

Fire Injuries in Kansas



Figure 1. 2000-2008, Deaths and Hospital Discharges in Kansas due to Fire/Burns

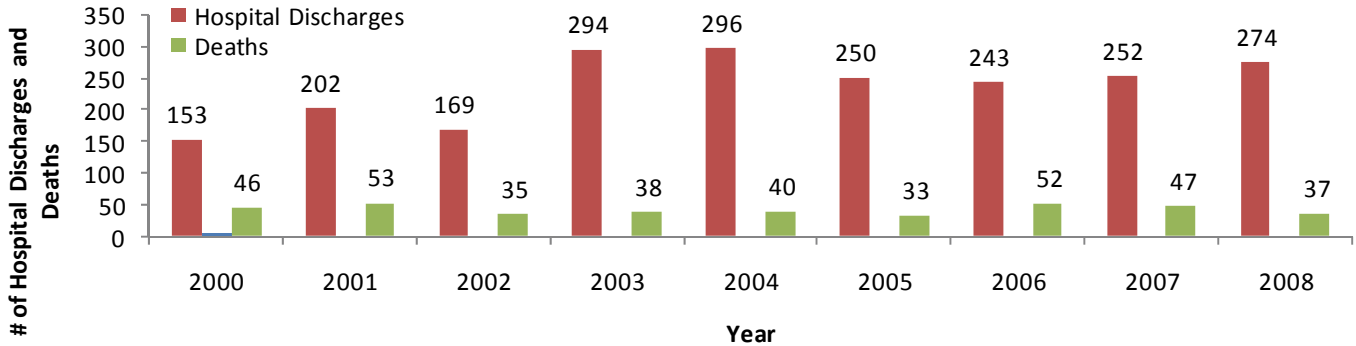


Figure 2. Fire/Burn related Hospital Discharge Rate 2000-2008

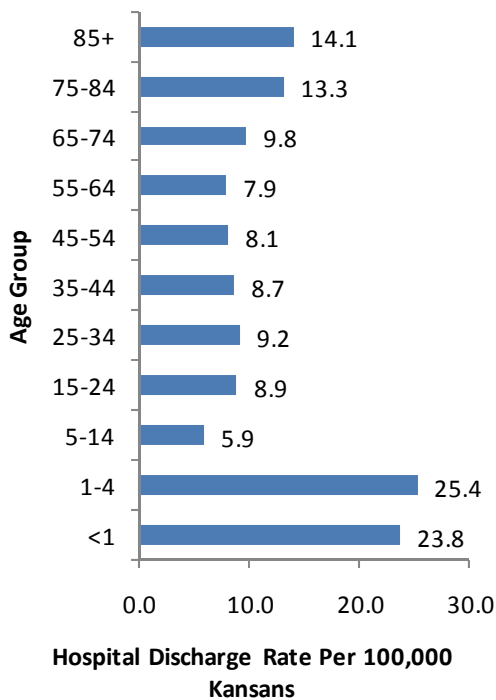
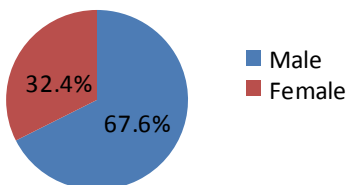


