

# 60 Years Burns Service at Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH), South Australia

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## Introduction

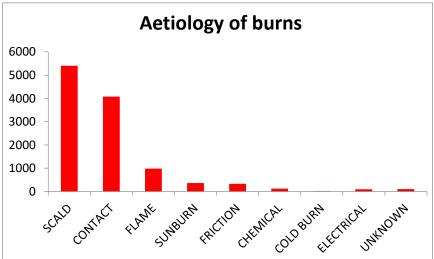
Burns are a preventable cause of pediatric injury with over 100 000 annual hospitalizations. The Burns Service at the WCH provides inpatient and outpatient treatment for approximately 150 inpatients and 450 outpatients each year including patients from South Australia, Northern Territory and western parts of New South Wales and Victoria. This study aims to understand the epidemiology of burn injuries in the paediatric population to target preventative schemes.

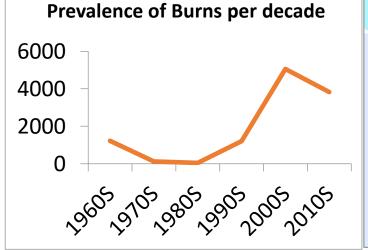
# **Methods**

Our database was accessed to collate a singlesite, retrospective study of all burn injuries managed from 1960-2017 at WCH.

## **Results**

Our unit has treated a 11 483 burn injuries, of which there is a male predominance of 57.2% (n = 6577). Majority of the patients belonged to the infant and toddler group, age 0-2 (52.1%, n=5968). Mortality rates dropped after 1960s, of which only 8% occurred after 1970s. Mean TBSA was 9%, and our unit has treated mostly minor burns of TBSA 1%, commonly secondary to scalds.(see graph)





#### **Discussion**

- Our study demonstrates rising paediatric burn injuries in our state, which reflects the rising population.
- Major burns 0.6% (n=74) were associated with flame injuries, had higher mortality rates. Scalds (90%) occurred in the kitchen involving food preparation and meal times. We would like to place emphasis on public education targeting new parents to exercise extra precaution in circumstances that can result in these accidental burn injuries.
- We postulate that reduced prevalence of burns in 1970s-1980s may likely be attributed to processes of amalgamation of Adelaide Children's Hospital and Queen Victoria Hospital, forming the WCH we know today.









