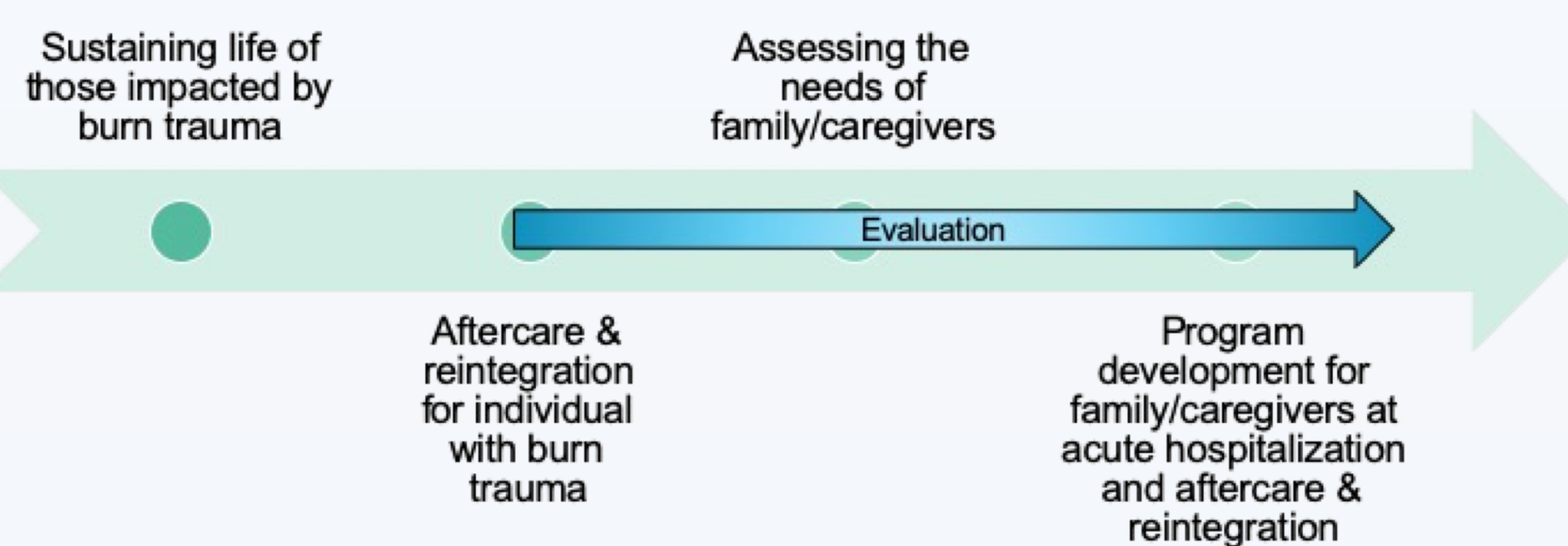


Programs should address the needs of all family members, not only the burn injured child. The family system impact is a critical primary consideration for research and interventions.

Introduction

Interventions for burn-injured children (BIC) largely focus on the child with the physical injury while consideration for family systems appears incidental. This study aimed to gain insight into the perspectives and needs of parents/caregivers of pediatric burn patients (PPBP). When considering BIC within the context of a family system, it is reasonable to expect the injury to engulf everyone. The literature emphasizes the acute and lasting physical and emotional impact of burns. Moreover, research suggests PPBP experience an emotional response to the incident that is often complicated by physical absence from their other children. Thus, this exploratory study fills a gap by engaging the unique perspective of the PPBP and posits direct implications for essential program enhancement/development.

Literature Review



Research has primarily been limited to the experience of the burn injured person. However, these life altering injuries produce lasting physical and psychosocial consequences that warrant further discussion for both the person who experienced the burn injury, as well as their family.

22 semi-structured interviews with parents of BIC in India reported a 3 stage process of embracing survival: 1) suffering the trauma alongside their burn-injured child; 2) supporting the survival of their child; and 3) protecting the child from stigma as a result of the scarring and disfigurement. Parents also perceived a lack of support from both healthcare professionals and family members.

A Swedish study of six parents/caregivers suggested difficulties and worries regarding physical problems, altered family relations, changes to everyday life, and the need for parental/family support.

Some research has suggested that parents/caregivers experience their own emotional response complicated by physical absence of unharmed child(ren).

Significant gap in regard to understanding the impact of a burn injury from the emic perspective of family members.

