

# ` Quick Review of Model System Research

### Exploring the Burn Model System National Database: Burn Injuries, Substance Misuse, and the CAGE Questionnaire

### What is the study about?

### This study aims to examine scores of burn survivors from the self-reported CAGE questionnaire (Cut down, Annoyed, Guilty, and Eye-opener). The CAGE questionnaire is an assessment tool used to screen for potential substance misuse. Burn survivors who misuse alcohol and/or other substances are more likely to have poorer long-term outcomes, and clinical complications following injury. Understanding the development of potential substance misuse, through examining CAGE scores, may provide useful information about this population.

### What did the study find?

This study found that about one in five burn survivors were at risk for substance misuse pre-injury. Additionally, over half (62.7%) of those identified as at risk pre-injury were still at risk for substance misuse at follow-up. These findings highlight the importance of screening and support of burn survivors for substance misuse. This is especially relevant in the first two years after burn injuries occur.

### Who participated in the study?

Individuals who are burn survivors aged 18 years or older (n=466) and completed the self-reported CAGE questionnaire at two separate time points.

### How was the study conducted?

This study was a retrospective study using data from the time of participants’ discharge to assess pre-injury substance misuse, and a follow-up questionnaire at 6, 12, or 24 months post-injury. Data were obtained from the Burn Model System National Database.

### How can people use the results?

### Individuals with burn injuries and their families can use the results of this study to better understand the CAGE assessment tool and its use in identifying alcohol/substance misuse in the burn survivor population. Practitioners can use these findings to inform burn injury-oriented education. The practitioners may benefit form learning about a questionnaire that may help in screening and providing for individuals with burn injuries who engage in alcohol or substance misuse.

### Reference

Grant, G.G., Wolfe, E.A., Thorpe, C.R., Gibran, N.S., Carrougher, G.J., Wiechman, S.A., Holavanahalli, R., Stoddard, F.J., Sheridan, R.L., Kazis, L.E., Schneider, J.C., & Ryan, C.M. (2020). Exploring the Burn Model System National Database: Burn injuries, substance misuse, and the CAGE questionnaire. *Burns, 46*(3), 745-747. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.burns.2019.12.016

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