



Dec 2007

Fire-related Injuries to Children Aged 0-17 Years Miami-Dade County, 2006

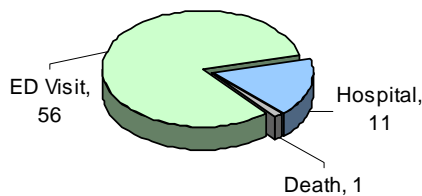
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INJURY FACTS

Although numbers of fatalities and injuries from fires have remained relatively low in Miami-Dade County over the past decade, most residential fire-related deaths and injuries remain preventable. Smoke alarms decrease the chances of dying in a house fire by up to 50%, but ¼ 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.

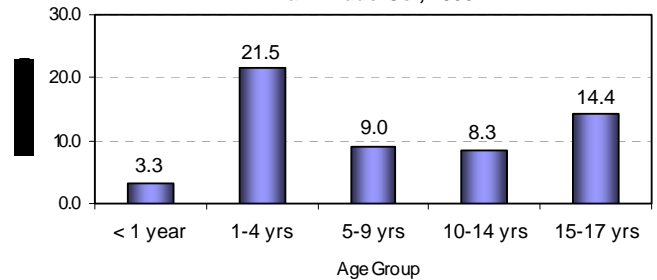


In 2006, there were a total of 68 fire-related injuries to county children aged 0-17 years: 56 were treated and released from the emergency department, 11 were hospitalized and there was 1 fire-related death.

**2006 Fire-related Injuries by Severity
Victims Aged 0-17 Years Old**

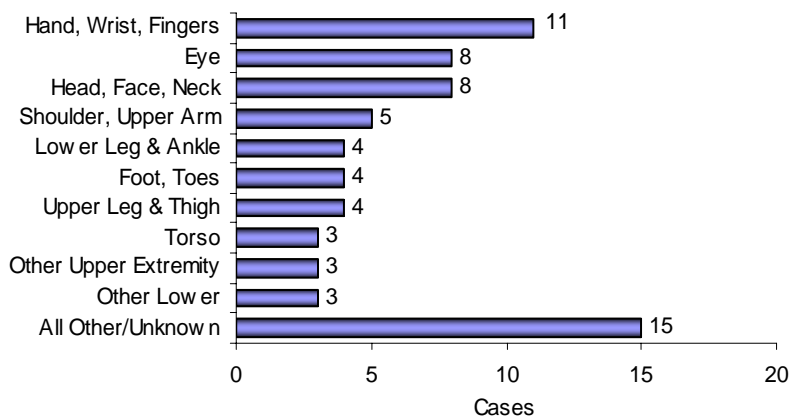


**Fire Injury Rate/100,000 Residents Aged 0-17 Yrs.
Deaths, Hospitalizations and ED Visits by Age Group,
Miami-Dade Co., 2006**



- Children less than 4 years old were treated for 25 (37%) of the fire-related injuries and all but two were treated in the emergency department. The 1-4 year old age group had a fire-related injury rate that was at least 50% greater than any other age group.
- The rate of fire-related injuries was nearly identical for male, female, White, African-American and Hispanic children aged 0-17 years old.
- Wounds to the hand, wrist or fingers were the most common site of injuries sustained from fires (11 injuries) followed by injuries to the eye (8 injuries) and the head/face/neck area (8 injuries). When grouped by body region, 33% of injuries involved upper extremities, 28% were to the head or neck region and 26% involved the lower extremities.

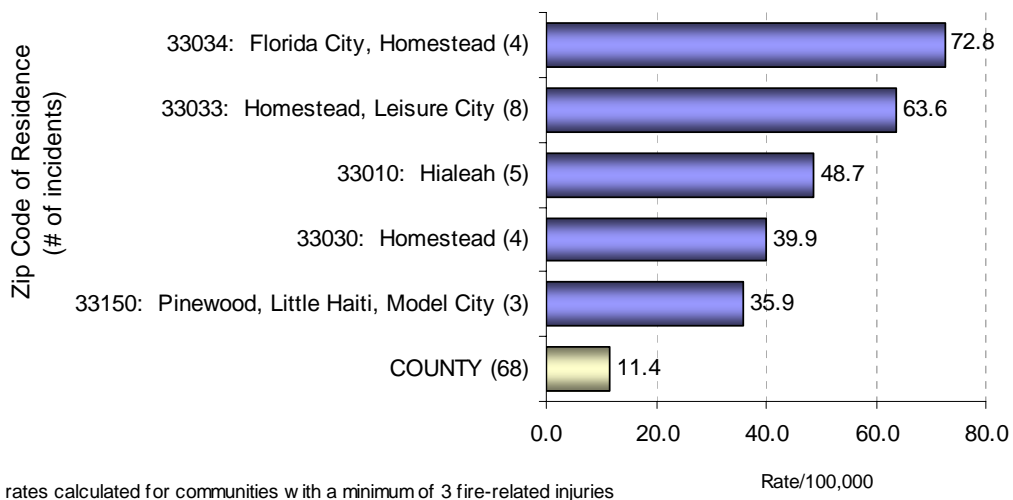
**Body Region Injured From Fires
Residents Aged 0-17 Years, Miami-Dade Co., 2006**



Zip Code of Residence for Children Injured Due to Fires

Only five county zip codes experienced more than 3 child fire-related injuries in 2006 and injury rates were calculated for only these 5 areas. Despite the relatively low incidence, the Homestead/Florida City area of the county was disproportionately affected. Three Homestead area zip codes (33034: 4 injuries, 33033: 8 injuries and 33030: 4 injuries) had the 1st, 2nd and 4th highest rates of child fire injuries among zip codes with at least 3 injuries in 2006. The 33010 zip code in Hialeah and the 33150 zip code in the Pinewood/Little Haiti Model City area were also among the 5 highest rates for child fire-related injuries. Seven other zip codes experienced 2 fire injuries and 30 zip codes experienced only one fire injury.

**Deaths, Hospitalizations & Emergency Dept. Visits Due to Fires
Injury Rate/100,000 Residents Aged 0-17 Years
by Zip Code of Residence, Miami-Dade Co., FL 2006**



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 space. Keep them at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn. Unplug them when not in use.
- A working smoke alarm is not 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 alarms 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 Certificate, Hospital Discharge & Emergency Department Data
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