# A multi-institutional study evaluating pediatric burn injuries during the COVID-19 pandemic

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None

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## Abstract

During the COVID-19 pandemic, children were out of school due to Stay-at-Home orders. The objective of this study was to investigate how the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted the incidence of burn injuries in children. Eight Level I Pediatric Trauma Centers participated in a retrospective study evaluating children <18 years old with traumatic injuries defined by the National Trauma Data Bank. Patients with burn injuries were identified by ICD-10 codes. Historical controls from March-September 2019 ("Control" cohort) were compared to patients injured after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic from March-September 2020 ("COVID" cohort). A total of 12,549 pediatric trauma patients were included, of which 916 patients had burn injuries. Burn injuries increased after the start of the pandemic (COVID 522/6711 [7.8%] vs. Control 394/5838 [6.7%], p=0.03). There were no significant differences in age, race, insurance status, burn severity, injury severity score, intent or location of injury, and occurrence on a weekday or weekend between cohorts. There was an increase in flame burns (COVID 140/522 [26.8%] vs. Control 75/394 [19.0%], p=0.01) and a decrease in contact burns (COVID 118/522 [22.6%] vs. Control 112/394 [28.4%], p=0.05). More patients were transferred from an outside institution (COVID 315/522 patients [60.3%] vs. Control 208/394 patients [52.8%], p=0.02), and intensive care unit length of stay increased (COVID median 3.5 days [interquartile range 2.0-11.0] vs. Control median 3.0 days [interquartile range 1.0-4.0], p=0.05). Pediatric burn injuries increased after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic despite Stay-at-Home orders intended to optimize health and increase public safety.

Key words: Pediatric burns; COVID-19; burn injury; pediatric trauma

#### Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic led to an unprecedented change in the daily lives of children. In the United States, implementation of mandatory Stay-at-Home Orders (SHOs) led to closures of nonessential businesses and schools. For younger children, access to daycare facilities was variable due to regional heterogeneity in the extent of SHO provisions, and older children were without access to many of their regular extracurricular activities.<sup>1–3</sup> Furthermore, the pandemic and subsequent local and regional societal responses led to an unprecedented combination of increased family stress, increased unemployment, and loss of family and social support, including support for childhood supervision.<sup>4,5</sup> These changes may have led to an increased risk of unintentional injury, particularly for children who would have otherwise been in a structured setting outside of the home. Burns are a common unintentional injury in children that often occur at home.

During the early months of the pandemic, a number of single institution studies described changes in pediatric burn injuries, with considerable variability in the findings.<sup>4,6–9</sup> Study periods were frequently restricted to a number of weeks after the pandemic began, and data were often from referral centers or combined adult/pediatric centers.<sup>4,6,8–11</sup> Multi-institutional, large-scale studies that investigate changes in pediatric burn injuries during the COVID-19 pandemic are lacking.

The objective of this study was to perform a multi-institutional evaluation of how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the incidence of burn injuries in children. We investigated how burn injuries in children changed during this unprecedented time compared to a historic cohort, including changes in patient and burn characteristics and hospital outcomes. We hypothesized that pediatric unintentional burn injuries increased during the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Methods

## Study Population

A retrospective study of children <18 years of age with burn injuries at eight Level I Pediatric Trauma Centers was performed. All patients met National Trauma Data Bank inclusion criteria. Of the eight centers, two were verified by the American Burn Association (ABA), four were non-ABA verified burn centers, and two did not define themselves as burn centers. Patients with burn injuries were defined as having at least one documented burn injury, as identified by International Classification of Diseases, 10<sup>th</sup> revision (ICD-10), Diagnosis and/or External Cause of Injury Codes (Appendix 1). The "COVID cohort" included patients injured after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, defined by the implementation of the SHOs at each site (varying dates in March and early April), through September 2020. These patients were compared to historical controls treated during the same time period in 2019 ("Control" cohort). This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at each site with a waiver of consent.

# Patient, Burn, and Clinical Characteristics

Patient age, sex, race, ethnicity, and insurance status were collected. Burn characteristics, such as degree of burn, total body surface area (TBSA), type of burn, and anatomic burn location were determined from the ICD-10 coding structure. For degree of burn, 'Superficial' was defined as first degree burns while 'Deep' was defined as second degree (i.e. partial thickness) or third degree (i.e. full thickness). Injury information included intent of injury, location of injury, weekday or weekend injury occurrence, and injury severity score (ISS). Intentional injuries included suicide, assault, and unspecified intentional injuries. Many patients had more than one type of burn and/or more than one body location affected.

