

Indicator 6: Hospitalizations for Work-Related Burns

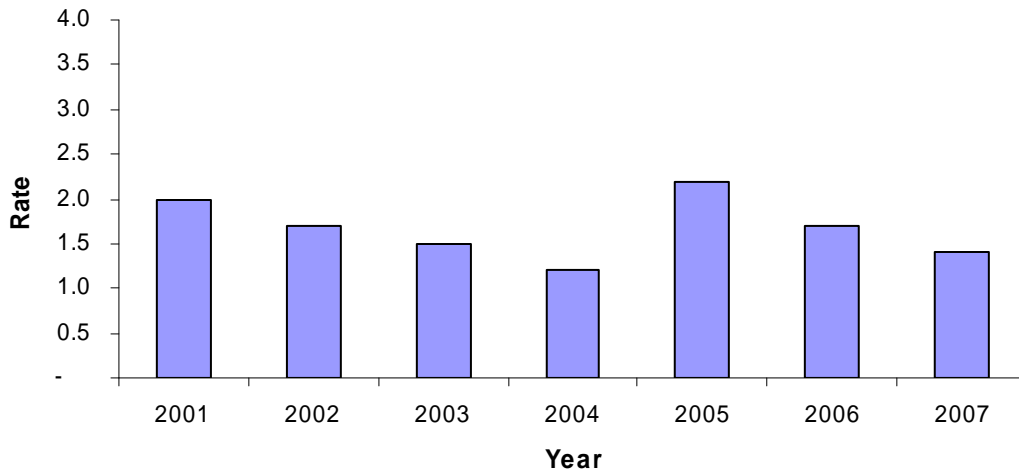
Describing and tracking hospitalizations from work-related burns are useful for identifying high-risk occupations and targeting prevention.

Methods

Colorado Hospital Discharge Data are reported through the Colorado Hospital Association to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The discharge database contains all inpatient and ambulatory patient data of member hospitals. Data were collected from all Colorado discharge data records for cases with an ICD-9-CM principle diagnosis code between 940 and 949. Data were included if the record listed a primary payer as workers' compensation and if the patient was 16 years or older. Rates were calculated using Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey Data for the denominator.

Results

Figure 6.1 Annual crude rate of work-related burn hospitalizations per 100,000 employed persons age 16 years or older, Colorado, 2001-2007



*Source: Colorado hospital discharge data obtained from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Health Statistics Section (numerator)
Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Population Survey Data (denominator)*

- The average annual crude rate of work-related burns in Colorado from 2001-2007 was 1.7 per 100,000 workers (Figure 6.1 and Table 6.1).

Table 6.1 Number and annual crude rate of work-related burn hospitalizations per 100,000 employed persons age 16 years or older, Colorado 2001-2007		
Year	Number of work related burns reported in the Colorado hospital discharge data	Annual crude rate of work-related burn hospitalizations per 100,000 employed persons age 16 years or older
2001	44	2.0
2002	39	1.7
2003	34	1.5
2004	28	1.2
2005	54	2.2
2006	42	1.7
2007	35	1.4
Average	39.4	1.7
<i>Source: Colorado hospital discharge data obtained from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Health Statistics Section (numerator) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Population Survey Data (denominator)</i>		

Data Sources

- Colorado hospital discharge data obtained from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Health Statistics Section (numerator)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Population Survey Data (denominator)

Limitations:

- The number of claims filed for workers’ compensation may underestimate the number of non-fatal injuries and illnesses because not all individuals with work-related injuries and illnesses file for workers’ compensation benefits.
- Employed individuals less than 16 years old experience work-related burn injuries, but corresponding denominator data are not readily available.
- Practice patterns and payment mechanisms may affect decisions by health care providers to hospitalize patients.
- Residents of one state may be hospitalized in another state and therefore not be reflected in his/her state's hospitalization data.
- All admissions are counted, including multiple admissions for a single individual.
- Until hospital discharge data are available in all states, aggregation of state data to produce nationwide estimates will be incomplete.

Recommendations

- Report work related burns in Colorado by industry, occupation, age, gender, race/ethnicity and type of injury/illness.
- Determine the factors that contribute to work-related burns to guide intervention, education, prevention and regulatory efforts.