

# Arkansas Children's Hospital Burn Center

## The Problem of Youth Firesetting

### The Facts

Children playing with or setting fire cause (annually in US):

- More than 350 deaths
- Over 2,800 injuries
- More than 100,000 fires
- Over \$280 million in property loss
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Youth Firesetting:

- 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of deadly house fires
- Leading cause of fire death in children under age 10

*And...*

- Arson is the most common violent crime committed by juveniles.
- Juveniles account for more than 50% of all arson arrests.
- Fire is the leading cause of death in the home for children age 5 to

14.

### **2004 Burn Center Statistics--children who play with or set fires**

In 2004, 23 children were admitted to the Arkansas Children's Hospital Burn Center for burns received from fires that they started or fires they were playing with.

That is 31% of all children who were admitted to the Burn Center in 2004.

That is 10% of all patients who were admitted to the Burn Center in 2004.

*At least* 9 of these fires involved the use of a lighter by the child.

Note: Admission criteria for the Burn Center is 10% body surface area burn and/or burns that could permanently affect appearance or function of a body part. So these are not minor burns.

### **Statistics - 2001**

- # YFS patients / # Total burn center patients: 20/223 (9.0%)
- # YFS patients / # Total juvenile (17 and under) burn center patients: 20/78 (25.6%)
- Of the 20 patients, 4 (20%) were female and 16 (80%) were male.
- The charges for these patients totaled \$ 388,535.
- The average age of these patients was 11.1 years.

**For more information on Youth Firesetting,  
please call toll free 866-KID-FIRE  
also  
go to [www.sosfires.com](http://www.sosfires.com) for more information**