Outcomes of interest included number of patients admitted to the hospital, admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU), and that required intubation in addition to hospital length of stay (LOS), ICU LOS, ventilator days, mortality, and hospital discharge disposition. Median LOS, ICU LOS, and ventilator days were calculated among all patients admitted to the hospital, those admitted to the ICU, and those on mechanical ventilation, respectively. The number of burn injuries, ICU admissions, and transfers from a referring institution were calculated per site to investigate any regional variation that may have impacted the aforementioned outcomes.

#### Statistical Analysis

Comparisons between cohorts were performed using Chi-squared tests for categorical variables and Wilcoxon signed-rank tests for continuous, non-parametric variables. Statistical significance was set at  $p \le 0.05$ . In the setting of this exploratory analysis, when a variable with more than two groups was statistically significant, comparisons of binomial proportions were completed to understand which group was statistically different.

Additionally, temporal trends over time were analyzed. The number of pediatric burn patients per week from January 1-September 30 for 2019 and 2020 was depicted on a time series plot to compare burn injuries during the COVID and Control time periods. January-February was included to capture the presence or absence of a temporal trend before the COVID-19 pandemic started. An overlying LOESS smoothing line was implemented to represent the moving average in addition to a line of best fit.<sup>12</sup> Differences in the density distribution were compared with Kolmogorov-Smirnov testing and linear trends were compared with slope analysis.<sup>13</sup> All statistical analysis was performed using RStudio<sup>®</sup>, version 1.4.1717.

#### Results

## Demographics

A total of 12,549 pediatric trauma patients were identified among the two cohorts, of which 916 patients had burn injuries. There was an increase in burn injuries during the COVID-19 pandemic (COVID 522/6711 patients [7.8%] vs. Control 394/5838 patients [6.7%], p=0.03). The average number of burn patients treated per week also increased (Figure 1; p<0.001). In addition, more patients were transferred from a referring institution during the COVID-19 pandemic (COVID 315/522 patients [60.3%] vs. Control 208/394 patients [52.8%], p=0.02). For overall differences by institution, six centers had an increase in burn injuries between the Control and COVID cohorts, with increases ranging from 13.3%-78.6%. One institution had no meaningful change in burn injuries and one had a 4.9% decrease in burn injuries from the Control to COVID cohort.

## Patient and Injury Characteristics

There were no statistically significant differences between the COVID and Control cohort in regards to age, sex, race, and insurance status (Table 1). With regard to ethnicity, the COVID cohort had fewer patients in the 'Unknown/Missing' category (p<0.001) but no significant difference in the Hispanic (p=0.46) and non-Hispanic (p=0.09) categories.

Degree of burn, TBSA, anatomic burn location, number of inhalational injuries, intent of injury, location of injury, weekend compared to weekday injury occurrence, and overall ISS did not differ between the COVID and Control cohorts (Table 2). The number of flame burns in the COVID cohort was significantly greater than in the Control cohort (140/522 patients [26.8%] vs. 75/394 patients [19.0%], p=0.01). There were also significantly less contact burns in the COVID cohort compared to the Control cohort (118/522 [22.6%] patients vs. 112/394 [28.4%] patients, p=0.05). There was no significant difference in scald burns between the two cohorts.

## Hospital Outcomes and Characteristics

Within the COVID cohort, 73.9% (386/522) of patients were admitted to the hospital compared to 79.7% (314/394) in the Control cohort (p=0.05), though there was no significant difference in hospital LOS or discharge disposition (Table 3). There was no significant difference in the proportion of patients admitted to the ICU or intubated between the COVID and Control cohorts. However, for patients that were admitted to the ICU, there was a statistically significant increase in the median ICU LOS in the COVID cohort (3.5 days [interquartile range (IQR) 2.0-11.0] vs. 3.0 days [IQR 1.0-4.0], p=0.05). When ICU admissions were stratified by site, there was no site that had a disproportionate change in ICU admissions compared to others. There were no significant difference in significant differences in number of ventilator days between the two cohorts.

#### Discussion

This multi-institutional study found that pediatric burn injuries increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, a higher percentage of children with burn injuries were transferred from a referring institution. Flame burns increased during the pandemic while contact burns decreased. Despite similar overall ISS and burn severity between cohorts, the ICU LOS was higher in the COVID cohort. However, the number of ICU admissions did not significantly increase.

