



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

FIRE AND RESCUE INCIDENT STATISTICS **2019-20**

**AN OFFICIAL STATISTICS
PUBLICATION FOR SCOTLAND**

30 October 2020

Working together for a safer Scotland

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This publication and associated statistics are now designated as Official Statistics.

This means that it is produced to high professional standards set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). It is produced free from any political interference.

In 2019 the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was named in legislation as a Producer of Official Statistics which allows us to classify this series.

This publication is accompanied by the following documents:

- Tables and Charts Workbook
- Guidance Notes on Statistics
- Statistical News 2019-20

1. Main Points

All incidents

- **91,971** incidents attended, of which:
 - **57.8%** were false alarms
 - **26.6%** were fires
 - **15.6%** were non-fire incidents

Fires

- **24,472** fires attended, down 8.7% on last year
 - **4,887** dwelling fires, down 5.0%
 - **4,364** of these were accidental, down 5.8%
 - **61.1%** of accidental dwelling fires started with a cooking appliance
 - **71.7%** of dwelling fires were confined to the original item
 - **2,095** vehicle fires, up 7.4%
 - **11.0%** decrease in outdoor fires (excluding road vehicles)

Non-fire Incidents

- **14,377** non-fire incidents attended, up 10.7%, of which:
 - **3,991** were for effecting entry or exit to a property, up 21.9%
 - **2,368** were road traffic collisions, up 2.4%
 - **1,626** were flooding related (including burst pipes), up 40.7%

False Alarms

- **53,122** false alarms, up 0.4%
- **52,248** false fire alarms, up 0.2%, of which:
 - **41,420** were due to detecting apparatus
 - **8,630** were due to good intentions
 - **2,198** were malicious

Fatal Fire Casualties

- **27** fatal fire casualties, down 18 from 45 last year
 - **21** of these occurred in accidental dwelling fires
- **61%** higher fatal casualty rate for men than women in the last ten years
- **Over 3** times higher rate of fatal casualties for the over 80s than the all Scotland average
- **4.4 times** higher rate of fatal casualties in the most deprived areas than in the least deprived

Non-fatal fire Casualties

- **1,024** non-fatal fire casualties, down 14.5%
- **364** casualties per 1,000 fires when alcohol or drugs is a suspected factor in the fire and 140 without (ten-year averages), a 2.6 times higher rate of occurrence
- **5 times** higher rate of non-fatal casualties most deprived areas then in the least deprived areas

Non-fire Casualties

- **438** fatal casualties (up from 391), of which:
 - **150** were in incidents classed as 'Effecting Entry or Exit', up from 133
 - **82** were in road traffic collision attendances, down from 83
 - **51** were suicides, up from 33
 - **31** resulted from evacuation from water, down from 36
- **3,208** non-fatal casualties, down 7.9%

2. Summary

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 91,971 incidents in 2019-20. This is a slight reduction (0.8%) on 2018-19 (92,721).

There were 24,472 fire incidents, a reduction of 8.7% on last year (down from 26,808). The change comprises a decrease of 7.2% in building fires, an increase of 7.4% in road vehicle fires and a decrease of 11.0% in other outdoor fires.

False alarms make up the largest share of incidents attended and increased slightly (0.4%) on 2018-19 to 53,122 (up from 52,921). The increases in recent years are mainly due to detecting apparatus.

Non-fire incidents attended in 2019-20 increased 10.7% to the highest figure on record (up from 12,922). Increases in non-fire incident attendances in recent years results from national policy decisions and local area agreements designed to support other public agencies.

The breakdown of incidents attended has shifted over time, with the proportion of non-fire incidents rising from 11.1% in 2009-10 to 15.6% in 2019-20. Fires have decreased from 37.3% of incidents attended in 2009-10 to 26.6%, while false alarms have increased as a share of activity from 51.6% to 57.8%.

