

Abstract Title

“Examining the trends & patterns of burn injuries in [under-served] communities in BC”

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Background: Burn injury is the fourth most common substantial injury, after road traffic accidents, falls and interpersonal violence. Although the general mortality rate due to burns has improved significantly in Canada due to pioneering innovation in treatment and care; still, there are many underserved populations and communities for whom access to burns treatment and care is severely lacking. Burn injury is often referred to as a disease of poverty, and in Canada, death, and injury from burns is associated with groups of people who are adversely affected by social determinants of health (SDOH) such as Indigenous people, people who experience poverty and homelessness, mental health concerns, children in care, children with a teenage mother, lone parents, precariously housed individuals, and rural and remote communities in Canada, are all at greater risks of burn injuries. Groups of people who are at risk of burn injury in BC are under-served by our health and social systems, and within this context, I use the term underserved.

Research question: My research questions are: *1) What geographic areas are most socially and materially deprived in BC? 2) In what areas do most burn injuries occur in BC? 3) What is the experience and narrative of burn survivors residing in the most socially and materially deprived areas in BC?*

Methodology: The study is a mixed-methods sequential explanatory design, using a descriptive, cross-sectional study design for the quantitative stream, and a focused ethnography study design for the qualitative stream. Geographic Information System (GIS) software will be used to spatially reference visual illustrative patterns and trends of burn injury, including the opportunity to display incidence, prevalence, and associated risk factors.