

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:

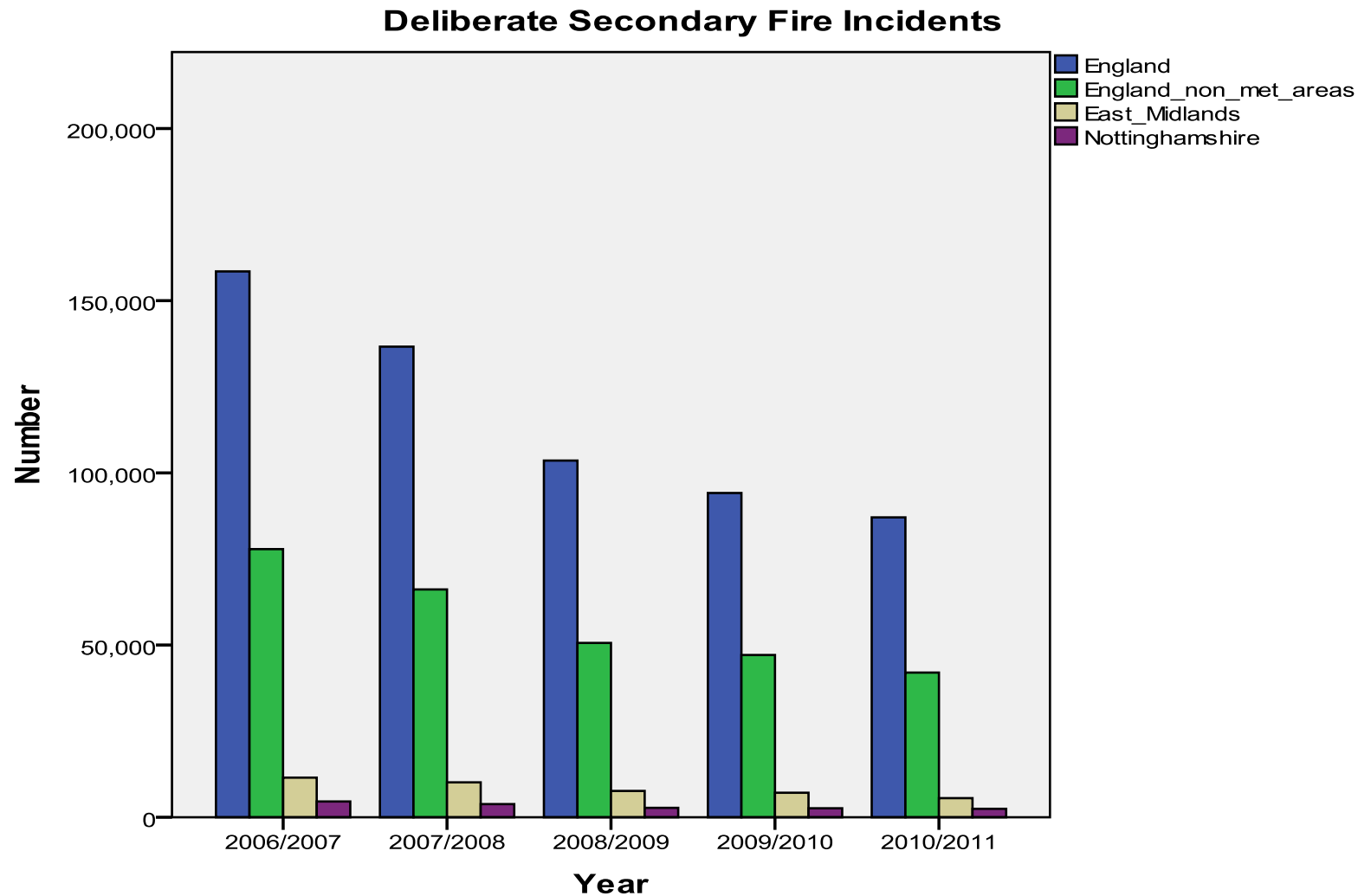
The development of an evaluation toolkit for NFRS:

- 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
Area 2	57.32% decrease
Area 3	57.49% decrease
Area 4	61.63% decrease

