

# Burn Injuries Among Infants and Toddlers in the United States, 1997-2002

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**Objectives:** To determine the magnitude and causes of unintentional burn injuries attributed to hot objects or substances among children aged birth to 4 years in the United States. **Methods:** Data were obtained from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care System. **Results:** Annually, 78,000 infants and toddlers were treated in ambulatory care settings for injuries due to contact with a hot

object or substance. Hot foods, curling irons, or clothing irons were the main causes of burns. **Conclusions:** Due to the varied causes of burns, a combination of health education and product design interventions are likely necessary to prevent these injuries.

**Key words:** burns, children, unintentional injury

*Am J Health Behav.* 2006;30(3):259-267

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