Methodology

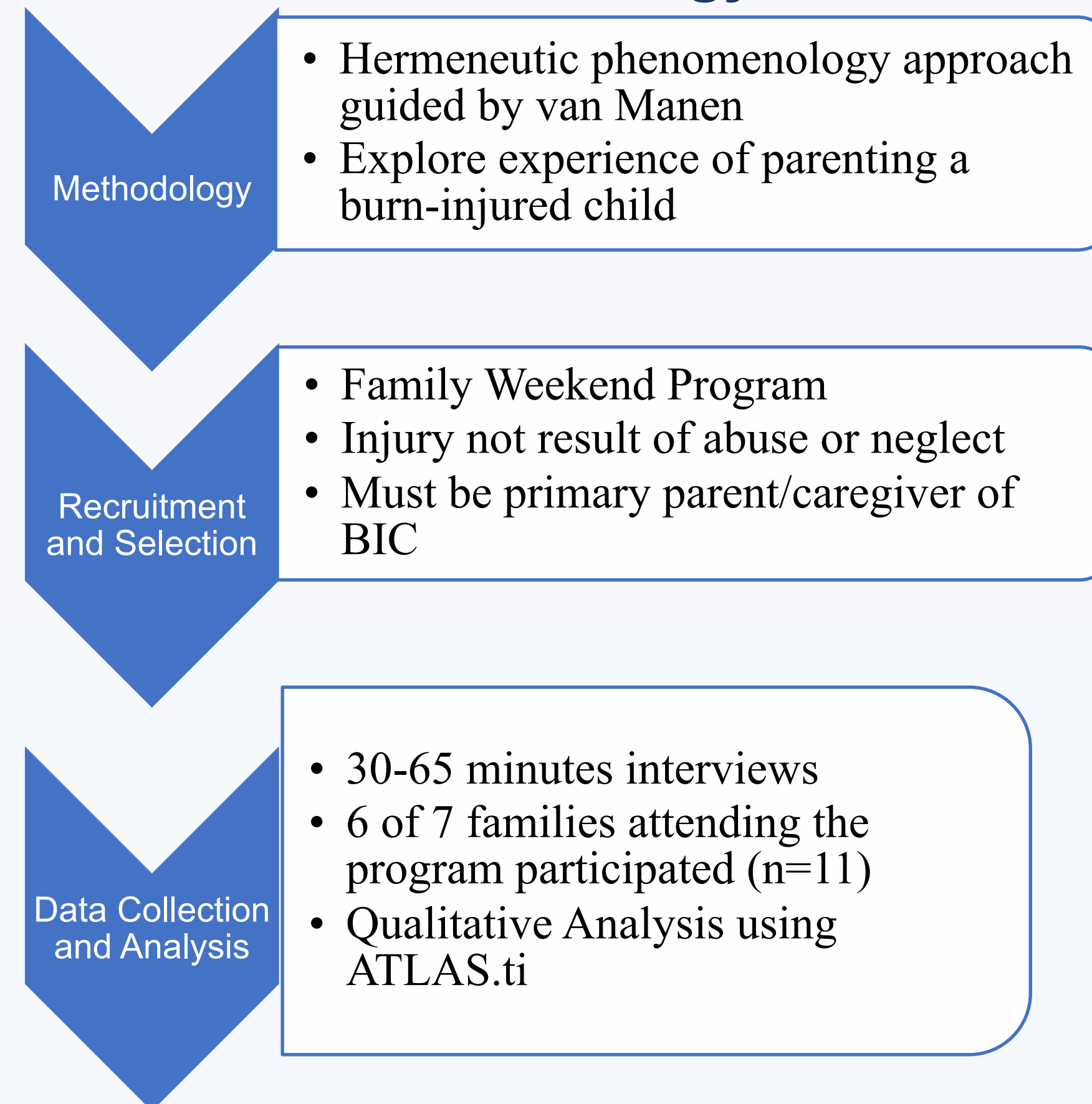