The findings of our study are concordant with reports in adults and combined adult/pediatric studies, which also found an increase in burn injuries associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4,6,8,9</sup> The findings may be in part due to an increase in the transfer of children with burn injuries to pediatric centers when adult and adult/pediatric hospitals were under strain due to the COVID-surge, and indeed a higher percentage of transfers was found in this study. However, the identified relative increase in transfers between the two cohorts does not fully account for the observed

increase in burn injuries. In addition, no simultaneous decrease in ISS or burn severity was identified, which might be expected if the increase in burns was simply due to many children with minor burns being transferred during the pandemic who would have otherwise been cared for at referring facilities. There were also no clear patterns that drove relative differences in burn injuries by institution. Regional variation that caused some centers to have a higher increase in burn injuries than others may be driven by burn center verification, proximity to other sites that treat pediatric burns, changing admission patterns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and other unmeasurable factors.

Contrary to speculation that there would be more burn injuries due to increased time at home, possibly with less supervision, we identified no change in burn injury location (i.e. home or outside the home) and no differences between weekday and weekend incidence for burn injuries. These findings potentially indicate that being at home and out of school for an extended period of time was not an instigating factor for the increase in burn injuries. We surmise that if school and daycare cancellations were a factor contributing to the increase in burn injuries, then there would have been an increase in injuries occurring on a weekday and/or at home in the COVID cohort.

An increase in flame and a decrease in contact burns in particular was identified in the COVID cohort compared to the Control cohort. There were no changes in scald burns. Our multiinstitutional study provides further insight on a large scale into delineating which types of burns had a higher risk of occurrence during the initial 6 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the initial SHOs. Other studies have evaluated the change in burn type during the COVID-19 pandemic with varying results. Sanford et al. and Williams et al. both reported a similar increase in flame burns in their single-instutional studies.<sup>4,14</sup> Williams et al. reported flame burns tripled, while contact and scald injuries increased by 70% and 15%, respectively, between 2019 and 2020.<sup>14</sup> In contrast, a single-institutional study by D'asta et al. in the United Kingdom noted an increase in scald burns rather than flame burns, which they attributed to the practice of steam inhalation as a method of infection treatment in the United Kingdom.<sup>8</sup> The decrease in contact burns in our study could be due to the relative and notable increase in flame burns. Although our study identified that most flame burns occurred outside of a building and by flame exposure or by ignition of flammable material, we were unable to ascertain the specific etiology from the dataset utilized. However, perhaps relevant to the increase in flame burns during the pandemic in the United States is the cancellation of professional fireworks shows associated with the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. In the summer of 2020, consumer fireworks sales increased by as much as 200%-300% since other entertainment options were non-existent.<sup>15</sup> From June-July 2020, there were 3,000 more fireworks-related injuries that were treated in the emergency department compared to the same period in 2019.<sup>16,17</sup> Teenagers from the ages of 15-19 years old had the second highest number of fireworks-related injuries, occurring in 6.1 injuries per 100,000 people.<sup>16</sup> Outdoor firepits and propane/electronic heaters were bought and used in greater numbers, as some families may have attempted to safely gather outside rather than indoors, especially during colder months.<sup>18,19</sup> An associated rise in pediatric burns due to firepits and heaters has also been reported.<sup>20</sup>

Our study found no significant difference in the age of children with burn injuries between the COVID cohort and Control cohort. In contrast, Williams et al.'s evaluation of pediatric burns treated at a burn center in North Carolina identified a 28% increase in burns in school-aged children between March 10<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 compared to a month-matched historical cohort.<sup>6</sup> Likewise, D'asta et al. retrospectively evaluated patients treated at a United Kingdom-based regional pediatric burn center between March 23d and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 compared to the same time period in 2019, and reported an increase in mean age from 2.9 years to 4.8 years.<sup>6,8</sup> The findings of our study may differ due to use of multiple reporting sites rather than a single-institution and because our sites are all dedicated children's hospitals rather than primarily burn centers, which may have narrowed the age range treated. In addition, our study investigated the impact of COVID-19 on burn injuries for a longer period of time than previous studies. Our study found no statistically significant increase in the degree of burn or TBSA between the two cohorts. This finding is similar to that reported by Tatar et al., who found no increase in burn severity at a pediatric burn center in Romania during a two month period after March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 compared to the same time period in 2019.<sup>11</sup> Our study's findings are in contrast, however, to a study from Sethuraman and colleagues, who reviewed data from a tertiary care pediatric hospital and burn referral center and reported an increase in the proportion of house fires, burns >5% TBSA, and ICU admissions when comparing the 2.5 weeks of SHOs in 2020 to the same dates in 2019.<sup>7</sup> D'asta et al. also found that children presenting with burns during the SHO period had greater TBSA involvement, with 50% experiencing >5% TBSA burns and 29% experiencing >10% TBSA burns.<sup>8</sup> Our study's findings may vary in part because not all of the included sites have dedicated burn centers and we investigated the impact of COVID-19 over a longer period of time. Triage patterns during the pandemic may have changed, guiding care to regional burn centers to keep beds open locally for other patients.

