

---

**502 Adapting to COVID19: Can Virtual Burn Camp be as Impactful as Last Year's In-person Camp?**

Jessica Banks, BSE, Matt Ferdock, Jennifer Nagle, RN,BSN,CCRN

*Burn Prevention Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania; Navitas Data Sciences, Zionsville, Pennsylvania; Lehigh Valley Hospital, Macungie, Pennsylvania*

**Introduction:** Skin is not the only casualty following a burn accident. Many children suffer long term, debilitating emotional effects from their burn injury (Abdullah et al. 1994; Kornhaber et al. 2018). Armstrong-James et al. (2018) and Maslow and Lobato (2010) found that summer camps explicitly designed for burn survivor children can positively impact children's adaptability to stress and comments and improve their sense of self-esteem. Camp Susquehanna has been a summer camp for burn survivors for the past 25+ years. When the COVID19 pandemic closed many businesses, we decided to transition our in-person camp to 100% online. Researchers demonstrated the positive effects of summer camp for burn survivors (Maslow & Lobato, 2010; Bakker et al. 2011). However, the effects of a 100% online camp are not known. Our concern was, are we able to transition and be as impactful as it is face to face at camp? What will the schedule and activities look like in this new format? How will we ensure all children participating will have access to online and the supplies necessary?

**Methods:** We opted to select a three-week format with two sessions a day divided into two age groups. We ensured every child had internet access then mailed out a "camp in the box." It contained all the things needed for each planned activity. The critical question remained, however, will we be as impactful? The current research looks at quantitative and qualitative measures of self-esteem, happiness, and satisfaction following participation in a three-week summer program held in July 2020. We make comparisons to previous years' results. The authors expected that self-esteem, happiness, and satisfaction levels matched or exceeded last years' levels.

**Results:** We collected data from 42 campers and 22 volunteer camp counselors. Results show that campers were able to receive the support they needed, not only from the staff but also from their peers.

**Conclusions:** The delivery method was indeed different this year, but the positive effect on our campers remained the same.

---

**503 Burn Camp Volunteer Engagement**

Miranda L. Yelvington, OTR/L, BT-C,

Gretta E. Wilkinson, RN

*Arkansas Children's Hospital, Little Rock, Arkansas*

**Introduction:** Much has been published in burn literature regarding the positive impact of camp participation on burn survivors. Less has been said about the positive benefits reaped by the volunteers who freely give their time to support burn camp initiatives. Often these volunteers are fire fighters, members of the hospital's burn team, family members or burn survivors or adult burn survivors. Occasionally, volunteers have no prior ties to the burn injury community. These individuals donate their time to attending burn camp as a counselor or camp volunteer and many serve through the year on planning and organization committees. Prior studies have reported a positive professional benefit from camp participation including improved job effectiveness and motivation. Counselors also reported personal benefits including personal growth and socialization. The same benefits may be present for non-counselor volunteers.

**Methods:** This survey-based project explored the attitudes of burn camp volunteers. Surveys were sent to current and past volunteers of one facility's Pediatric Burn Camp. These include but are not limited to community members, firefighters, medical staff and Burn Team members. Surveys were sent via mail with a follow-up email sent one month later to encourage survey completion.

**Results:** Surveys were sent to 40 pediatric burn camp volunteers. 28 respondents reported between 1 and 27 years of camp participation. 75% report no regular contact with burn survivors related to their occupation. 29% of respondents were firefighters, 18% were burn team members and 32% were burn survivors. Respondents answered write in questions related to what they love about camp and how their camp experience could be made better. Nine topics related to attitudes were addressed in a Likert scale format. Statistical analysis will be performed to evaluate trends in volunteer attitudes and to compare attitudes to longevity of camp participation, volunteer age and occupation. Trends in recommended camp improvements will be addressed.

**Conclusions:** Longevity of camp participation is directly related to volunteer beliefs and attitudes. Whether because of other responsibilities, changing vocations or a loss of interest in the cause, often volunteers fail to return year to year. Volunteer engagement is an essential part of keeping burn camp a viable resource for pediatric burn survivors. By assessing volunteer perceptions, camp directors can discover areas for improvement and camp attributes that draw volunteers to burn camp. Volunteer recruit strategies developed with these trends in mind may be more successful in attainment and retention of dedicated volunteers.