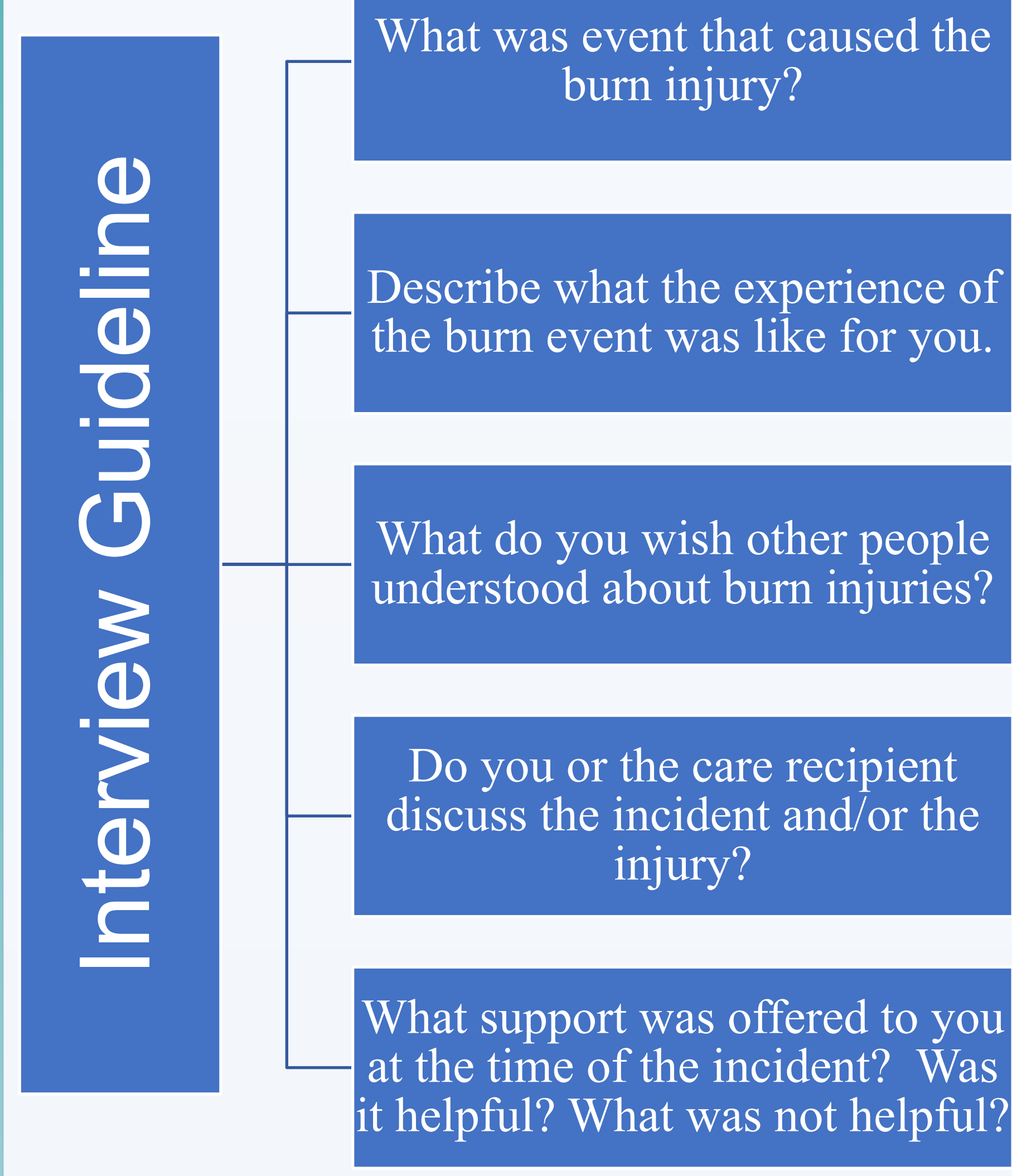
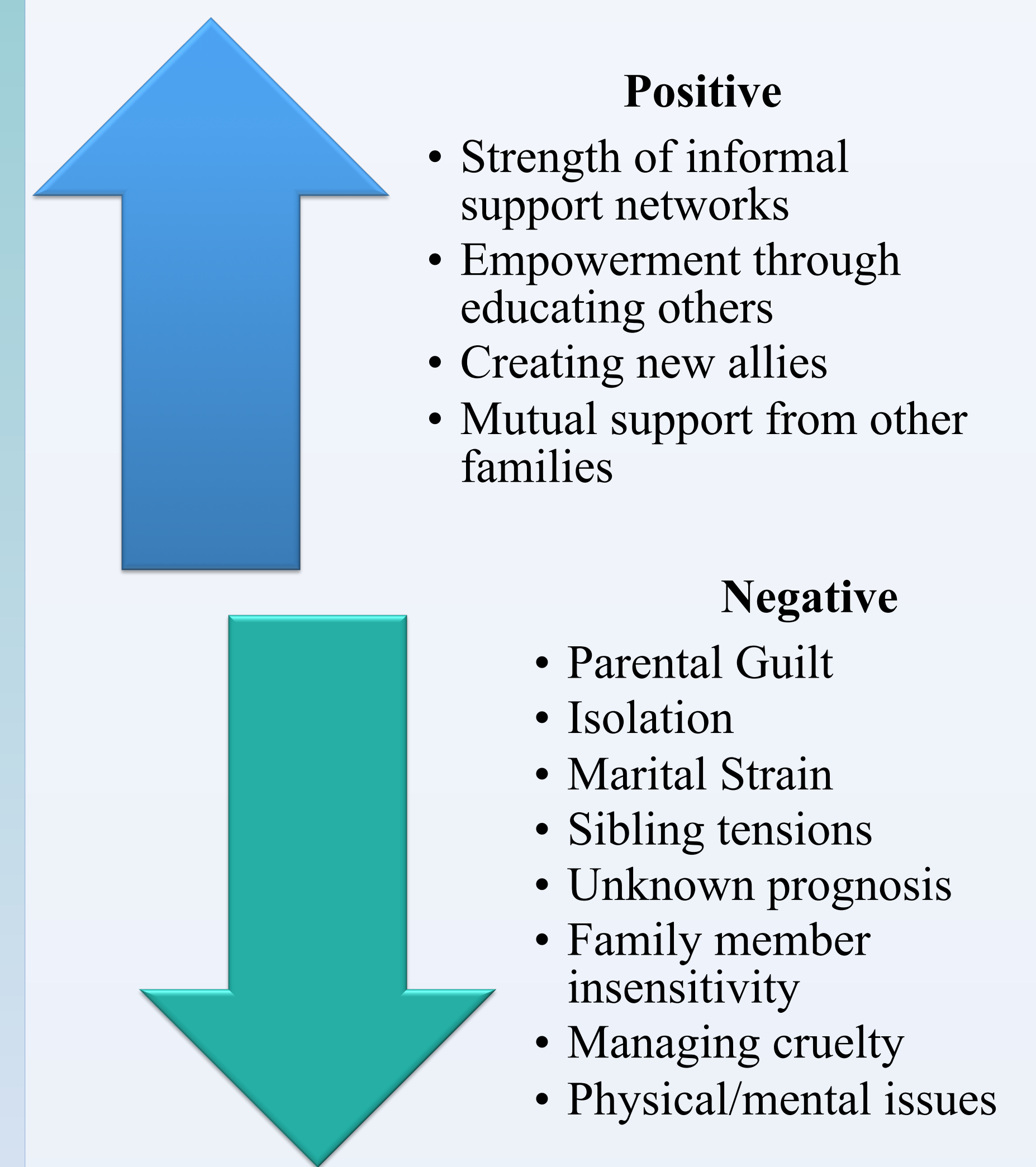