Our study identified a decrease in the proportion of patients admitted for their burn injuries after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, without a change in hospital LOS. This finding may be due to a higher threshold to admit patients in order to save hospital beds for COVID patients, as well as a concerted effort to expeditiously discharge patients and minimize exposure to hospitalized COVID-positive patients. Similarly, D'Asta et al. reported the LOS/TBSA ratio went from 1.04 in their 2019 cohort to 0.42 during the United Kingdom's lockdown period; therefore, for the same TBSA, patients were in the hospital for fewer days during lockdown in 2020 as compared to 2019.<sup>8</sup> The authors of that study hypothesized that change may reflect management of larger burns in an outpatient setting.<sup>8</sup> This hypothesis is plausible given that parents and other caregivers may have been more readily available to learn care and transition to the home environment during the pandemic.

Of note, the ICU LOS in our study increased after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, though there was no difference in number of ICU admissions. This increased LOS was not explained by increased severe burn injury, as both TBSA and depth of burn were unchanged. In addition, ISS and the number of inhalational injuries were similar. Upon query of the participating sites, we found that some sites changed work flow patterns to include the provision of sedation services in the ICU instead of the emergency department and/or operating room due to resource limitations during the pandemic. This practice may in part explain the differences seen in ICU LOS.

There are several limitations to our study. The study was retrospective in nature, which introduces potential selection bias, misclassification bias, unknown/missing data, and recording errors depending on how the data were documented. Additionally, we were unable to distinguish exact etiologies of the contact, scald, and flame burns due to limitations imposed by ICD-10 codes. Our study was also limited only to patients meeting National Trauma Data Bank inclusion criteria, which means that children who presented from home for their injury and were discharged from the emergency department were not included. This exclusion potentially represents a sizable number of young children, in particular those with minor scald injuries. However, this number may not be different in the absence of COVID-19 considerations. And if this selection bias was in fact present, one would expect more burns, not fewer burns, may have been seen and discharged from the emergency department during the pandemic in order to avoid hospitalization. The estimated increase in burns may therefore be conservative, and the true difference in all burns sustained by children during the pandemic actually greater.

Our study demonstrated that the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic coincided with an increase in burn injuries among children and a change in the relative types of burns sustained. More studies are needed to delineate the context in which these burn injuries occur so injury prevention strategies can be modified or developed accordingly. Disruptive situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, may change the risk of injury for children, such that tailored injury prevention programs warrant consideration.

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| centers during the COVID-19 pande |             |             |         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
|                                   | COVID       | Control     | P-value |
| Ago (voors)                       | N = 522 (%) | N = 394 (%) |         |
| Age (years)                       | 114 (21 0)  | 105 (26 7)  | 0.41    |
| <1                                | 114 (21.8)  | 105 (20.7)  | 0.41    |
| 1-4                               | 188 (36.0)  | 139 (35.3)  |         |
| 5-9                               | 93 (17.8)   | 67 (17.0)   |         |
| 10-14                             | 85 (16.3)   | 51 (12.9)   |         |
| 15 – 17                           | 42 (8.1)    | 32 (8.1)    |         |
| Sex                               |             |             |         |
| Male                              | 328 (62.8)  | 247 (62.7)  | 0.96    |
| Female                            | 194 (37.2)  | 147 (37.3)  |         |
| Race                              |             |             |         |
| White                             | 334 (64.0)  | 250 (63.5)  | 0.79    |
| African American                  | 127 (24.3)  | 88 (22.3)   |         |
| Asian/Pacific Islander            | 16 (3.1)    | 13 (3.3)    |         |
| Other                             | 29 (5.6)    | 27 (6.9)    |         |
| Unknown/Missing                   | 16 (3.1)    | 16 (4.1)    |         |
| Ethnicity                         |             |             |         |
| Hispanic                          | 41 (7.9)    | 25 (6.4)    | 0.001   |
| Non-Hispanic                      | 466 (89.3)  | 336 (85.3)  |         |
| Unknown/Missing*                  | 15 (2.9)    | 33 (8.4)    |         |
| Insurance                         |             |             |         |
| Private                           | 164 (31.4)  | 129 (32.7)  | 0.89    |
| Public                            | 307 (58.8)  | 231 (58.6)  |         |
| No Insurance                      | 26 (5.0)    | 19 (4.8)    |         |
| Unknown/Missing                   | 25 (4.8)    | 15 (3.8)    |         |
| Transferred from outside          | 315 (60.3)  | 208 (52.8)  | 0.02    |
| institution                       | . ,         |             |         |

