

BURNS AND ITS PREVENTION: A HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

Ashley van Niekerk
Safety and Peace Promotion
Research Unit
24 October 2013



South African Medical Research Council

BUILDING A HEALTHY NATION THROUGH RESEARCH

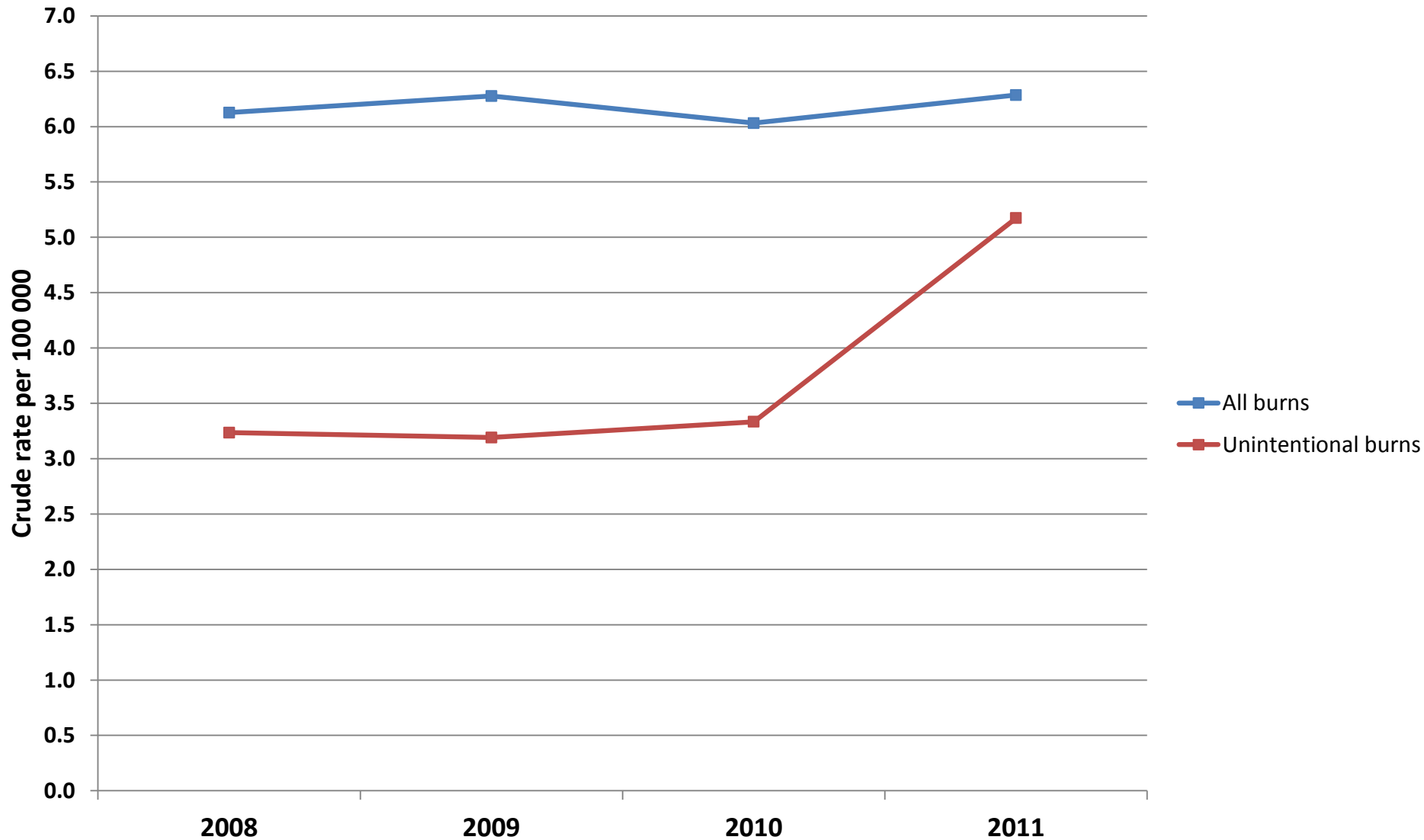




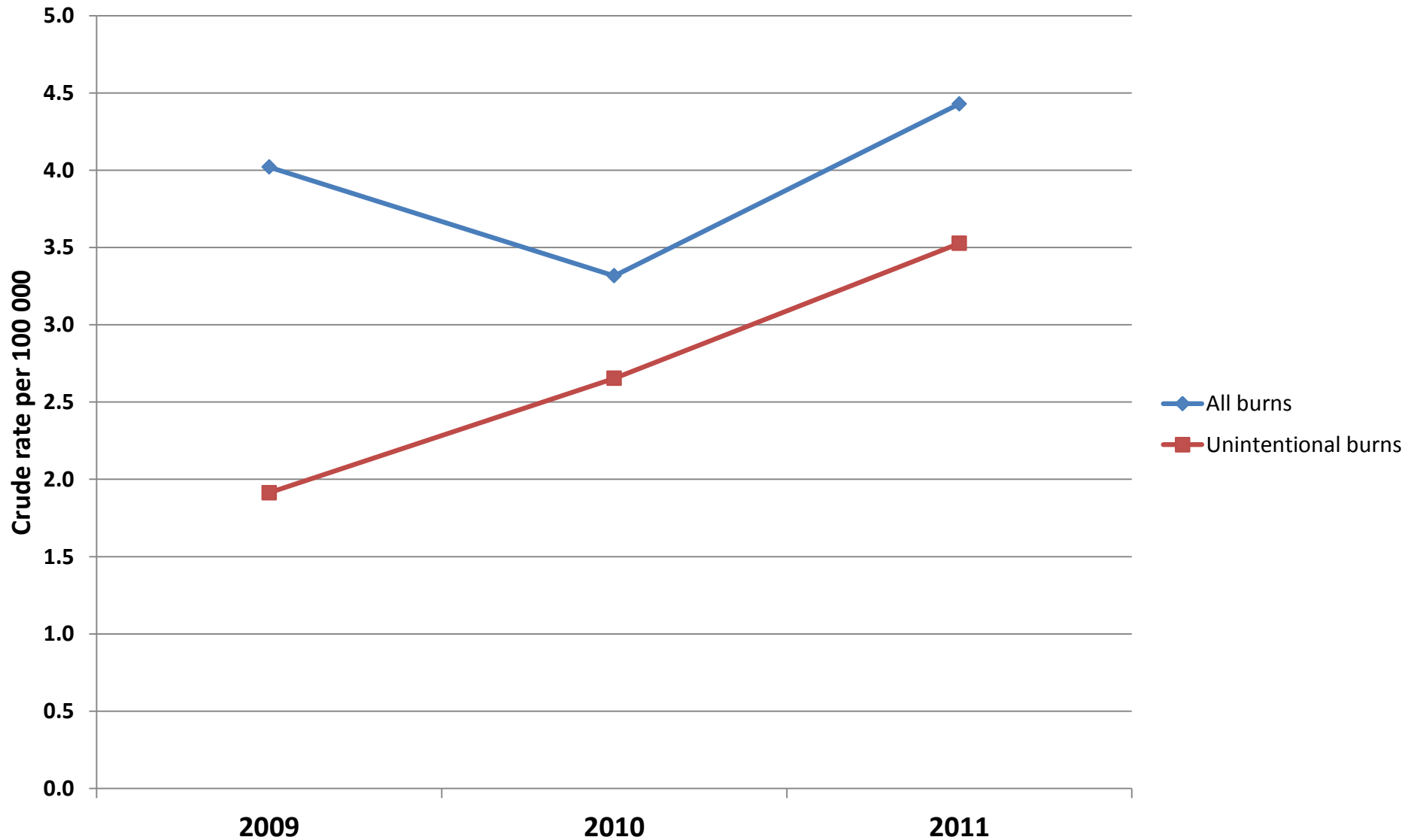