Table 1. Social, demographic and burn information of the participants (all names are pseudonyms).

Demographics	Burn Injury Circumstances	Parents/Caregiver Demographics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daughter—Sarah Injury occurred in 2002 when she was 20 months old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother and Father present Sibling present and witnessed event while they were playing in the backyard Injury happened at the child's home Burned from smoldering ashes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married Couple Biological Parents Mother—Donna 42 yrs old Father—David 40 yrs old Caucasian No religious affiliation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Son—Mark Injury occurred in 2011 when he was 9 years old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother not home; Father present Sibling present and witnessed the injury on the back porch Injury happened at the child's home Burned from flame off fire Father also burn injured during incident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married Couple Biological Parents Mother—Rachel 42 yrs old Father—Bob 35 yrs old Caucasian Southern Baptist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daughter—Natalia Injury occurred in 2006 when she was almost 4 years old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother and Father both present Cousins present/siblings not born at the time Injury happened during visit to Mexico in fathers vehicle Burned from flame/explosion in vehicle Father also burn injured during incident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married Couple Biological Parents Mother—Francine 38 yrs old Father—Jack 48 yrs old Latino Catholic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daughter—Ashley Injury occurred in 2004 when she was 9 months old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological parents divorced; visiting her biological father at the time of injury Unclear circumstances (2 versions) Feel into heater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married Biological Mother Mother—Debra 30 yrs old Caucasian No religious affiliation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daughter—Trina Injury occurred in 2011 when she was 6 years old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological mother present Mother's sister was cooking something on stove Injured from hot grease from stove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-married couple Biological Mother and Stepfather Mother—Barbara 32 yrs old Stepfather—Adam 29 yrs old African American Baptist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Son—Travon Injury occurred in 2014 when he was 9 years old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological mother at work Biological father home with child Child stepped onto open stove door and boiling water poured on him when the oven tipped over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married Couple Biological Parents Mother—Twanda 44 yrs old Father—Thomas 42 yrs old African American Non-denominational



Common Experiences



Lack of Sensitivity

"We couldn't even leave her with family and take a weekend to ourselves because every time I did physical therapy, if they were around they're like, 'Why can't you just give her a break?'"

Never-ending Treatment

"I wish that they understood that it's never over. When you break a leg, you get it set and then it re-heals and you forget about it...It's ten years later and we're still—it's our life. We go to Cincinnati. That's our life."

Sibling Experience

"Don't get me wrong. I think a lot of them are probably very protective of their sibling, but I think they also need a time to vent about their sibling...It's still got an interesting dynamic because of the situation."

Conclusions

Programs should address the needs of all family members, not just BIC. In order to mitigate the impact of burn trauma, the family system impact remains a critical primary consideration for research and interventions. **Applicability of Research to Practice:** Findings can contribute to program planning with increased consideration of the family system. As a result of this study, siblings are now included in a summer camp program historically serving only BIC and family camp occurs twice a year.



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