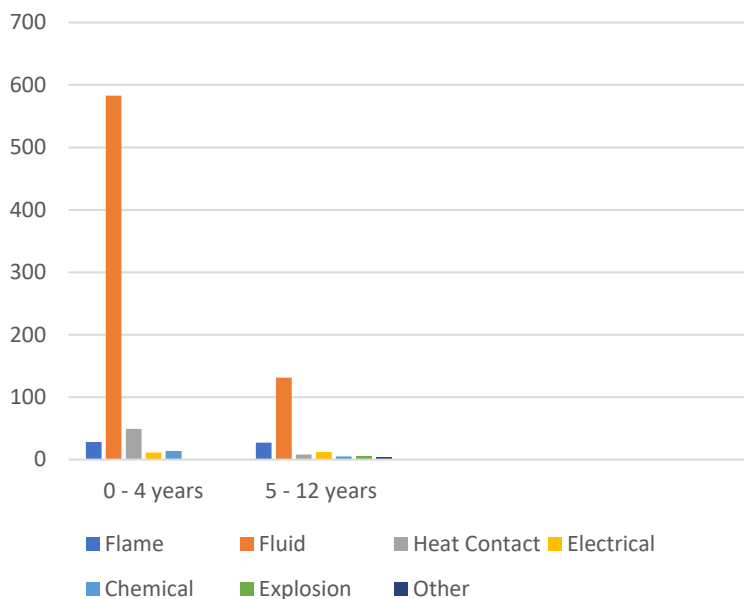


- Burns were the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of injury - 16%
- Burn injuries were at their lowest in 2019 over a 5- year period at 880 cases treated, 1117 in 2018.
- 531 children were admitted for their burn injuries, representing 60% of all burn injuries treated.
- Boys were more affected than girls; 76% of children hospitalised for fire burn injuries were boys.
- Liquid burns accounted for 80% of all burns in children under 9 years.
- Nearly all burns took place at home, especially in the kitchen, in children under 4 years.
- The severity of the burns was distributed as minor (185), moderate (1283), severe (52).
- The winter period of June to September had highest number of burn cases.
- Boys and younger children are at higher risk of fire related injury.

We can reduce the burden of burn injuries through:

- Using smoke alarms in all homes.
- Reducing hot water temperatures to 50 degrees Celsius on hot water geysers.
- Teaching parents and caregivers how to make homes burn injury free.
- Securing electric kettle cords out of children's reach
- Turning pot and pan handles out of children's reach
- Putting out candles before leaving a room or going to sleep
- Keeping hot drinks out of children's reach
- Keeping matches and lighters stored out of children's reach

## Cause of burns by age group



Children under 5 years have highest incidence of burn injuries (89%).

Of the under 5 years, 85% of burns were hot fluid burns

Overall hot fluid burns accounted for 83% of all burn injuries across the age groups

All hot fluid burns happened in the home

## Burn injuries by time of year

Burn injuries occur most frequently during the winter season (green), between June and September, when it is coldest.