**BURN INFORMATION PLATFORM:
INCREASING TRENDS, UNEQUAL
DISTRIBUTION**

Gauteng Burn Fatalities



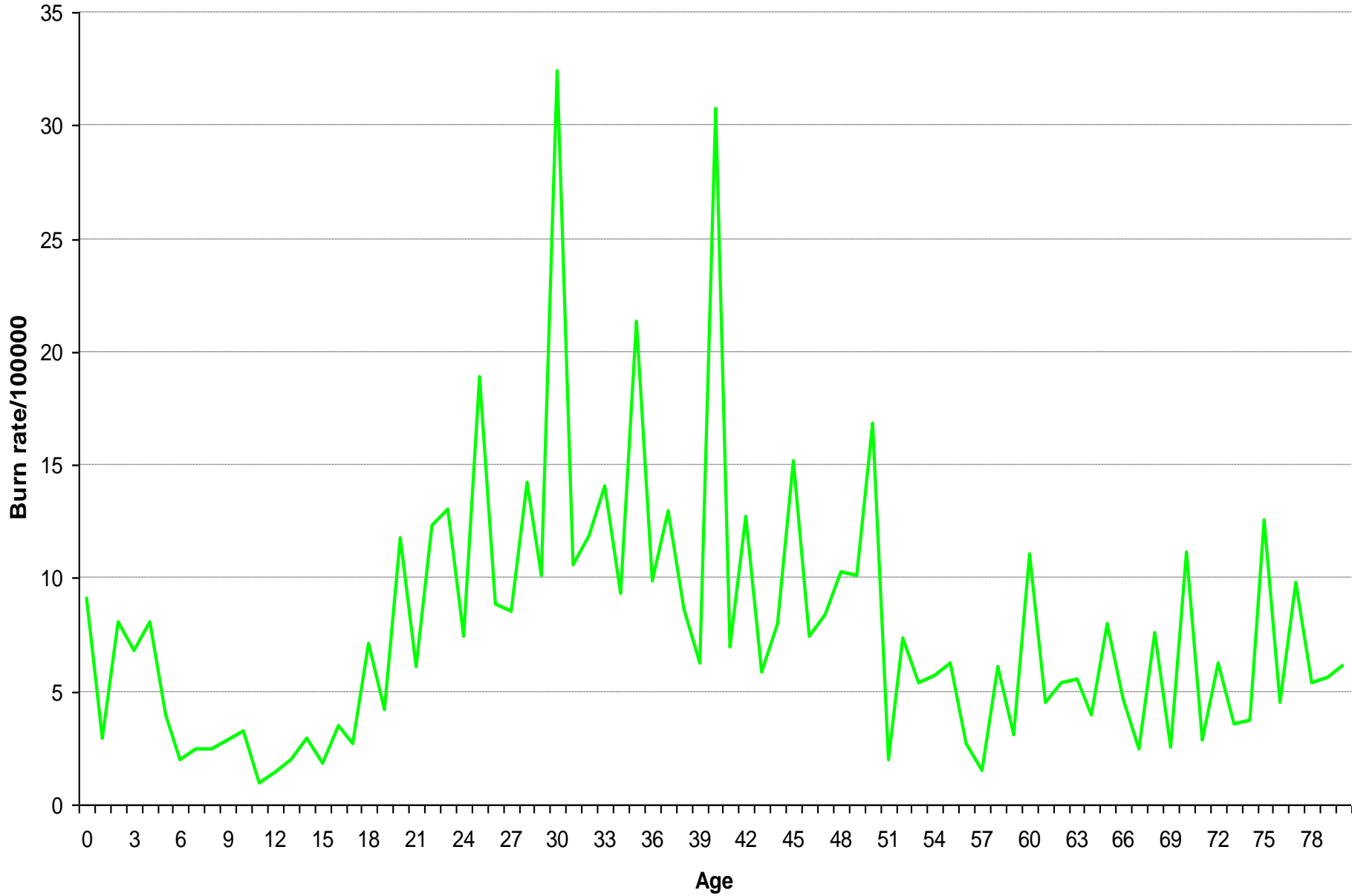
Mpumalanga Burn Fatalities

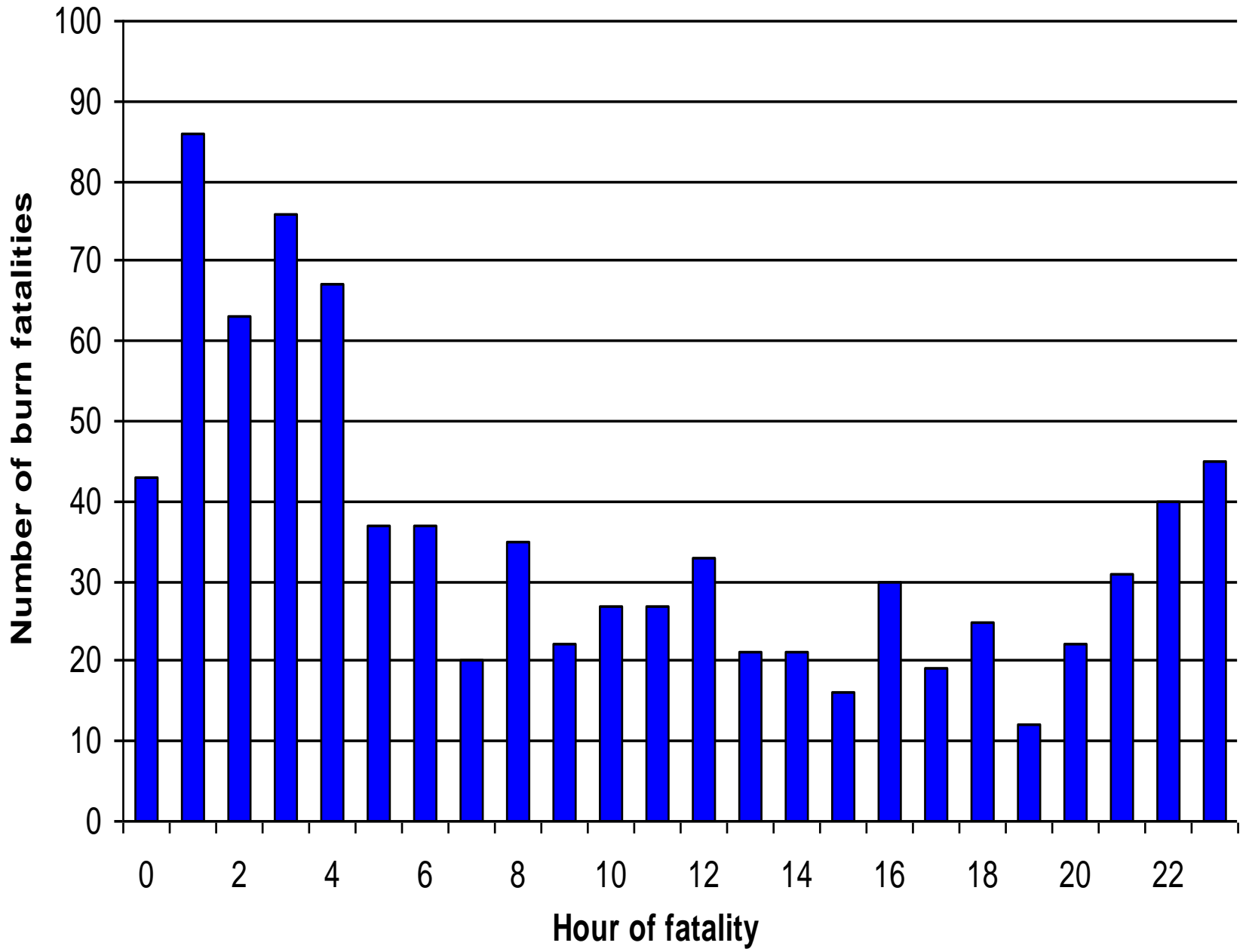