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of children with burn injuries at eight pediatric trauma centers during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to a corresponding time period in the year prior

\*P-value < 0.001 for 'Unknown/Missing'; the other variables for ethnicity were not statistically significant

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| Table 2. Burn injur | y characteristics of chi | ildren with burn inj | uries at eight pediatri | c trauma centers |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| during the COVID    | 19 pandemic compare      |                      | ng time period in the y | rear prior       |
| Descriptive Charac  | teristics                |                      |                         | p-value          |
| Degree of Burn      |                          | N (%)                | IN (%)                  |                  |
| Degree of Burn      | Suparficial              | 20 (E 1)             | 15 (2.0)                | 0.27             |
|                     | Superficial              |                      | 15 (5.6)                | 0.57             |
|                     | Deep                     | 321 (01.5)           | 240 (60.9)              |                  |
|                     | Unspecified              | 25 (4.4)             | 12 (3.1)                |                  |
| Total Pady Surface  |                          | 150 (28.7)           | 127 (32.2)              |                  |
|                     | < 10%                    | 220 (62 0)           | 2E4 (64 E)              | 0.27             |
|                     | < 10%                    | 329 (63.0)           |                         | 0.27             |
|                     | ≥ 10%                    | 50 (10.7)            | 52 (13.2)               |                  |
| T                   | Unknown/iviissing        | 137 (26.3)           | 88 (22.3)               |                  |
| Type of Burn*       | Courtoat                 | 110 (22 C)           | 112 (20.4)              | 0.05             |
|                     | Contact                  | 118 (22.6)           | 112 (28.4)              | 0.05             |
|                     | Scald                    | 146 (28.0)           | 126 (32.0)              | 0.21             |
|                     | Flame                    | 140 (26.8)           | 75 (19.0)               | 0.01             |
| <u> </u>            | Unspecified**            | 519 (99.4)           | 390 (99.0)              | 0./1             |
| Anatomic Burn Loc   | cation*                  |                      |                         |                  |
| F                   | lead, Face, and Neck     | 133 (25.5)           | 87 (22.1)               | 0.27             |
|                     | Trunk***                 | 152 (29.1)           | 117 (29.7)              | 0.91             |
|                     | Upper Extremity          | 210 (40.2)           | 158 (40.1)              | 1.00             |
|                     | Lower Extremity          | 144 (27.6)           | 124 (31.5)              | 0.23             |
|                     | Inhalation Injury        | 4 (0.8)              | 1 (0.3)                 | 0.56             |
|                     | Unknown/Missing          | 162 (31.0)           | 143 (36.3)              | 0.11             |
| Intent of Injury    |                          |                      |                         |                  |
|                     | Intentional              | 42 (8.1)             | 33 (8.4)                | 0.96             |
|                     | Unintentional            | 479 (91.8)           | 360 (91.4)              |                  |
|                     | Unknown/Missing          | 1 (0.2)              | 1 (0.3)                 |                  |
| Location of Injury  | OX                       |                      |                         |                  |
|                     | Home                     | 267 (51.1)           | 188 (47.7)              | 0.18             |
|                     | Outside of Home          | 21 (4.0)             | 26 (6.6)                |                  |
|                     | Unknown/Missing          | 234 (44.8)           | 180 (45.7)              |                  |
| Day of the Week     |                          |                      |                         |                  |
|                     | Weekday                  | 330 (63.2)           | 258 (65.5)              | 0.74             |
|                     | Weekend                  | 192 (36.8)           | 136 (34.5)              |                  |
| Injury Severity Sco | re                       |                      |                         |                  |
|                     | 0 - 14                   | 389 (74.5)           | 297 (75.4)              | 0.58             |
|                     | 15 – 24                  | 32 (6.1)             | 18 (4.6)                |                  |
|                     | > 25                     | 101 (19.4)           | 79 (20.1)               |                  |