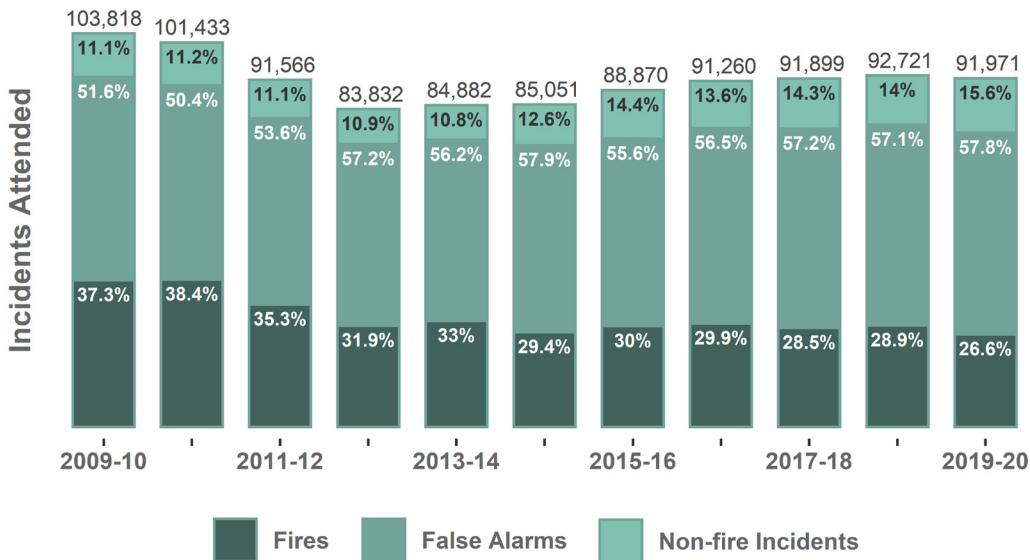


Figure 1: Total number of incidents attended with percentage share by type

Fatal Casualties Attended

There were 469 fatal casualties in incidents attended by SFRS in 2019-20, a 1.3% increase on last year. There was a notable reduction in the number of fatal fire casualties, decreasing from 45 to 27. The largest proportional change was an increase in fatal casualties at suicide incidents, up from 33 last year to 51. There has been a further increase in the number of fatal casualties at 'Effecting Entry or Exit' incidents with 150 in 2019-20, up from 133 last year, this is the seventh annual increase (up from 5 in 2012-13) and is the largest factor in the overall increase in fatal casualties in recent years.

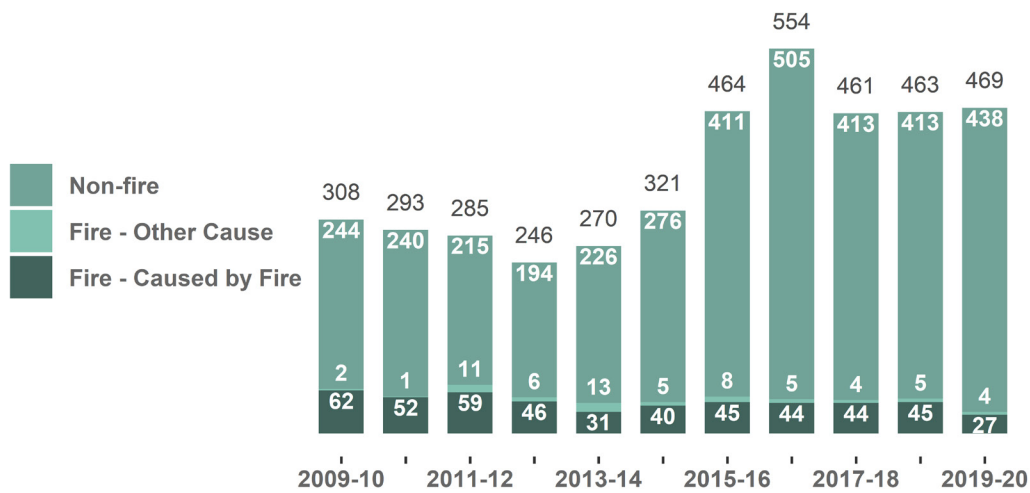


Figure 2: Fatal Casualties Attended

Non-fatal Casualties Attended

There were 4,232 non-fatal casualties attended by SFRS crews in 2019-20, down 9.6% on last year. 1,024 of these (23.3%) were in fires, down 14.5%. 3,208 were in non-fire incidents, down 7.9%. Of the non-fire incident casualties 1,640 were in Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), a 9.6% reduction on last year (1,814).

