INTRODUCTION

• The BCIRPU is a leader in the development and evaluation of evidence-based prevention strategies and plays a central role in preventing and supporting injury prevention initiatives throughout BC and Canada.

• Residential fires are a leading cause of unintentional injuries in children and youth under the age of 19 in Canada. Injuries caused by fires are horrifying and painful, with severe burns resulting in disfigurement, and possible loss of life.

• The research objectives of this project were to:
  i. Compare residential fire injuries between youth and adults in Canada
  ii. Determine the leading origins for residential fires.

RESULTS

• The dataset included a total of 439,256 fire incidents
  • The overall data set retained and classified as residential contained 140,162 fires, 1,440 deaths, and 9,142 injuries.
  • Children and youth ≤19 years old sustained similar outcome of injuries compared to older adults ≥ 55 years old (17% vs 18%) and showed 4.4 times less residential fire-related deaths (11% vs 48%) (Figure 2)
  • The three most common locations of origin for residential fires are from the kitchen (33%), bedroom (17%), and living room (15%).

DISCUSSION

• Children 19 years and younger continue to show high rates of fire-related preventable injuries.
  • The number one cause of fire deaths in the younger population is contributed by fire play. Educational programs targeted at children and youth starting as early as in elementary and high schools should be considered.
  • Further research needs to focus on the distribution of fire incidence in different socioeconomic status groups, cause of residential fires, and the use of residential fire protection features.

REFLECTION

I was given the opportunity to write an ethics proposal, conduct a literature review and begin the analysis section of the project, as well as meet with professionals working in this field.

I got the opportunity to work with a large database created by Stats Canada and I assumed it would be one without mistakes - that was definitely not the case. It was a positive and enlightening experience to work with Jennifer from Statistics Canada to resolve issues I encountered while working with the dataset. I realized the importance of communication and collaboration between different individuals in this field. Although our interests lie in separate projects, stakeholders are all required to cooperate together to complete the tasks at hand.

CAPSTONE

My project initially looked at the burden of fire related injuries in youth and children in Western Canada, specifically British Columbia and Alberta. I began to expand this project to include a comparison of youth and children to young adults/older adults, as well as explore different variables of interest. My goal for the capstone would be split the data first by Canada and then provincially. I am working towards writing a comprehensive report that will be shared with The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, and Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC), and the Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners (CCFMFC) for providing access to the National Firefighters Information Database and funding this project.

I would like to thank my preceptor Dr. Ian Pike and my research team for their ongoing support in this project.

REFERENCES


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