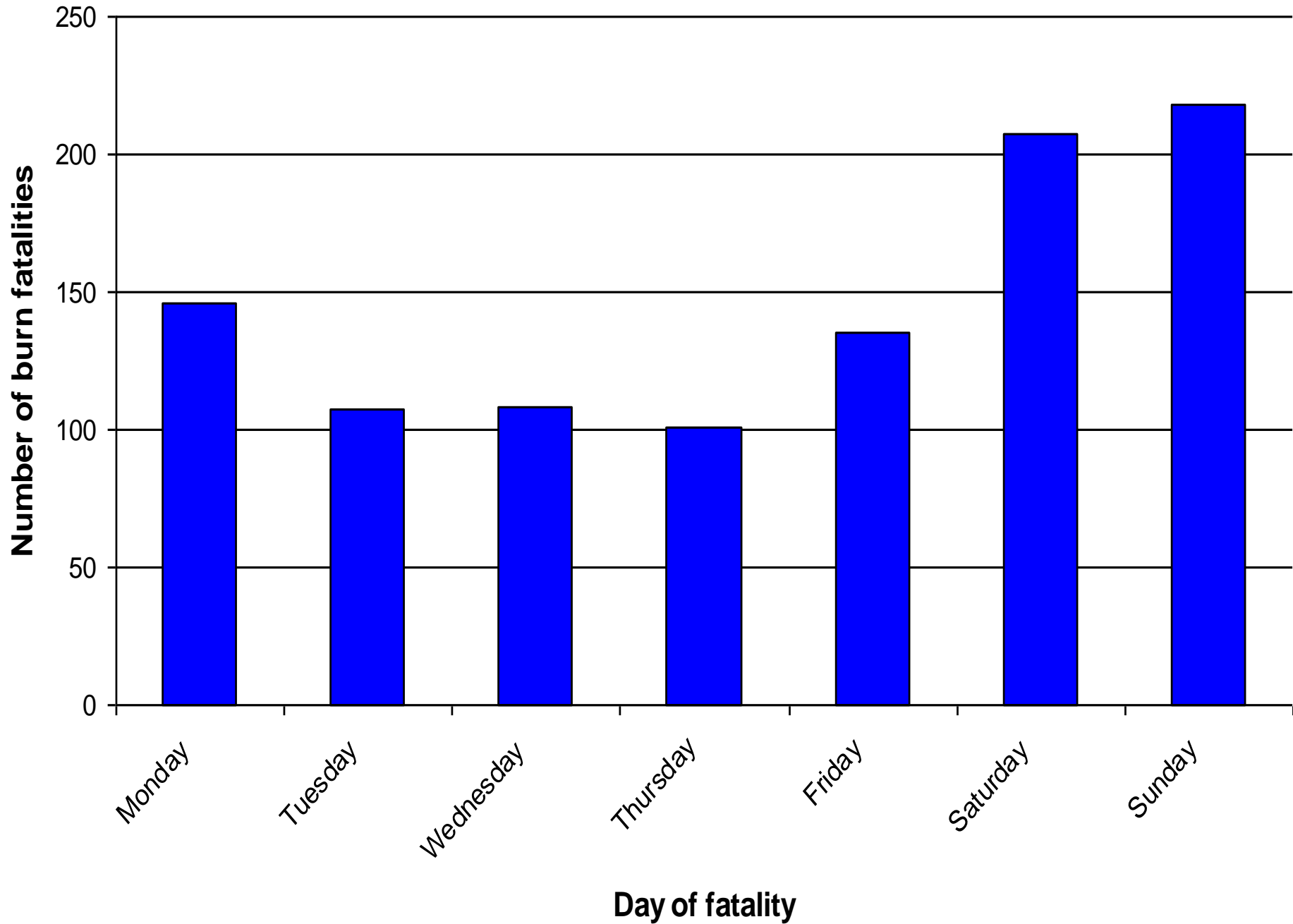
Cape Town

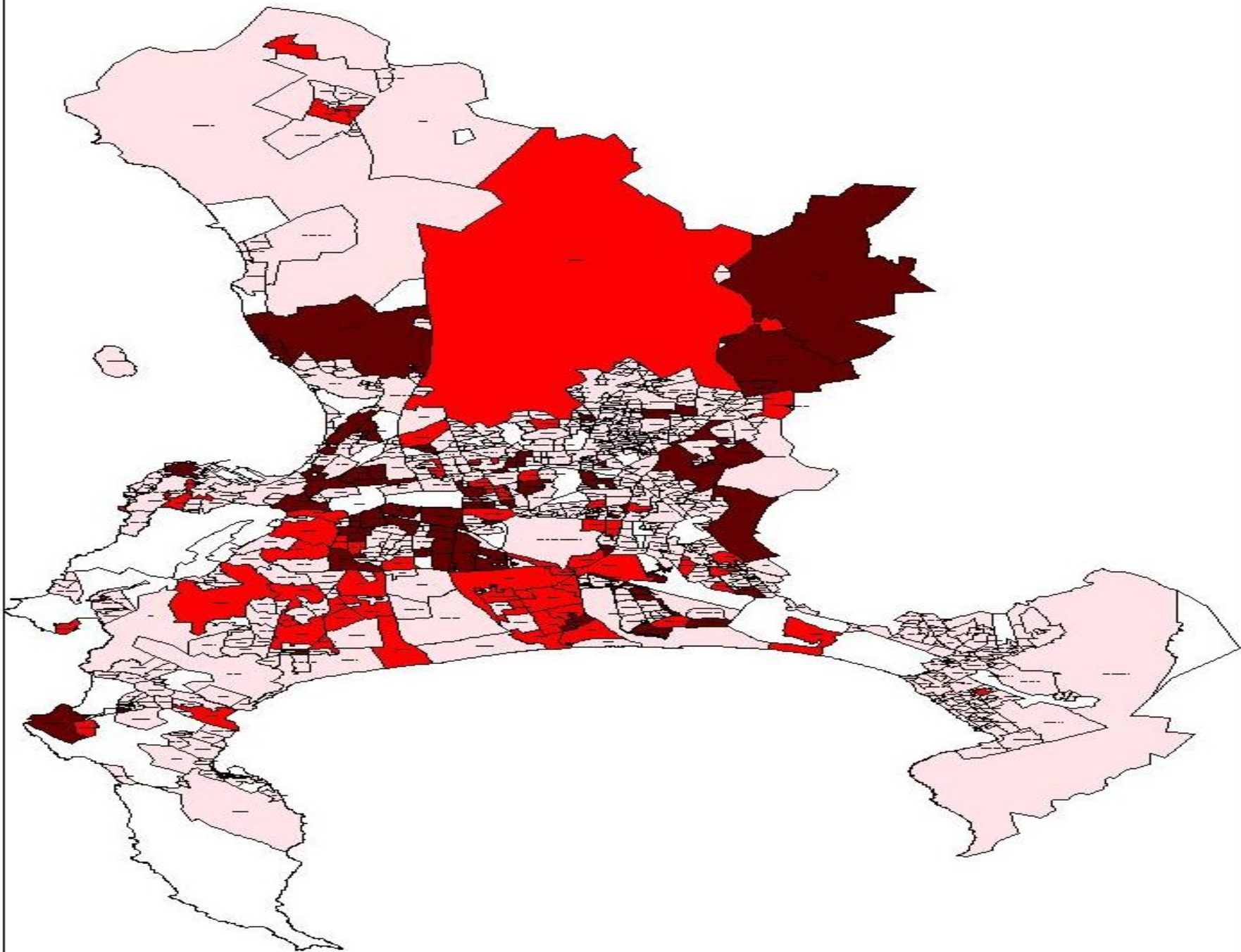
- Alderman JP Smith :
- City of Cape Town mortality rate has reduced: 7.9% per 100 000 in 2009, to 4.3% in 2010.
- “A steady decrease in the number of informal dwelling units that were destroyed as a result of fires in informal settlements – from 8 864 destroyed in 2005 to 3 009 in 2010”.
- “The number of fatalities due to fires in informal structures, however, remains unchanged and is cause for concern,” said Alderman Smith.