\*Percent values represent proportion of type of burn/location of burn per patient; p-values represent differences between proportions

\*\*'Unspecified' represents exposure to toxic effects of corrosive substances, nonspecific corrosive substances, or unidentified type of burn

\*\*\*Trunk: thorax, abdomen, back, pelvis

Table 3. Hospital outcomes of children with burn injuries at eight pediatric trauma centers during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to a corresponding time period in the year prior

|  |                  | Control         | n_value |
|--|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Outcomes   |                  |                 | p-value |
|  | (N = 522)        | (N = 394)       |         |
| Admission and Hospital Length of Stay            |                  |                 |         |
| Number of Patients (%)                           | 386/522 (73.9)   | 314/394 (79.7)  | 0.05    |
| Median (IQR)                                     | 2.0 (1.0 – 5.0)  | 2.0 (1.0 – 5.0) | 0.46    |
| Intensive Care Unit-Days                         |                  |                 |         |
| Number of Patients (%)                           | 40/522 (7.7)     | 26/394 (6.6)    | 0.63    |
| Median (IQR)                                     | 3.5 (2.0 – 11.0) | 3.0 (1.0 – 4.0) | 0.05    |
| Ventilator-Days                                  |                  |                 |         |
| Number of Patients (%)                           | 28/522 (5.4)     | 11/394 (2.8)    | 0.08    |
| Median (IQR)                                     | 4.5 (2.0 – 10.0) | 3.0 (3.0 – 5.5) | 0.52    |
| Discharge Disposition, N (%)                     |                  |                 |         |
| Number of Patients                               | 406              | 329             |         |
| Home   | 371 (91.4)       | 311 (94.5)      | 0.07    |
| Long-term care*                                  | 23 (5.7)         | 10 (3.0)        | -       |
| Jail   | 0 (0.0)          | 1 (0.3)         | -       |
| Death  | 1 (0.3)          | 0 (0.0)         | _       |
| Unknown/Missing                                  | 11 (2.7)         | 7 (2.1)         | _       |
| *Acute care facility, rehabilitation, skilled nu | rsing facility   |                 |         |

"Acute care facility, rehabilitation, skilled nursing fa IQR: interquartile range

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# **Figure Legend**

**Figure 1.** Overlapping comparison of the total number of burn patients admitted per week, stratified by cohort. The black dashed line represents an estimated start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The trend of the exact values (dashed line) is represented by a LOESS smoothing line (solid curved line) and a linear model (LM) of best fit (solid straight line). Both comparison of density distribution by Kolmogorov-Smirnov testing and comparison of linear trends with slope analysis demonstrate a significant increase in injuries during the COVID cohort compared to the Control cohort that occurred at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (p<0.001).



| Appendix 1. I | Burn Diagnosis ICD-10 Codes  |
|---------------|--|
| ICD-10 Codes  | Description  |
| T20           | Burns and corrosions of external body surface, specified by site                         |
| T21           | Burns and corrosions of external body surface, specified by site                         |
| T22           | Burns and corrosions of external body surface, specified by site                         |
| T23           | Burns and corrosions of external body surface, specified by site                         |
| T24           | Burns and corrosions of external body surface, specified by site                         |
| T25           | Burns and corrosions of external body surface, specified by site                         |
| T26           | Burns and corrosions of external body surface, specified by site                         |
| T27           | Burns and corrosions of external body surface, specified by site                         |
| T28           | Burns and corrosions of external body surface, specified by site                         |
| Т30           | Burns and corrosions of multiple and unspecified body regions                            |
| T31           | Burns and corrosions of multiple and unspecified body regions                            |
| Т32           | Burns and corrosions of multiple and unspecified body regions                            |
| T54.1X1       | Toxic effect of other corrosive organic compounds, accidental (unintentional)            |
| T54.1X2       | Toxic effect of other corrosive organic compounds, intentional self-harm                 |
| T54.1X4       | Toxic effect of other corrosive organic compounds, undetermined                          |
| T54.2X1       | Toxic effect of corrosive acids and acid-like substances, accidental (unintentional)     |
| T54.2X2       | Toxic effect of corrosive acids and acid-like substances, intentional self-harm          |
| T54.2X4       | Toxic effect of corrosive acids and acid-like substances, undetermined                   |
| T54.3X1       | Toxic effect of corrosive alkalis and alkali-like substances, accidental (unintentional) |
| T54.3X2       | Toxic effect of corrosive alkalis and alkali-like substances, intentional self-harm      |
| T54.3X4       | Toxic effect of corrosive alkalis and alkali-like substances, undetermined               |
| T54.91X       | Toxic effect of unspecified corrosive substance, accidental (unintentional)              |
| T54.92X       | Toxic effect of unspecified corrosive substance, intentional self-harm                   |
| T54.94X       | Toxic effect of unspecified corrosive substance, undetermined                            |
| V91.00X       | Burn due to merchant ship on fire  |
| V91.01X       | Burn due to passenger ship on fire   |

