

Hot Iron Burns in Children

Mechanism of Injury:

The toddler usually reaches up and directly touches the hot iron or pulls the cord causing the iron to fall on themselves.

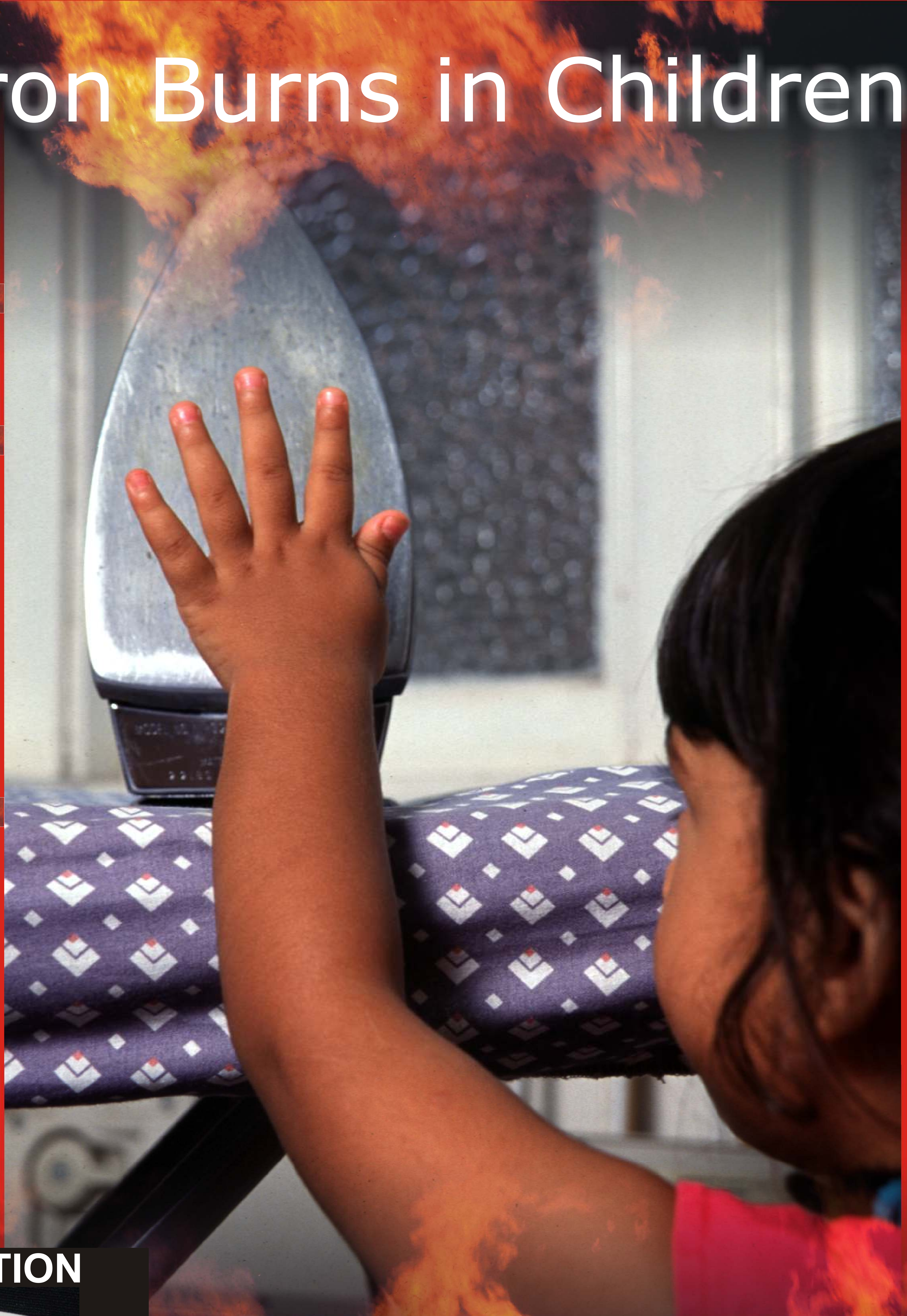
Data:

In the six years from 1997 to 2002, 1633 children were treated for burns at the Royal Children's Hospital.

- 5-8 % of all burns were from hot irons
- Average age: 17 months
- Male : Female = 2:1
- 72% were supervised by an adult
- Area of body most affected: Hands
- 36% required skin grafting
- 4% required further surgery for chronic scarring

Prevention Message:

- Thermo-protective boxes can be used to hold the iron when not in use
- Ironing should be done in an area where the child has limited access, which may include the use of gates or playpens
- Never leave an iron on the ground to cool
- The use of coiled or self-retracting cords decrease the chances of a child pulling an iron down on themselves



PREVENTION



A coiled cord

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