

Fire safety...make the connection



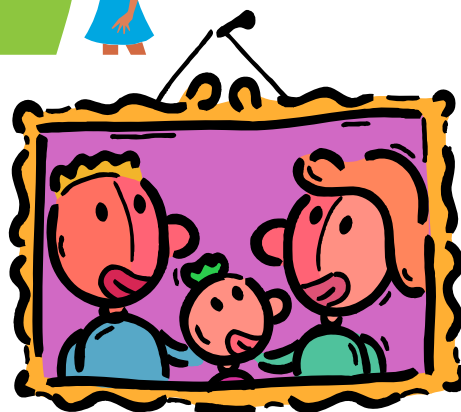
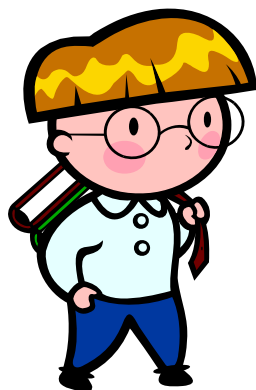
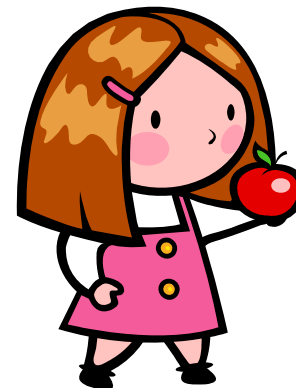
Kate Slowinski
Projects & Partnerships Co-ordinator

Who are Firebrake Wales?

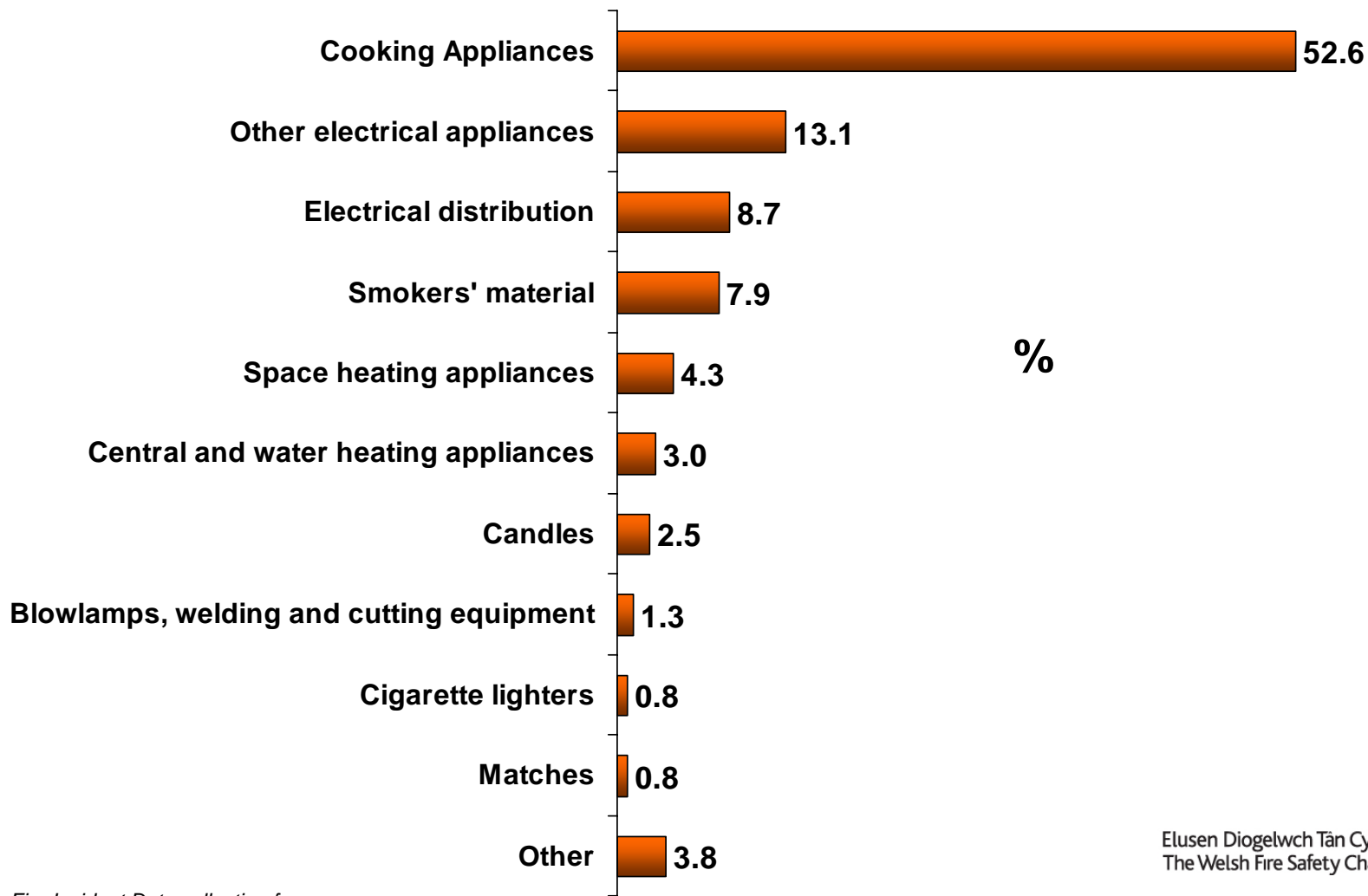
- Small, national Welsh charity
- Independent of, but working closely with the Welsh Fire Services
- Focus on the prevention of injuries and deaths in accidental fires in the home