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	4.38% increase
Area 2	0.98% increase
Area 3	6.40% increase
Area 4	3.82% increase

The reduction in deliberate secondary fires: Changes in reported crime

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

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

The reduction in deliberate secondary fires:

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

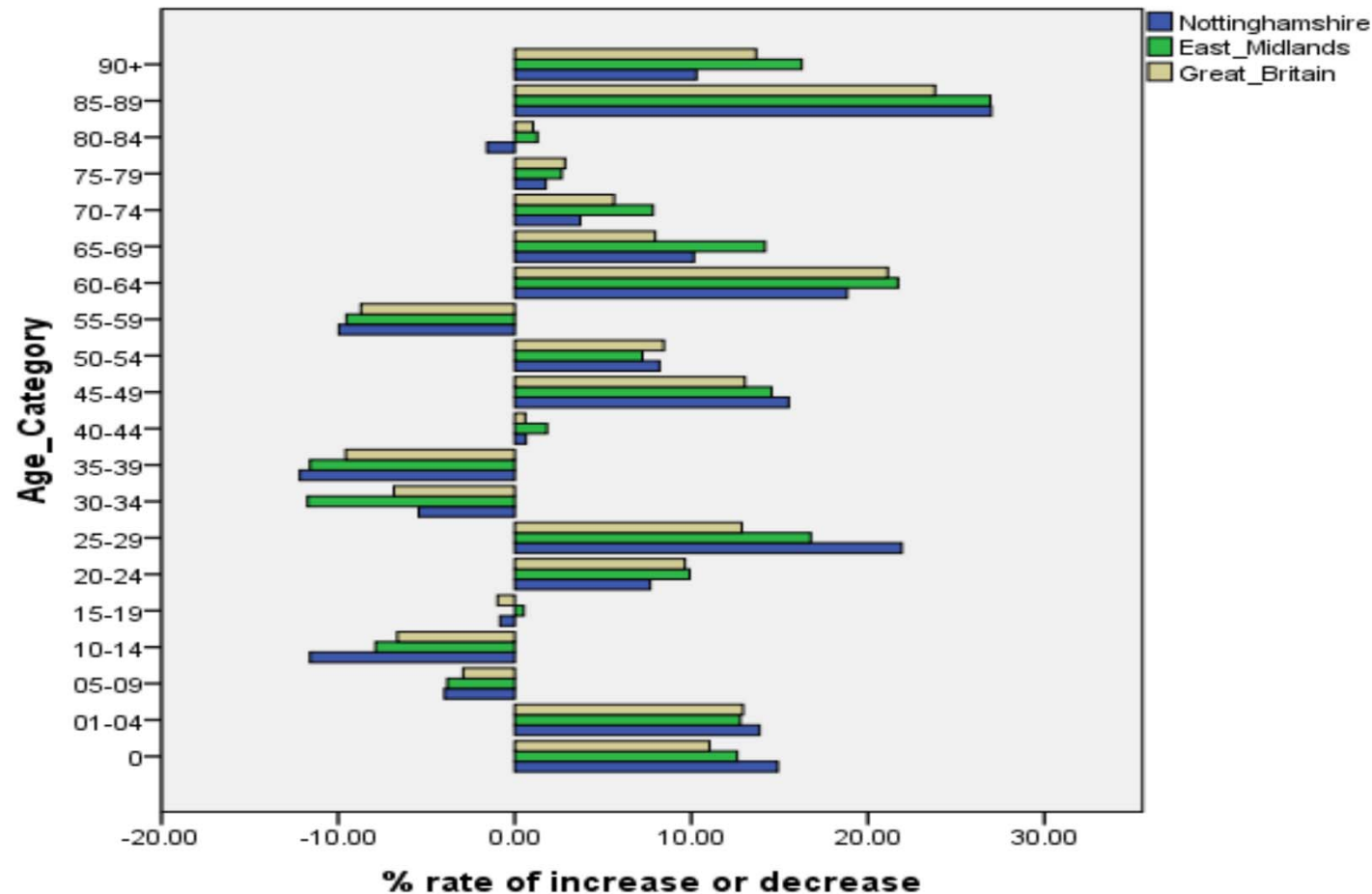
- Within areas 2, 3 and 4 the number of deliberate secondary fires reduced at a rate far in excess of that observed either regionally or nationally.
- Within all 4 areas the age group most likely (arguably) to be involved in these types of incidents increased during the same period.
- Within areas 2, 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.

