

# Annual Conference: Fire Related Research and Developments (RE11)

Evaluating strategies to assess the impact of  
community safety initiatives

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## KTP aims and objectives:

- To evaluate Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's (NFRS) community safety initiatives with regards to risk reduction.
- To develop effective evaluation tools and methods, which will be embedded and maintained within the organisation.
- To analyse the needs of the community and forecast future demographic trends.

## NFRS evaluation methods:

- Community safety initiatives are becoming more responsive to the needs of the communities in Nottinghamshire.
- Effective and innovative evaluation methods of community safety initiatives are taking place.
- However there is a need for the formal sharing of evaluation practices, overall evaluation guidance and a standardised evaluation process.

## The evaluation process:

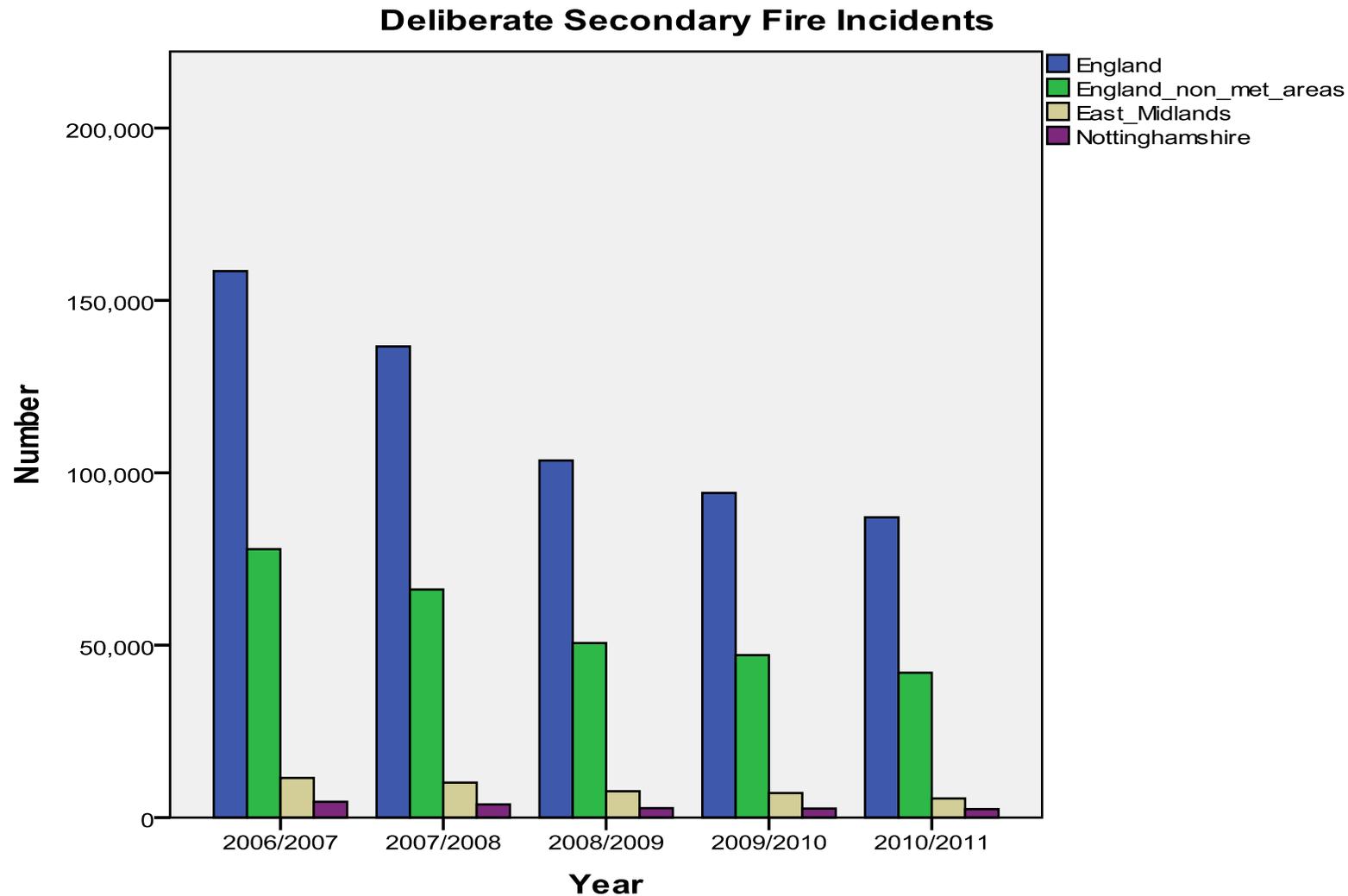
The development of an evaluation toolkit for NFRS:

- The essential elements needed to create an effective evaluation process for a fire and rescue service are:
  - 1. A project start up form:**
    - Provides a rationale for the delivery of an initiative.
  - 2. Staff training and education regarding evaluation techniques:**
    - The identification of the most appropriate evaluation methods to use when evaluating different initiatives.
  - 3. An evaluation library:**
    - This will lead to the sharing of best practices and the continual improvement of community safety initiatives.

## Methods of assessing impact:

- Not all community safety initiatives can be analysed through assessing a link with incidents in the community.
- When assessing the impact of an initiative through analysing the occurrence of incidents, fire and rescue service incident data should not be studied in isolation.
- When assessing the impact which an intervention has had upon the number of incidents which have taken place you can never fully establish cause and effect.
- However, through taking into consideration additional variables you can develop a stronger case to determine the likelihood of impact.

## The reduction in deliberate secondary fires:



## The reduction in deliberate secondary fires:

Location	Rate of change between 2006/07 and 2010/11
Nottinghamshire	46.79% decrease
East Midlands	51.66% decrease
England (non met areas)	46.00% decrease
England	45.07% decrease

Nottinghamshire District	Rate of change between 2006/07 and 2010/11
Area 1	35.66% decrease
<b>Area 2</b>	<b>57.32% decrease</b>
<b>Area 3</b>	<b>57.49% decrease</b>
<b>Area 4</b>	<b>61.63% decrease</b>

## The reduction in deliberate secondary fires: Population changes within the 15-24 age group

Location	Rate of change between 2006 and 2010
Nottinghamshire	2.28% increase
East Midlands	2.67% increase
Great Britain	2.58% increase

Nottinghamshire District	Rate of change between 2006 and 2010
Area 1	<b>4.38% increase</b>
Area 2	0.98% increase
Area 3	<b>6.40% increase</b>
Area 4	<b>3.82% increase</b>

## The reduction in deliberate secondary fires: Changes in reported crime

<b>Deliberate Secondary Fires</b>	
<b>Nottinghamshire District</b>	<b>Rate of change between 2006/07 and 2010/11</b>
Area 1	<b>35.66% decrease</b>
Area 2	<b>57.32% decrease</b>
Area 3	<b>57.49% decrease</b>
Area 4	<b>61.63% decrease</b>

<b>Reported Crime</b>	
<b>Nottinghamshire District</b>	<b>Rate of change between 2006/07 and 2010/11</b>
Area 1	<b>29.78% decrease</b>
Area 2	<b>43.60% decrease</b>
Area 3	<b>43.37% decrease</b>
Area 4	<b>43.10% decrease</b>

## The reduction in deliberate secondary fires:

Evidence to suggest NFRS community safety initiatives impacted upon a reduction in deliberate secondary fires:

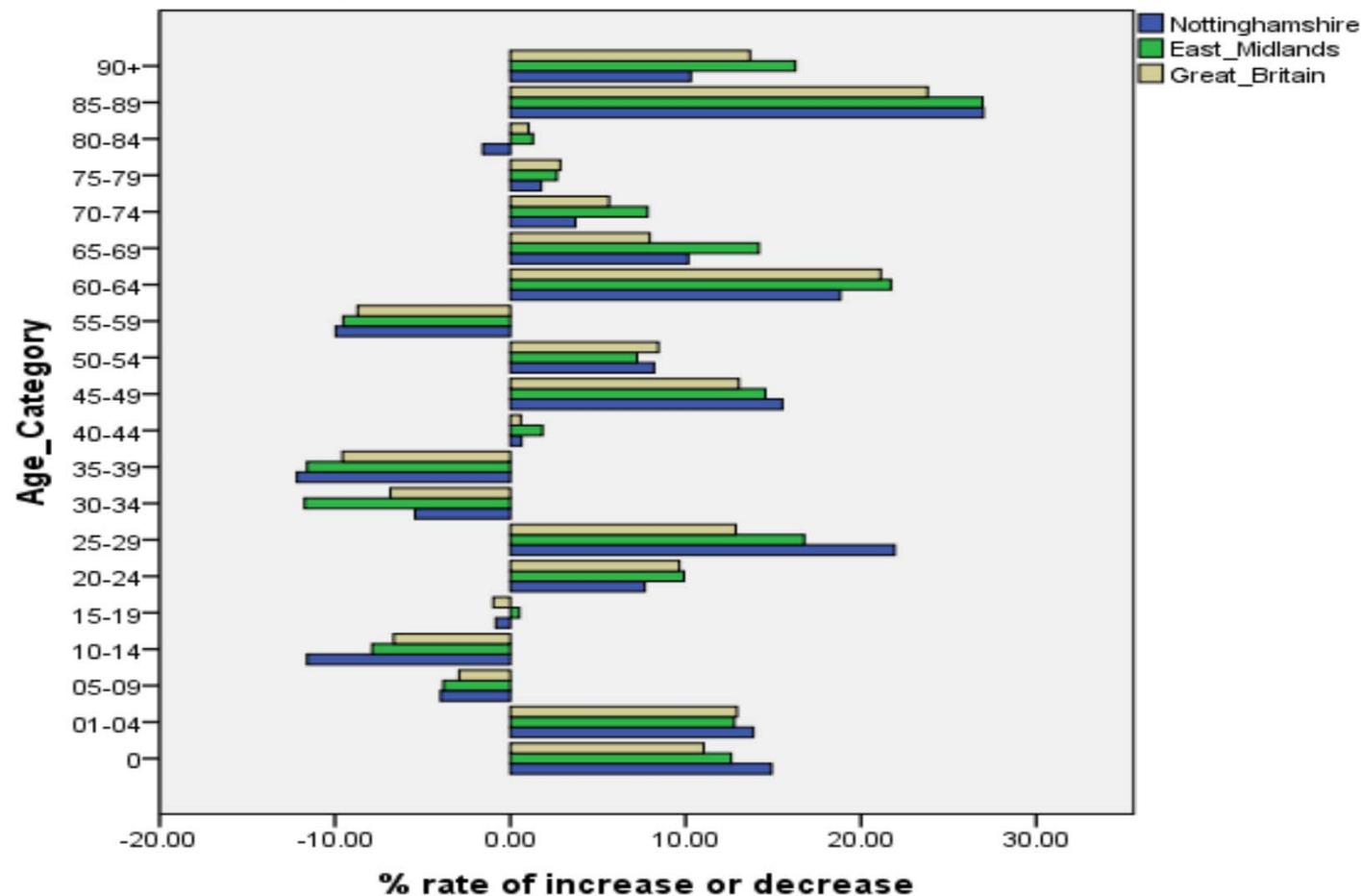
- Within areas 2, 3 and 4 the number of deliberate secondary fires reduced at a rate far in excess of that observed either regionally or nationally.
- Within all 4 areas the age group most likely (arguably) to be involved in these types of incidents increased during the same period.
- Within areas 2, 3 and 4 the rate at which the number of deliberate secondary fires reduced was far in excess of the reduction seen for reported crime.
- Although within area 1 the number of deliberate secondary fires reduced at a smaller rate than that observed nationally and regionally, they still decreased at a rate far in excess of that observed for all reported crime within area 1.

## The development of community risk profiles:

- NFRS rely upon receiving information from other public agencies in order to develop detailed risk profiles of the communities it serves.
- In order to facilitate this process one of the outcomes of the KTP has been the development of an information sharing guidance document.
- It is useful for public services to analyse demographic trends in order to take into consideration the future demands and constraints they are likely to be faced with.