**What do you think are the
main causes of fires in the
home in Wales?**



Sources of ignition in accidental dwelling fires in Wales (2007)



'Smoking' fires are more 'deadly'

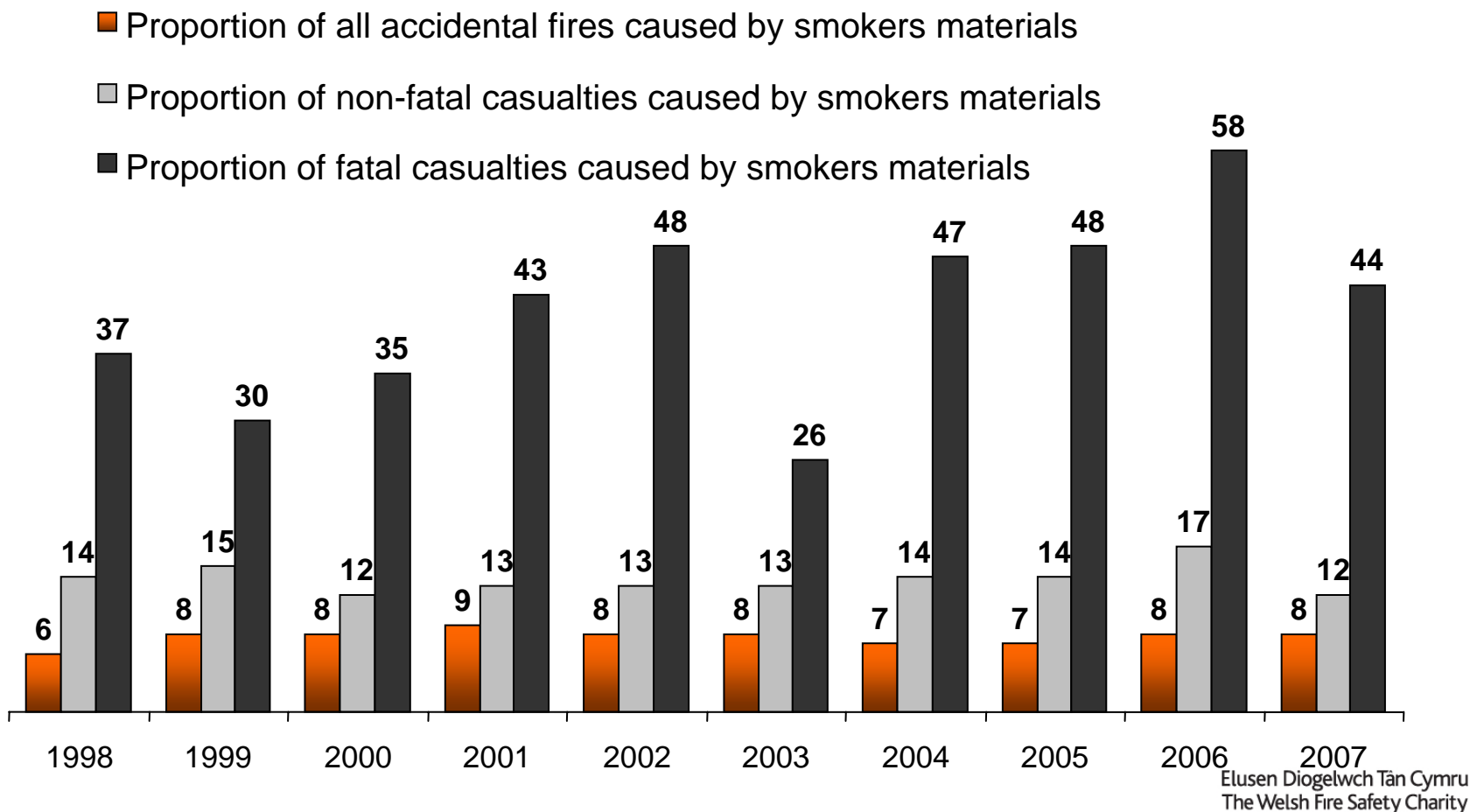
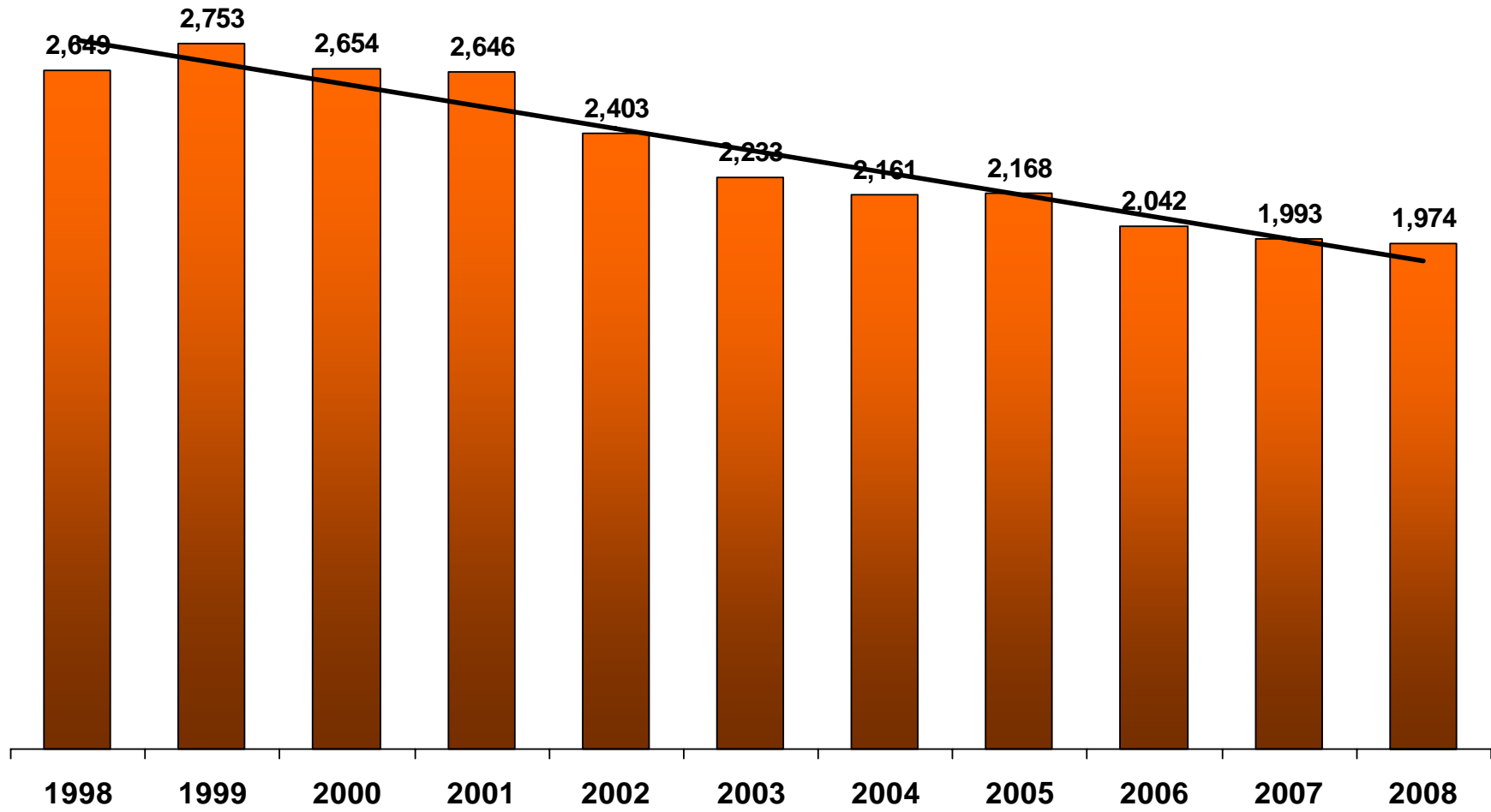


