In 1997, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) partnered with Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Galveston to expand its burn injury model system to include pediatric burn survivors. The Burn Injury Model Systems National Database is a prospective, longitudinal, multicenter research study that examines functional and psychosocial outcomes following burns for over 3,000 adults and almost 2,000 children. This research enables Shriners Hospitals for Children — Galveston to assist patients, doctors, and nurses make well-informed decisions about treatment and long term care for children.

The research team conducts longitudinal assessments of patients and measures cardiopulmonary function, physical growth and maturation, bone density, range of motion, activities of daily living, scar formation, reconstructive needs, and psychosocial adjustment.

Severe burns are one of the most complex forms of trauma injury. Promoting survival, recovery, and rehabilitation of burn patients is extremely challenging. Long-term rehabilitation is expected and significant disability is common. Rehabilitation focuses on major problematic areas of both recovering normal physical function and providing psychosocial adaptation. This situation becomes more complex in pediatric patients where consideration must be given to physical growth and development, cognitive development and differing motivations at each developmental period, and the longer life span over which rehabilitation interventions are likely to affect outcome. Mechanisms are currently in place for the interdisciplinary care, rehabilitation and follow up of over 300 acutely burned children. The burn patient population consists of many different countries and cultures referred to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Galveston each year. Comprehensive treatment plans are directed toward achieving the best possible long-term outcome in patients and Shriners Hospitals for Children — Galveston’s strong history of conducting innovative research has translated into expert care improving physical, functional and psychological outcomes for children.

About Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Galveston
Designated by the American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma as a verified pediatric burn care center, Shriners Hospitals for Children — Galveston provides highly specialized acute, reconstructive and rehabilitative care for children with burns and other soft tissue conditions. Inpatient and outpatient units are designed to allow children to recover in a safe, family-centered environment along the continuum of their care. The world-class physicians, clinicians, and researchers are committed to continuously provide advanced burn care and treatment to children from all over the world.

Since Shriners Hospitals for Children — Galveston entered the burn care field in 1966, the survival rate of children with burns over more than 50 percent of their body surface has doubled. Today, patients with burns over 90 percent of their body can survive and go on to lead full, productive lives thanks to the cutting-edge clinical care, research, and education at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Galveston. All care and services are provided regardless of the families’ ability to pay.