| V91.02X | Burn due to fishing boat on fire                                |
|---------|---|
| V91.03X | Burn due to other powered watercraft on fire                    |
| V91.04X | Burn due to sailboat on fire                                    |
| V91.05X | Burn due to canoe or kayak on fire                              |
| V91.06X | Burn due to (nonpowered) inflatable craft on fire               |
| V91.07X | Burn due to water-skis on fire                                  |
| V91.08X | Burn due to other unpowered watercraft on fire                  |
| V91.09X | Burn due to unspecified watercraft on fire                      |
| V93.00X | Burn due to localized fire on board merchant vessel             |
| V93.01X | Burn due to localized fire on board passenger vessel            |
| V93.02X | Burn due to localized fire on board fishing boat                |
| V93.03X | Burn due to localized fire on board other powered watercraft    |
| V93.04X | Burn due to localized fire on board sailboat                    |
| V93.09X | Burn due to localized fire on board unspecified watercraft      |
| V93.10X | Other burn on board merchant vessel                             |
| V93.11X | Other burn on board passenger vessel                            |
| V93.12X | Other burn on board fishing boat                                |
| V93.13X | Other burn on board other powered watercraft                    |
| V93.14X | Other burn on board sailboat                                    |
| V93.19X | Other burn on board unspecified watercraft                      |
| V95.04X | Helicopter fire injuring occupant                               |
| V95.14X | Ultralight, microlight or powered-glider fire injuring occupant |
| V95.24X | Other private fixed-wing aircraft fire injuring occupant        |
| V95.34X | Commercial fixed-wing aircraft fire injuring occupant           |
| V95.44X | Spacecraft fire injuring occupant                               |
| V96.04X | Balloon fire injuring occupant                                  |
| V96.14X | Hang-glider fire injuring occupant                              |
| V96.24X | Glider (nonpowered) fire injuring occupant                      |

| X00.0XX | Exposure to flames in uncontrolled fire in building or structure             |
|---------|--|
| X00.1XX | Exposure to smoke in uncontrolled fire in building or structure              |
| X00.2XX | Injury due to collapse of burning building or structure in uncontrolled fire |
| X00.3XX | Fall from burning building or structure in uncontrolled fire                 |
| X00.4XX | Hit by object from burning building or structure in uncontrolled fire        |
| X00.5XX | Jump from burning building or structure in uncontrolled fire                 |
| X00.8XX | Other exposure to uncontrolled fire in building or structure                 |
| X01.0XX | Exposure to flames in uncontrolled fire, not in building or structure        |
| X01.1XX | Exposure to smoke in uncontrolled fire, not in building or structure         |
| X01.3XX | Fall due to uncontrolled fire, not in building or structure                  |
| X01.4XX | Hit by object due to uncontrolled fire, not in building or structure         |
| X01.8XX | Other exposure to uncontrolled fire, not in building or structure            |
| X02.0XX | Exposure to flames in controlled fire in building or structure               |
| X02.1XX | Exposure to smoke in controlled fire in building or structure                |
| X02.2XX | Injury due to collapse of burning building or structure in controlled fire   |
| X02.3XX | Fall from burning building or structure in controlled fire                   |
| X02.4XX | Hit by object from burning building or structure in controlled fire          |
| X02.5XX | Jump from burning building or structure in controlled fire                   |
| X02.8XX | Other exposure to controlled fire in building or structure                   |
| X03.0XX | Exposure to flames in controlled fire, not in building or structure          |
| X03.1XX | Exposure to smoke in controlled fire, not in building or structure           |
| X03.3XX | Fall due to controlled fire, not in building or structure                    |
| X03.4XX | Hit by object due to controlled fire, not in building or structure           |
| X03.8XX | Other exposure to controlled fire, not in building or structure              |
| X04.XXX | Exposure to ignition of highly flammable material                            |
| X05.XXX | Exposure to ignition or melting of nightwear                                 |
| X06.0XX | Exposure to ignition of plastic jewelry                                      |
| X06.1XX | Exposure to melting of plastic jewelry                                       |