THE “PARADIGM SHIFT”: A COORDINATED PROVINCIAL FIRE SAFE ACTION PLAN:

Lessons from the Integrated
Strategic Framework for Injury
and Violence Prevention in South
Africa

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE PREVENTION OF INJURY IN SOUTH AFRICA

VISION

A safe and peaceful South Africa, conducive to physical, mental and social well-being

PURPOSE

To promote injury prevention and safety through focused actions that reduce injuries by targeting:

1. Priority cross-cutting risk factors
2. Risks specific to the different injury priorities
3. Supportive institutional and organisational environments

KEY ACTION AREAS

(1)
Reduce injuries by targeting priority cross cutting risk factors

(2)
Reduce risks specific to the different injury priorities

(3)
Facilitate supportive institutional and organisational environments

(1)

PRIORITY CROSS CUTTING RISK FACTORS

Objective 1

Promote selected poverty alleviation measures targeting groups at risk for injuries

Objective 2

Promote selected health, road and residential infrastructure and services to reduce the risks for injuries and contain injury severity

Objective 3

Facilitate equitable gender relationships and norms

Objective 4

Reduce alcohol and drug abuse

(2)

RISKS SPECIFIC TO THE DIFFERENT INJURY PRIORITIES

Objective 5

Facilitate comprehensive measures to prevent violence-related injuries and contain associated severity

Objective 6

Facilitate comprehensive measures to reduce road traffic-related injuries and associated severity

Objective 7

Facilitate comprehensive measures to reduce suicide-related injuries and associated severity

Objective 8

Facilitate comprehensive measures to prevent and reduce the severity of injuries arising from falls, burns, poisonings and water related incidents

(3)

SUPPORTIVE INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

Objective 9

Promote effective leadership across lead agencies

Objective 10

Promote intersectoral collaboration within government and with civil society

Objective 11

Facilitate the collection and use of empirical information for planning, implementation and evaluation

Objective 12

Promote effective and equitable resource allocation and utilisation for the implementation of evidence-led interventions

Objective 8: Facilitate comprehensive measures to prevent and reduce the severity of injuries arising from falls, burns, poisonings and water related incidents

Burns					
Extent	Key Upstream Factors	Downstream Factors	SA Strategies	Gaps	Recommended Service Delivery Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4000 deaths • 1300 children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low socio-economic status • House layout and materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of paraffin home equipment • Alcohol • Inadequate child supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paraffin stove legislation • Banning of fireworks • Electrification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe specifications for Housing Policy/Urban Design • Hot water cylinder specifications • Child garment policy • M&E of current interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paraffin stove distribution/enforcement • Safe Housing/Community Policy • Child clothing standards • M&E of existing initiatives

