

Trends in Thermal Injury

Burns from Fire or Flames¹

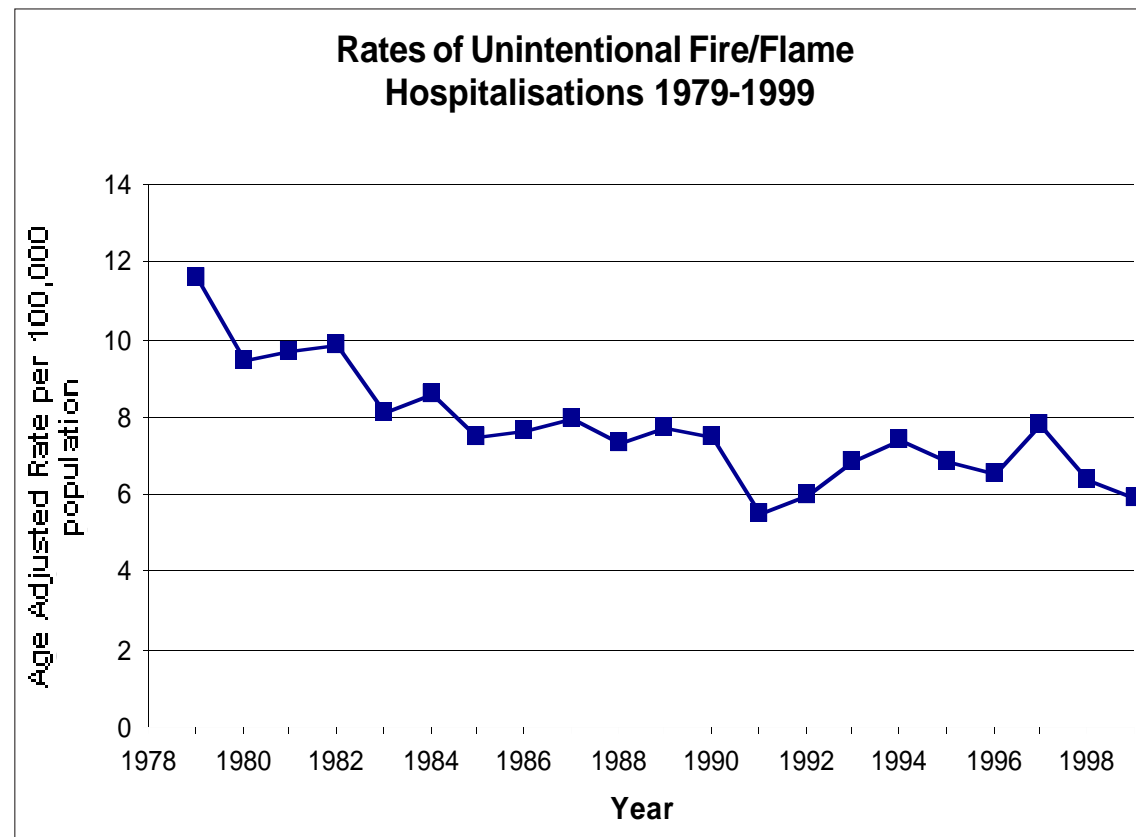
Number 21

In New Zealand burns from fire and flames have been identified as an injury problem. This fact sheet provides information on the trends over 20 years in injury from these causes for all ages.²

- Between 1979-1999 there were 5,267 inpatient hospitalisations from burns due to fire or flames.
- There was a slow decline in the rate of hospitalisations from 1979-1992, thereafter the rate has been relatively stable.
- Over the 5 years from 1995-1999, the rate of hospitalisations was 7.0/100,000 population. This was a decrease of 28% from the years 1979-1983 when the rate was 9.8/100,000 population.
- The age specific rates (per 100,000 population) for 1995-1999 were:

Age (years)	Rate	Age (years)	Rate
<15	8.3	45-64	3.6
15-24	9.7	65+	5.0
25-44	6.9		

- 63% of burns due to fire or flame occurred in the home.
- Between 1979 and 1997 there were 75 deaths due to burns from fire or flame.