| X06.2XX | Exposure to ignition of other clothing and apparel                   |
|---------|--|
| X06.3XX | Exposure to melting of other clothing and apparel                    |
| X08.00X | Exposure to bed fire due to unspecified burning material             |
| X08.01X | Exposure to bed fire due to burning cigarette                        |
| X08.09X | Exposure to bed fire due to other burning material                   |
| X08.10X | Exposure to sofa fire due to unspecified burning material            |
| X08.11X | Exposure to sofa fire due to burning cigarette                       |
| X08.19X | Exposure to sofa fire due to other burning material                  |
| X08.20X | Exposure to other furniture fire due to unspecified burning material |
| X08.21X | Exposure to other furniture fire due to burning cigarette            |
| X08.29X | Exposure to other furniture fire due to other burning material       |
| X08.8XX | Exposure to other specified smoke, fire and flames                   |
| X10.0XX | Contact with hot drinks  |
| X10.1XX | Contact with hot food  |
| X10.2XX | Contact with fats and cooking oils                                   |
| X11.0XX | Contact with hot water in bath or tub                                |
| X11.1XX | Contact with running hot water                                       |
| X11.8XX | Contact with other hot tap-water                                     |
| X12.XXX | Contact with other hot fluids  |
| X13.0XX | Inhalation of steam and other hot vapors                             |
| X13.1XX | Other contact with steam and other hot vapors                        |
| X14.0XX | Inhalation of hot air and gases                                      |
| X14.1XX | Other contact with hot air and other hot gases                       |
| X15.0XX | Contact with hot stove (kitchen)                                     |
| X15.1XX | Contact with hot toaster   |
| X15.2XX | Contact with hotplate  |
| X15.3XX | Contact with hot saucepan or skillet                                 |
| X15.8XX | Contact with other hot household appliances                          |

| X16.XXX | Contact with hot heating appliances, radiators and pipes                                       |
|---------|--|
| X17.XXX | Contact with hot engines, machinery and tools  |
| X18.XXX | Contact with other hot metals  |
| X19.XXX | Contact with other heat and hot substances   |
| X76.XXX | Intentional self-harm by smoke, fire and flames  |
| X77.0XX | Intentional self-harm by steam or hot vapors   |
| X77.1XX | Intentional self-harm by hot tap water   |
| X77.2XX | Intentional self-harm by other hot fluids  |
| X77.3XX | Intentional self-harm by hot household appliances  |
| X77.8XX | Intentional self-harm by other hot objects   |
| X77.9XX | Intentional self-harm by unspecified hot objects   |
| X86     | Assault by corrosive substance   |
| X97     | Assault with fire/smoke/etc  |
| X98     | Assault with fire/smoke/etc  |
| Y26.XXX | Exposure to smoke, fire and flames, undetermined intent  |
| Y27.0XX | Contact with steam and hot vapors, undetermined intent   |
| Y27.1XX | Contact with hot tap water, undetermined intent  |
| Y27.2XX | Contact with hot fluids, undetermined intent   |
| Y27.3XX | Contact with hot household appliance, undetermined intent                                      |
| Y27.8XX | Contact with other hot objects, undetermined intent  |
| Y27.9XX | Contact with unspecified hot objects, undetermined intent                                      |
| Y36.300 | War operations involving unspecified fire, conflagration and hot substance, military personnel |
| Y36.301 | War operations involving unspecified fire, conflagration and hot substance, civilian           |
| Y36.330 | War operations involving flamethrower, military personnel                                      |
| Y36.331 | War operations involving flamethrower, civilian  |
| Y36.390 | War operations involving other fires, conflagrations and hot substances, military personnel    |
| Y36.391 | War operations involving other fires, conflagrations and hot substances, civilian              |
| Y37.300 | Military operations involving unspecified fire, conflagration and hot substance, military      |

| Y37.301 | Military operations involving unspecified fire, conflagration and hot substance, civilian      |
|---------|--|
| Y37.330 | Military operations involving flamethrower, military personnel                                 |
| Y37.331 | Military operations involving flamethrower, civilian   |
| Y37.390 | Military operations involving other fires, conflagrations and hot substances, military personr |
| Y37.391 | Military operations involving other fires, conflagrations and hot substances, civilian         |
| Y38.3   | Terrorism with fire/smoke/etc.   |
|         |  |