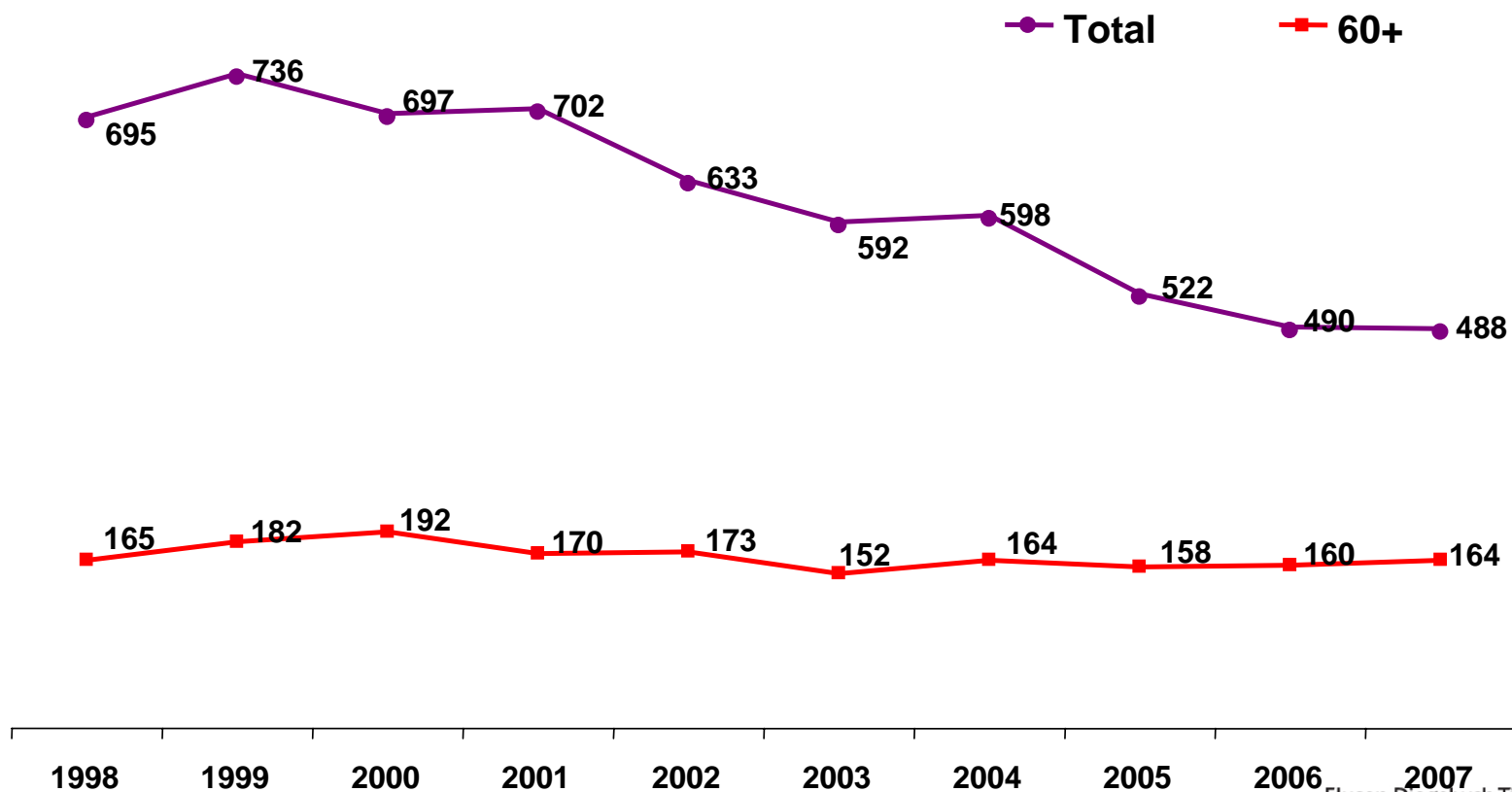
Figure 8: Proportion of fires caused by smokers' materials compared with proportion of casualties Source: FDR1, Fire Incident Data collection forms