Figure 3. Gender Distribution for Fire/Burn Related Hospital Discharges

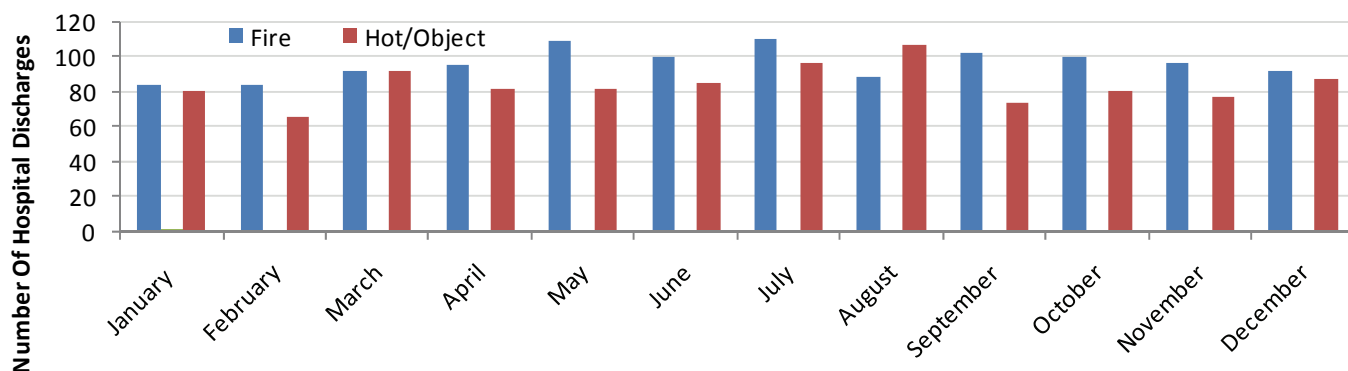


Fire injuries can be easily prevented and avoided if the right steps are taken. The goal of this factsheet is to describe some of the makeup and trends of fire injuries and injury related deaths. The data on deaths are obtained from the mortality database housed at KDHE. The deaths explained here are those in which fire/burn was the underlying cause of death. Hospital discharges are also obtained from the hospital discharge database housed at Kansas Hospital Association. A hospital discharge is not based on a unique hospitalization. A hospital discharge is based on a stay at the hospital for at least 24 hours and then a subsequent release. One injury may account for hospitalizations and hospital discharges from different hospitals.

The rate of fire hospital discharges and deaths in the state have remained fairly stable. In the past eight years the numbers have fallen in the mid 200's for fire/burn hospital discharges (Figure 1). For deaths, the pattern has been more erratic, with the lowest number of deaths occurring in 2005 (33 deaths) and the highest occurring in 2001 (53 deaths).

Young children are more effected by fire/burns than older individuals. The highest rates of fire/burn injuries were seen in the younger age groups. Those less than one year old had a fire/burn related hospital discharge rate of almost 24 per 100,000 Kansans. This was nearly three times as high as someone in the 55-64 age group, who had a fire/burn related hospital discharge rate of 7.9 per 100,000 Kansans (Figure 2).

Figure 4. Fire/Burn associated Hospital Discharges, by Month 2000-2008



Among hospital discharges for fire/burn, a higher percentage of males (67.6%) seen as compared to females (32.4%). (Figure 3).

Many people feel that fire/burn injuries are associated with seasonal changes in weather. The month with the most hot object related hospital discharges is August. The month with the most fire related hospital discharges is July (Figure 4).

The top cause of fire related hospital discharge was the ignition of highly flammable material. This was the leading cause, making up 40% of all fire discharges from 2000-2008 (Table 1).

The number one cause of burn hospital discharge was accidents due to hot liquids or vapors. This accounted for nearly half of all the burn discharges from 2000-2008 (Table 2).

The number one cause of death due to fire was exposure to uncontrolled fire in buildings or structures. This accounted for almost three quarters, 66.9% of all fire deaths from 2000-2008 (Table 3).

If you have questions about this report or are looking for further information on fire prevention and safety please contact:

Elena Nuss, ENuss@kdheks.gov, (785) 296-3403

An E-code is the code associated with the description of injury used by hospitals and insurance companies. An ICD10 code is associated with the description of the underlying cause of death. N refers to the number of events.

Table 1.

Fire Related Hospital Discharges 2000-2008 by Description		N=1152	
E-Code	Description	% of Total	N
E894	Ignition of Highly Flammable Material	40.0%	461
E8902	Other smoke. And fumes from conflagration in private dwelling	7.8%	90
E8903	Burning caused by conflagration in private dwelling	7.8%	90
E897	Accident caused by controlled fire not in building or structure	7.5%	86
E892	Conflagration not in building or structure	6.4%	74

Table 2

Burn Related Hospital Discharges 2000-2008 by Description		N=1002	
E-Code	Description	% of Total	N
E9240	Accident caused by hot liquids and vapors including steam	45.1%	452
E9248	Accident caused by other hot substance or object	28.0%	281
E9242	Accident caused by hot (boiling) tap water	12.9%	129
E9241	Accident caused by caustic and corrosive substances	10.0%	100
E9683	Assault by Hot Liquid	2.2%	22

Table 3

Fire Related Deaths 2000-2008 by Description		N=259	
ICD10	Description	% of Total	N
X00	Exposure to uncontrolled fire in building or structure	70.6%	259
X76	Intentional self-harm by smoke-fire and flames	5.7%	21
X97	Assault by smoke, fire and flames	4.4%	16
X06	Exposure to ignition or melting of other clothing and apparel	3.5%	13
X09	Exposure to other specified smoke, fire and flames	3.5%	13