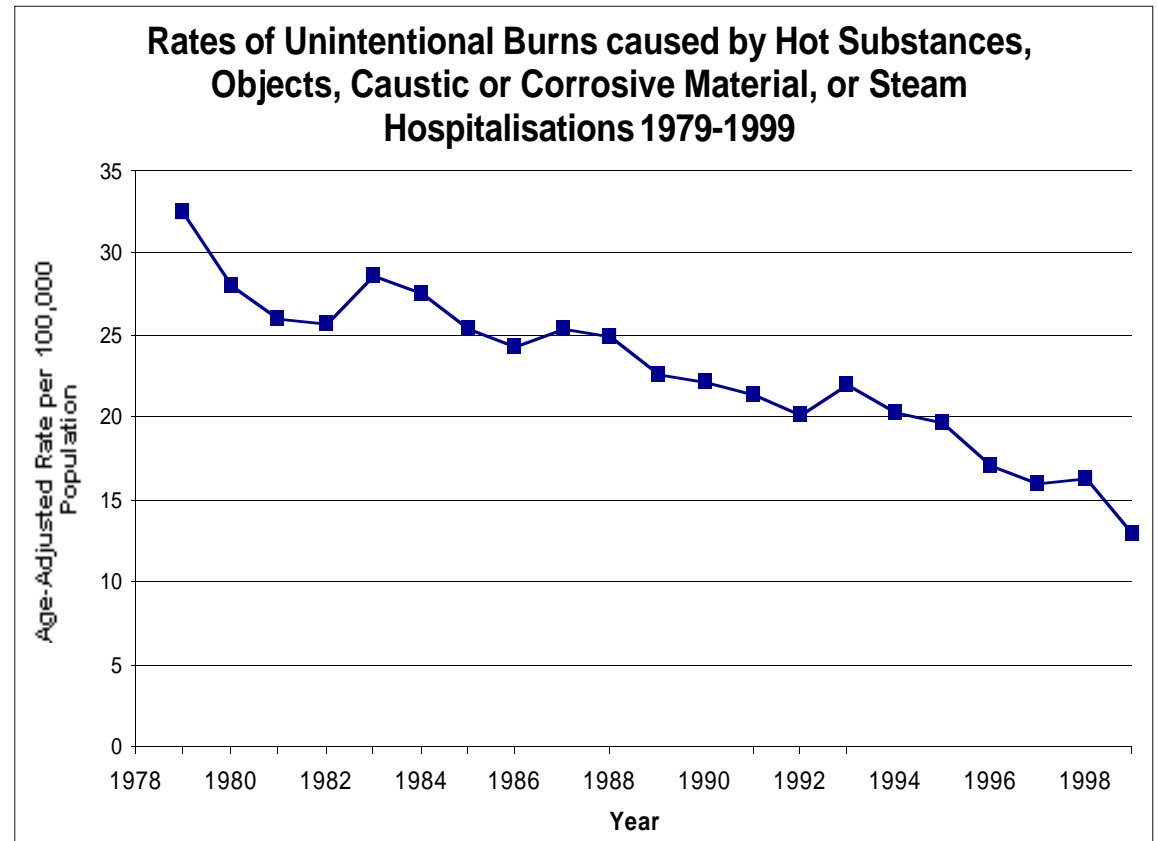
¹ICD9 E-codes 890-899

²Burns due to fire or flame includes all fire-related injuries except those involving a moving transport vehicle, machinery, or intentional fires.

Burns due to hot substances, objects, caustic, or corrosive material or steam¹

- Between 1979-1999 there were 16,141 inpatient hospitalisations from burns caused by a "hot substance, object, caustic or corrosive material, or steam".²
- There was a steady decline in the rate of hospitalisations from 1979-1999.
- Over the 5 years from 1995-1999, the rate of hospitalisations was 17.9/100,000 population. This was a decrease of 37% from the years 1979-1983 when the rate was 28.2/100,000 population.
- The age specific rates (per 100,000 population) for 1995-1999 were:

Age (years)	Rate	Age (years)	Rate
0-4	108.6	25-44	8.5
5-14	10.7	45-64	7.3
15-24	8.7	65+	9.2
- 74% of these burns occurred in the home.
- 60% of the cases involved children aged less than 15 years.
- Between 1979-1997 there were 618 deaths from these causes.



Hospitalisations between 1979-1999 due to burns from other causes:

- 387 people suffered burns from motor vehicle crashes
- 648 people suffered burns from electrical current
- 203 people suffered burns from an explosion of a pressure vessel

¹ ICD9 E-code 924

² Since 1995 it has not been possible to identify certain causes of scalds (e.g. hot water) - see IPRU Factsheet No. 10.

Data source: Morbidity (1979-1999), Mortality (1979-1997), and Demographic (1979-1999) Data, New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS), Ministry of Health.