

# Burn Prevention Efforts: Which age groups should be targeted

Mary Martinat, BSN, RN



## BACKGROUND

With the consistent growth in the elderly population in the United States, there appears to be an increase in burn admissions to our burn center that coincides with this growth. Historically our burn center has focused its injury prevention messaging on the pediatric population, but with the ever changing age demographic in the valley, the burn center is working on ways to ensure that our injury prevention messaging is both the right message to the right population.

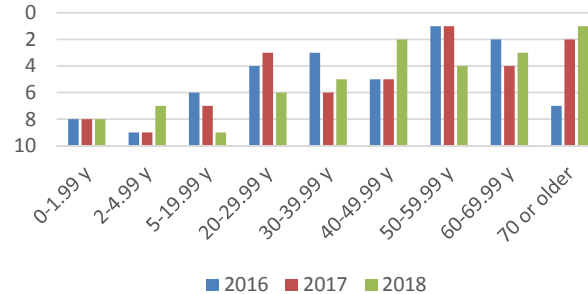
## PURPOSE

Burn registry data for this facility would indicate that the older population tends to have longer length of stays as well as accrue higher hospital charges. This has led to discussions about how to decrease burn injuries in the older population and how that would affect hospital length of stay and hospital charges

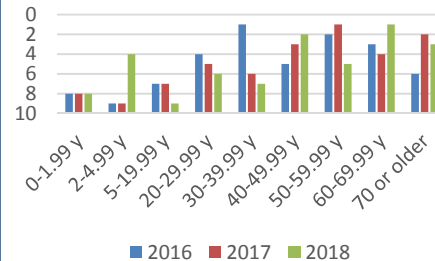
## METHODS

A 3-year retrospective data review of burn admissions to our facility was performed. This review looked at patients separated into 9 different age groups, these groups were ranked (1 being the highest incidence to the lowest being ranked 9<sup>th</sup>), comparing number of admissions, length of stay and cost of care. We looked at how each age group ranked as a total as well as average per patient. The rankings were then used to identify high risk age groups.

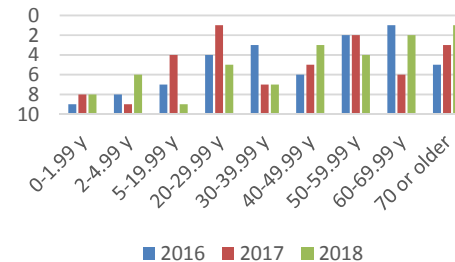
Ranking: Age and Admission to Burn Center



Average Length of Stay



Charges per Patient



## RESULTS

Burn Registry data showed that the most frequent burn admissions to our burn center were not our pediatric or young adult populations. We further discovered that the older adult populations were admitted in the largest numbers and tended to have greater lengths of stay as well as higher hospital charges.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on registry data, age specific prevention campaigns need to be created, implemented and tracked for effectiveness. The focus of the hospital's current injury prevention efforts is on the pediatric population.

The older population is an underserved group in our community

- This group deserves a customized injury prevention plan to decrease burn injuries and admissions
- Use of registry data will help to focus prevention efforts: mechanism, season and geographic location

## REFERENCES

Available upon request