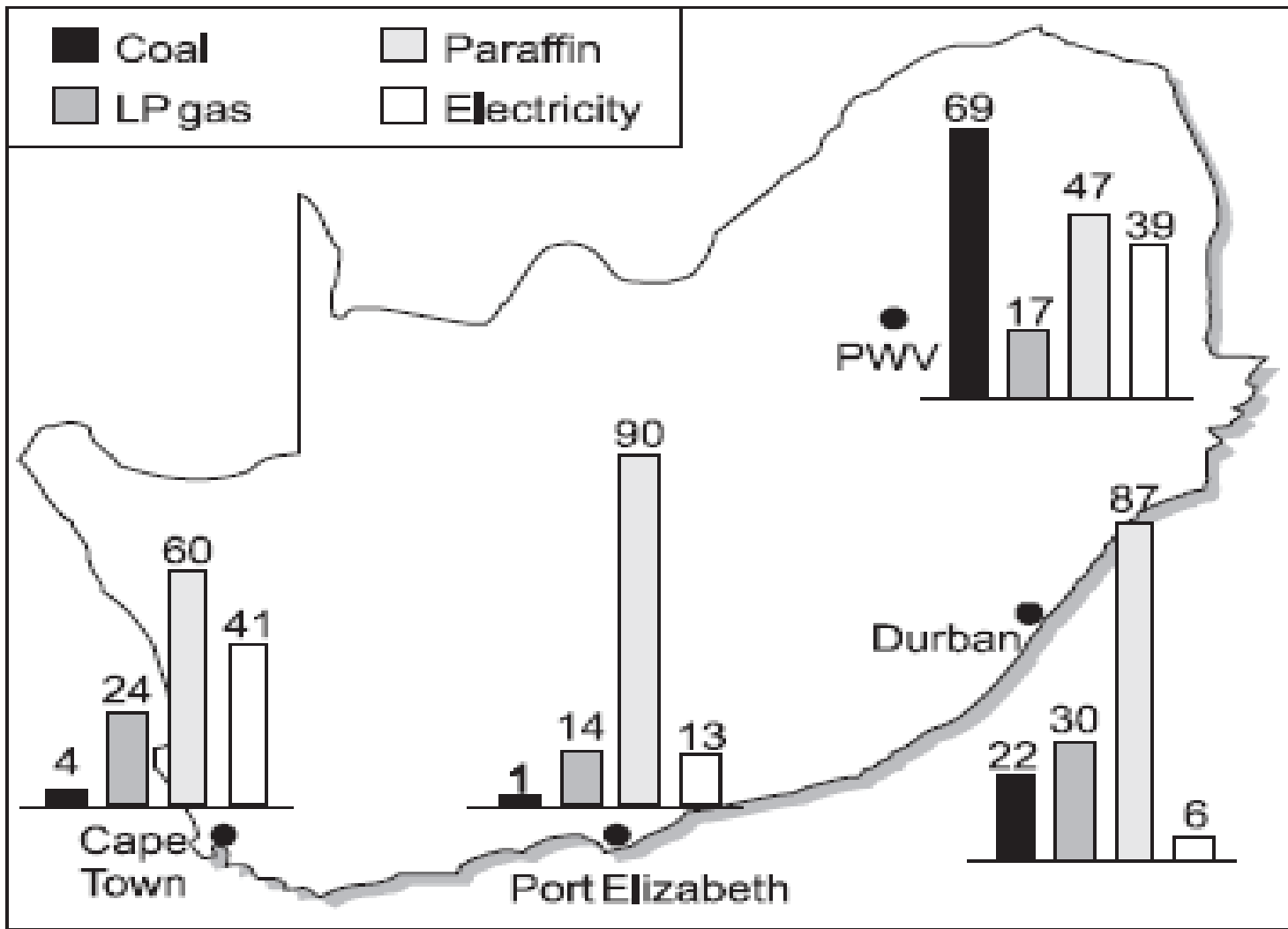
THE SILVER BULLET?

Human Settlement Planning and Design

- From efficiently serviced “townships” to sustainable and vibrant human settlements
 - Spatial and structural principles for settlement-making
 - Environmental design for safer communities
 - Fire safety
 - Energy: electricity and others

FURTHER EMERGING PRIORITIES FOR THE “PARADIGM SHIFT”

- Strengthen national/local data collection and dissemination system
- Multiple, tested or promising intervention combinations: enforcement, education and engineering
- Community engagement and ownership: community partners for response or prevention
- Beyond OHS: Proactive alignment of services



20 December 2011, Alderman J.P. Smith, the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Safety and Security

“The City of Cape Town has reached the point where, in order to effectively combat the scourge of fires, other measures must be taken over and above investing in the Fire and Rescue Services.”

Thank You
Questions and Discussion

Contact Details:

ashley.vanniekerk@mrc.ac.za

Tel: 021-9380399

Fax: 021-938 0381