Number of accidental fires in dwellings in Wales: 1998 - 2008



Source: FDR1, Fire Incident Data collection forms

Older people are 'over represented'



Over Representation and Risk Factors

Fire incidence going down but not for everyone...some groups of people are still over-represented

Also evidence to suggest there are certain socio-demographic factors which contribute to heightened risk of fire:

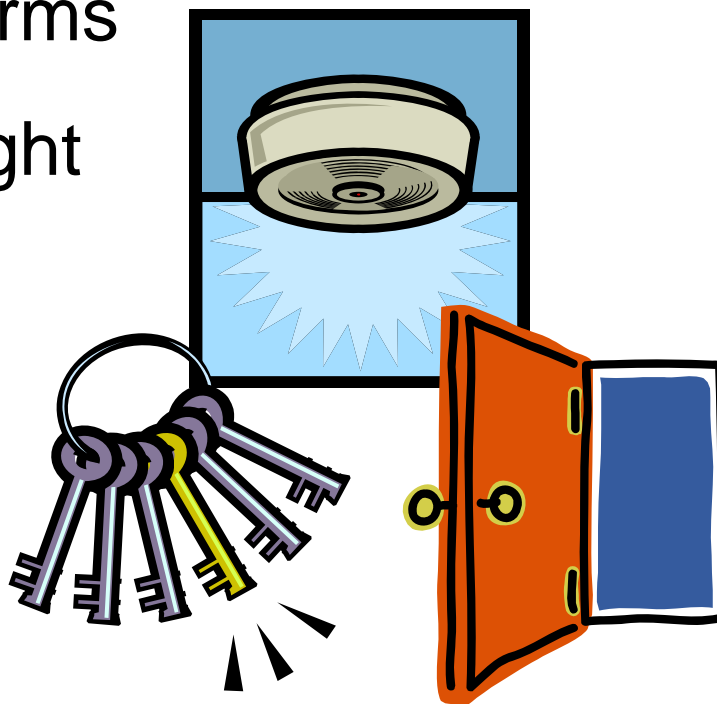
- Being single – including single adults and single parents
- Deprivation
- Mental/physical impairment
- Careless use of smokers materials
- Alcohol

A study of 535 fatal Fire Investigation Report in the UK (2006) concluded that, “alongside the immediate causes of a fire (e.g. carelessly discarded cigarettes) **alcohol, mobility and mental illness** are the biggest single influences on whether a fire starts and/or whether it has fatal consequences”.

Prevention of consequences!

- Working smoke alarms
- Closing doors at night
- Fire escape plan

...*consensus?*



Firebrake's Principles

Target...establish the evidence

Engage...make the connection

Deliver...information, support and solutions

What can Firebrake do?

- Suitable/appropriate interventions
- Research
- Support and information
- Point of contact
- Referrals for Home Fire Safety Check's

Diolch!
Thank you!

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