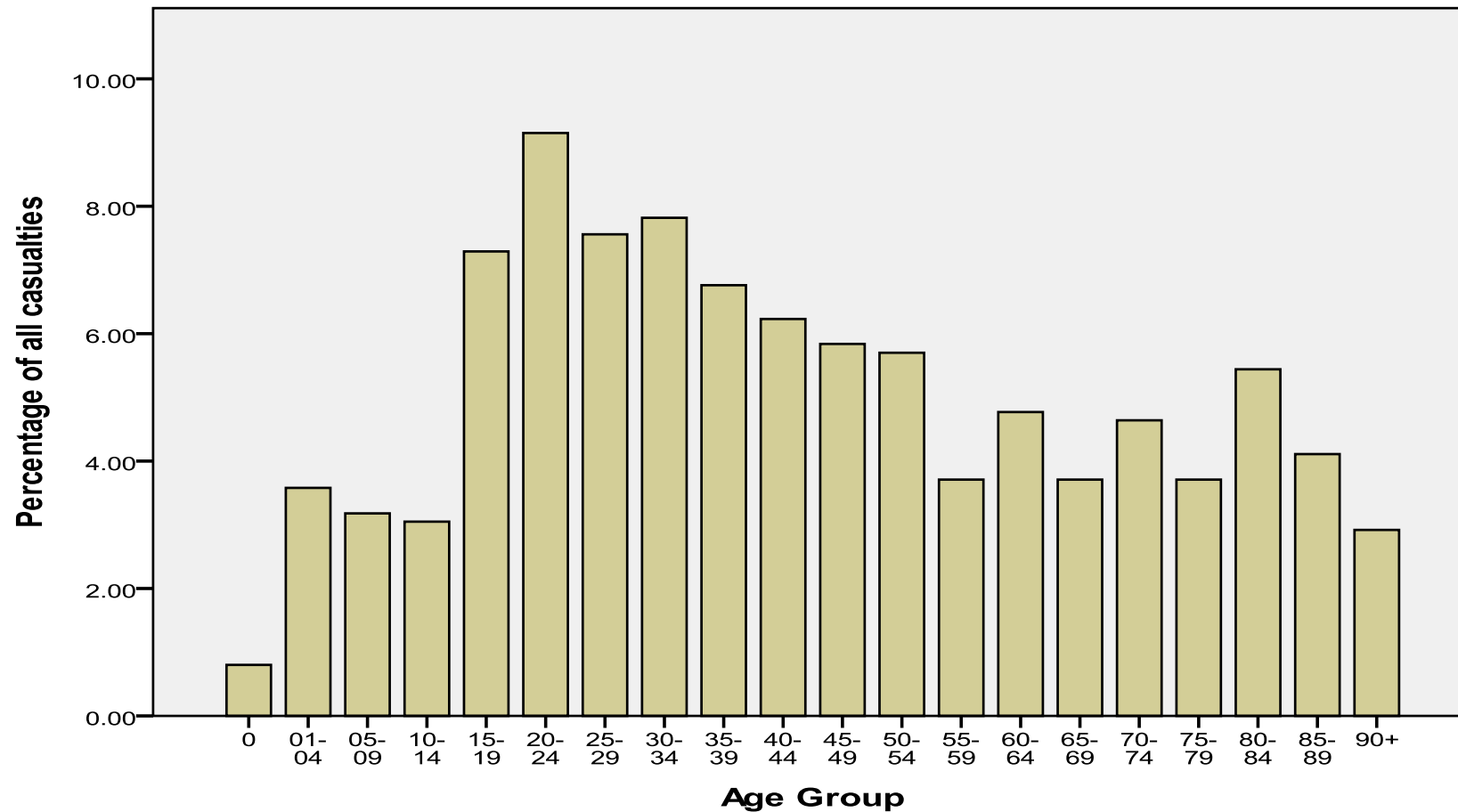
The development of community risk profiles:

The rate of population increases and decreases between 2005 and 2010



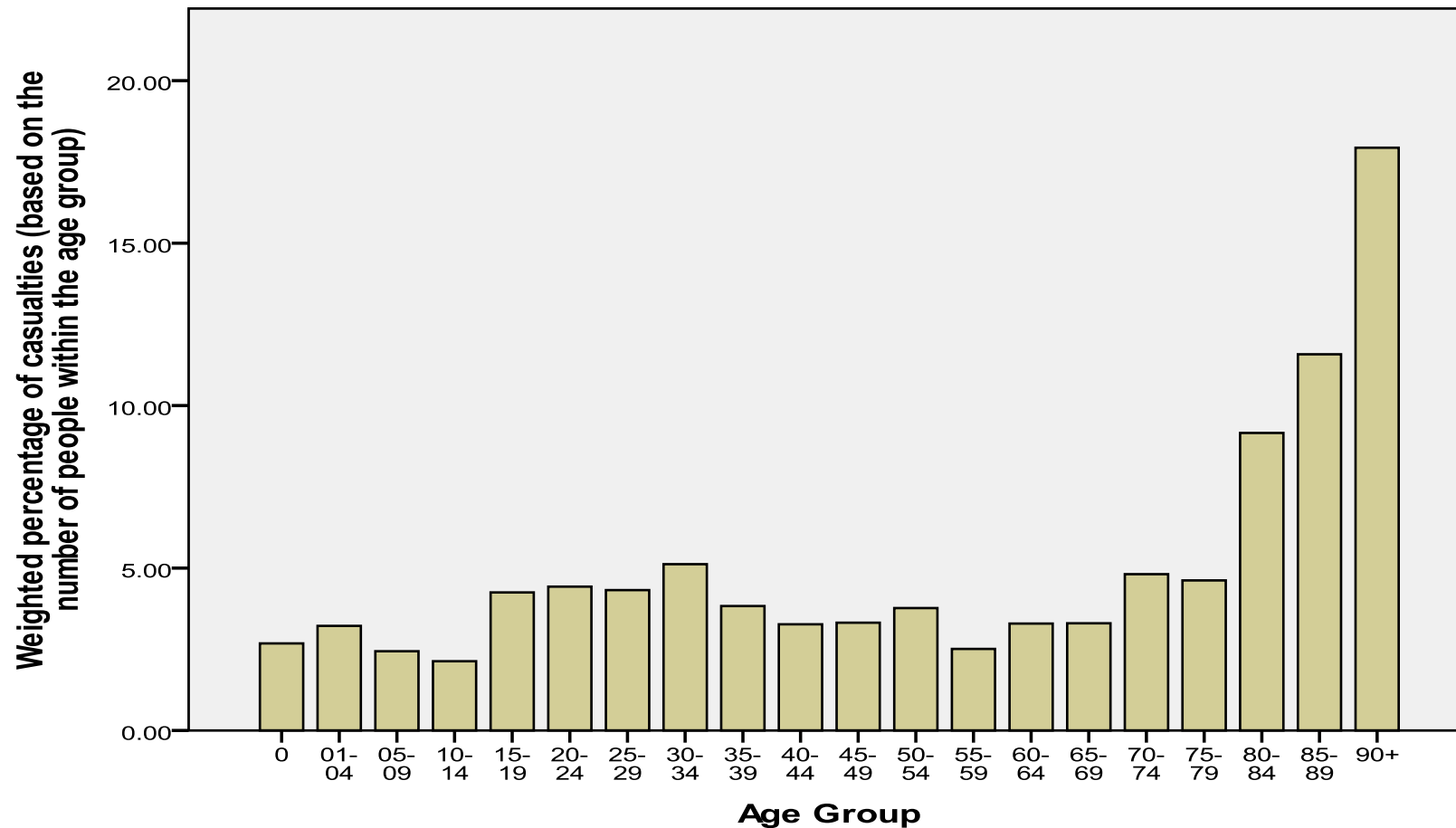
The development of community risk profiles:

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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