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Objective:

Upon completion of the lecture, attendees should be better prepared to:

- Discuss the consequence of a favorite pastime of southern Louisiana
- Develop prevention efforts specific to a region in efforts to minimize risk of injury before they happen

Abstract:

Introduction: Epidemiologic trends provide a means for targeting efforts in burn prevention. Despite this there has been no formal evaluation of burns in Louisiana. This study describes the epidemiologic trends experienced by a single burn center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We also evaluate several temporal variables colloquially associated with an increased incidence of specific burns. We hope this study will provide insights that lead to more focused strategies in burn prevention.

Materials and methods: A retrospective chart review was performed on all patients treated for burns at the Baton Rouge General Hospital (BRGH) from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017. Data from patients treated in both the inpatient burn unit and outpatient burn clinic were included. Data extracted included burn etiology, month of admission, and triage to outpatient versus inpatient management. In addition to describing general trends, we evaluated the incidence of scald burns during crawfish season, as well as flame burns during months of cold weather and firework usage.

Results: Data from 5324 patients (924 inpatient, 4400 outpatient) were included. The average number of burns treated per month in the inpatient and outpatient settings were 12.8 ± 1.61 and 61.1 ± 4.61 , respectively. Burns with the highest incidence in the inpatient and outpatient settings were flame (59.3%) and scald (36.7%), respectively. The incidence of scald burns was higher during crawfish season in the inpatient setting but there was no difference in the outpatient setting. The incidence of flame burns was higher during months of cold weather and firework usage in both settings but was only statistically significant in the outpatient setting.

Conclusion: Our results indicate that there are indeed variations in burn incidence with respect to etiology, time of year, and management setting in Louisiana. Inpatient burns were more likely to be caused by flame, while outpatient burns were more likely to be caused by scald. Scald burns that warranted burn center admission occurred more often during crawfish season. Flame burns treated in the outpatient setting occurred more often during months of cold weather and firework usage. We urge those involved in burn prevention throughout the southern United States to consider these data when focusing their efforts towards preventing these devastating injuries.

Disclosure:

Dylan M. Johnson – No Relevant Financial Relationships to Disclose
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