

Determinants of burn first aid knowledge: A cross-sectional study

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Introduction

Awareness of appropriate burn first aid is low in the community. This study investigated demographic factors and first aid course attendance as factors influencing burn first aid knowledge.

Methods

- A cross-sectional study (survey) was undertaken using convenience sampling of members of sporting and recreation clubs (WA)
- Primary outcome measure - the proportion of correct responses to multiple-choice questions relating to first aid for 4 burn scenarios: (1) scald; (2) contact burn; (3) ignited clothing and (4) chemical burn

Summary of Results

- 2602 responses were obtained
- Large gaps in burn first aid knowledge (30-50% incorrect answers) were identified across all burn scenarios
- First aid courses attendance, especially within the last 5 years or with a burns component, was associated with more correct answers (Fig. 1).
- Males and younger (≤ 25 years) and older (≥ 65 years) age-groups gave fewer correct answers and were less likely to have attended a first aid course (Fig. 2)

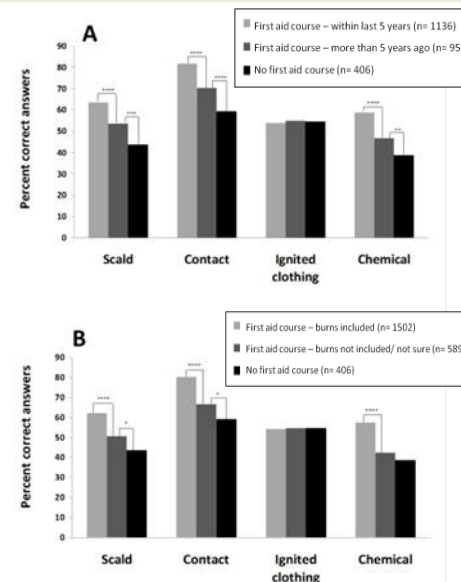


Fig. 1. First aid courses attendance and burn first aid knowledge

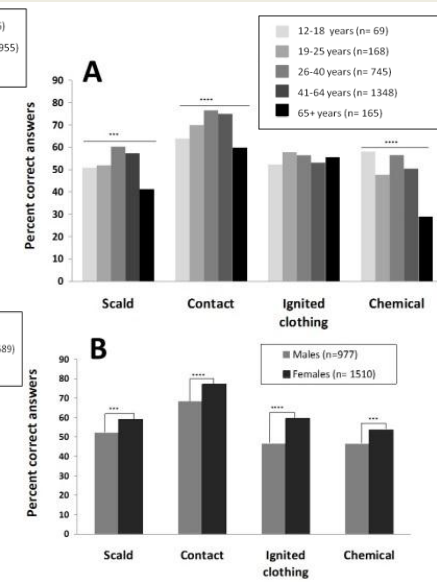


Fig. 2. Age and gender and burn first aid knowledge

Key Recommendations

- First aid courses should (1) contain a specific burns component; and (2) be targeted to males and younger and older age-groups
- Refresher first aid courses are required