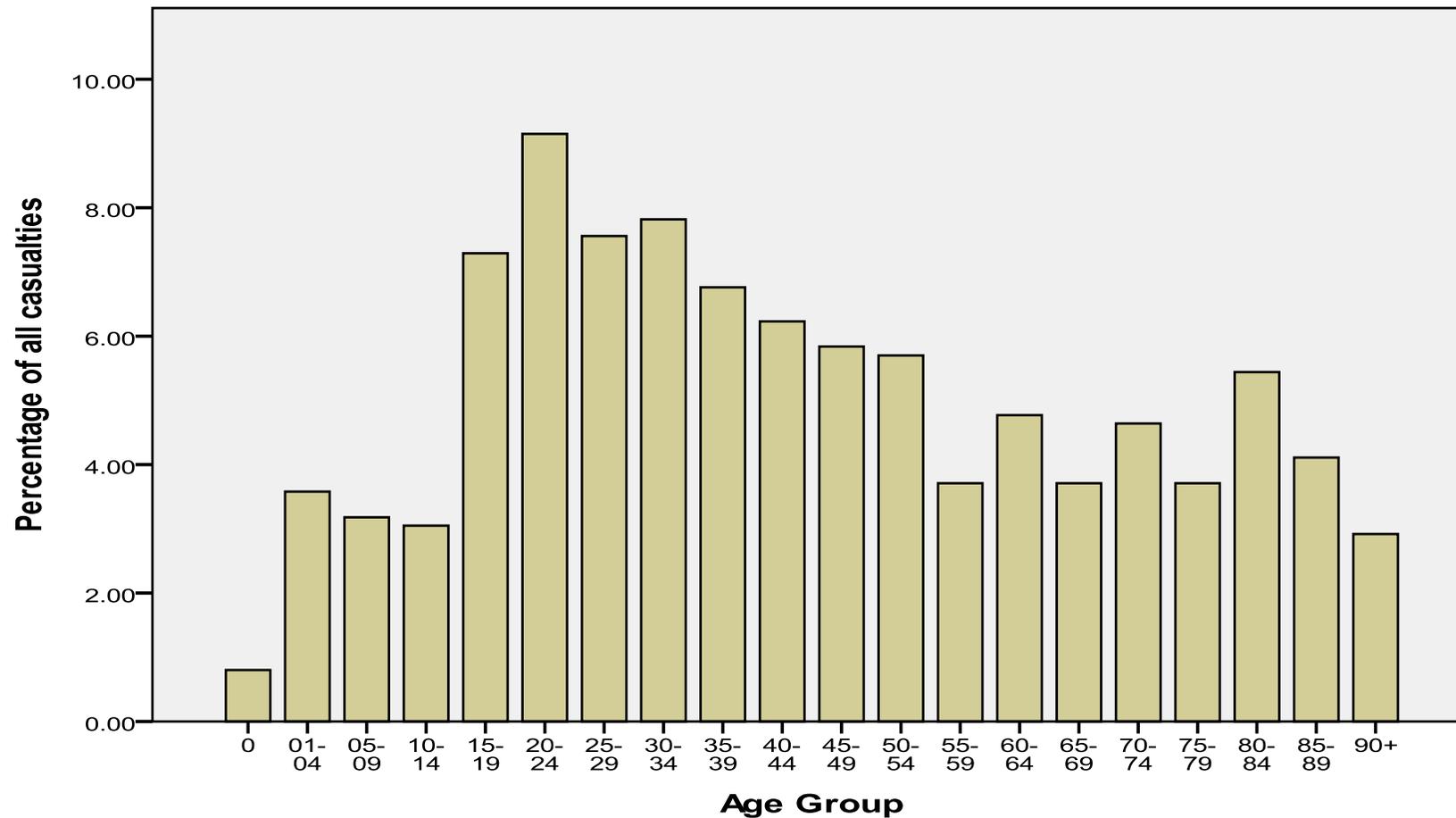
# The development of community risk profiles:

The rate of population increases and decreases between 2005 and 2010



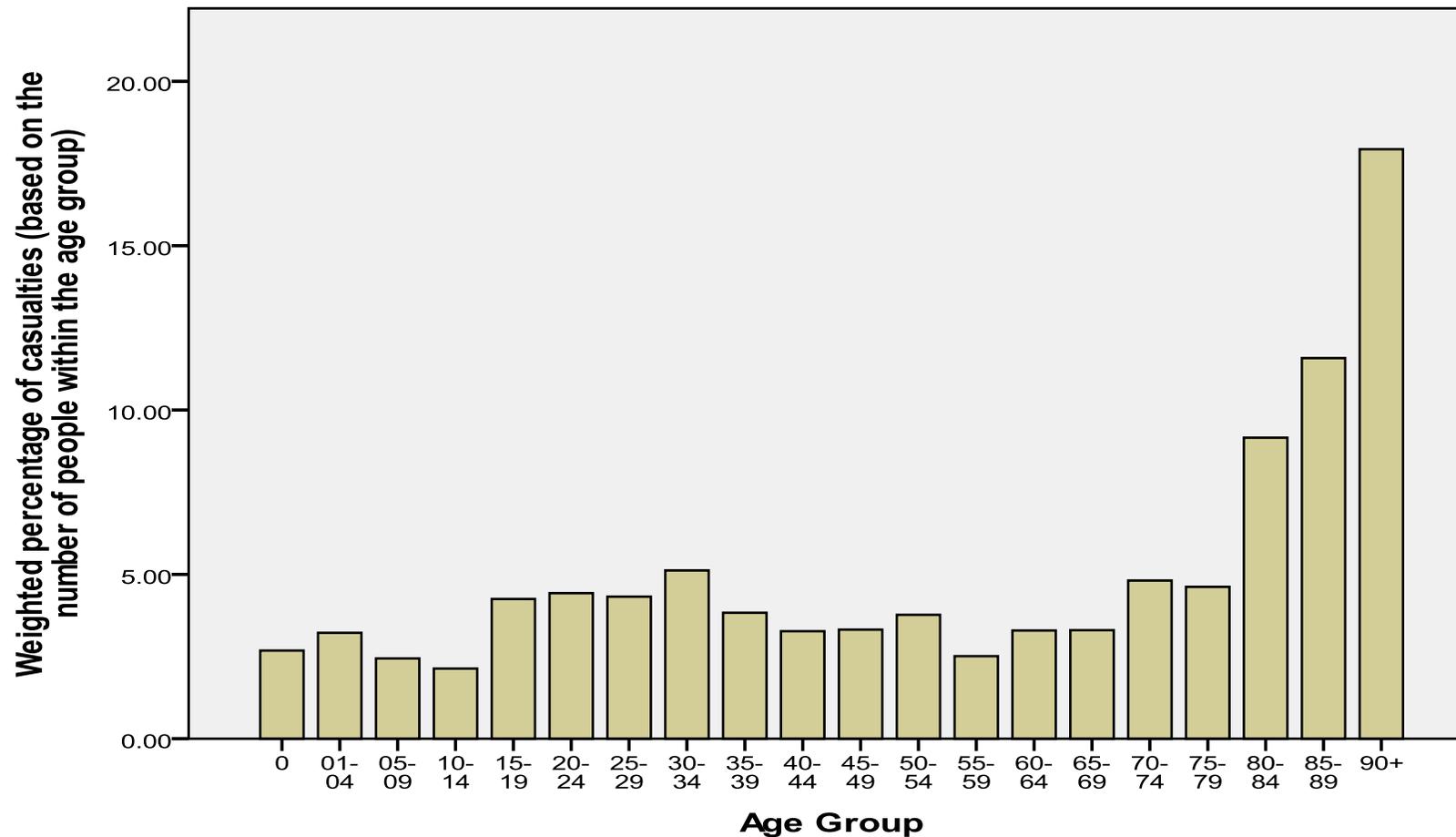
## The development of community risk profiles:

**Accidental dwelling fire casualties: 01/04/2006 - 31/03/2011**



# The development of community risk profiles:

**Accidental dwelling fire casualties: 01/04/2006 - 31/03/2011**



## The development of community risk profiles:

- In the future the older age groups are likely to account for a greater proportion of the population.
- This could be of significance for fire and rescue services as data indicates that the elderly are at greatest risk of being involved in an accidental dwelling fire.

## Future Work

- Continuation of a community needs analysis
- Embedding the new evaluation process
- Academic outputs: Submission of final versions of literature review (pro-social behaviour, levels of responsibility and risk behaviours) and an article discussing information sharing in public agencies to appropriate journals.



**Thank you for listening.**

**Any questions?**

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