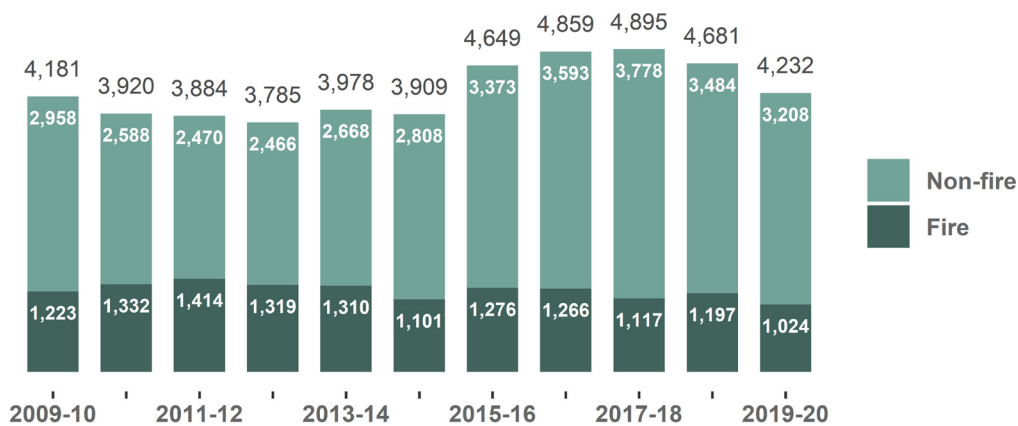
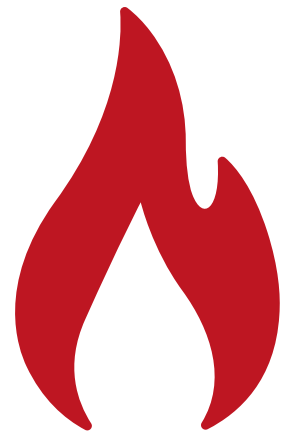


Figure 3: Non-fatal Casualties Attended

3. Fires



There was an 8.7% decrease in the number of fires attended in 2019-20, reducing from 26,808 last year to 24,472. The long-term reduction on the number of fires in Scotland has levelled in recent years, as can be seen from figure 4.

Fires which result in harm to people, require five or more fire appliances, or which take place in buildings, vehicles and some outdoor locations, we call primary fires. The total number of primary fires is down 6% in the last year and down 25.1% on ten years ago. While the total number of secondary fires is down 10.3% in the last year, and down 41.8% on ten years ago.

Dwelling¹ fires decreased 5.0% to 4,887 (from 5,144 last year), while fires in other building types decreased by 12.2% to 1,978 (from 2,253). In both cases continuing the long-term trend.

Vehicle fires increased by 7.4% to 2,095 in 2019-20 (from 1,950 last year), reductions in road vehicle fires have largely levelled in recent years.

Outdoor fire totals vary considerably each year depending in part on weather patterns, particularly in spring and summer. Outdoor fires (excluding road vehicles) decreased 11.0% last year from 16,818 in 2018-19 to 14,966, this results from a reduction in seasonal grassland fires. There is no clear trend in either 'Other Primary' fires or grassland fires.

Refuse fires are significantly below the levels in 2009-10 but have been relatively stable for the last eight years.

Trends in Fire

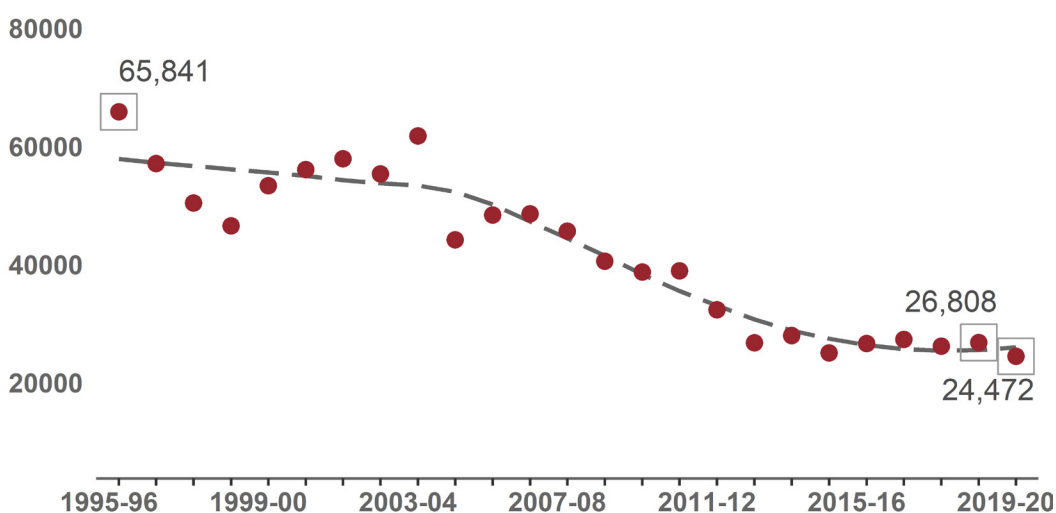


Figure 4: Long-term trend in fires

¹ Dwellings are properties that people ordinarily live in such as houses and apartments, please see the guidance notes document for a full definition

Trends in Primary Fires

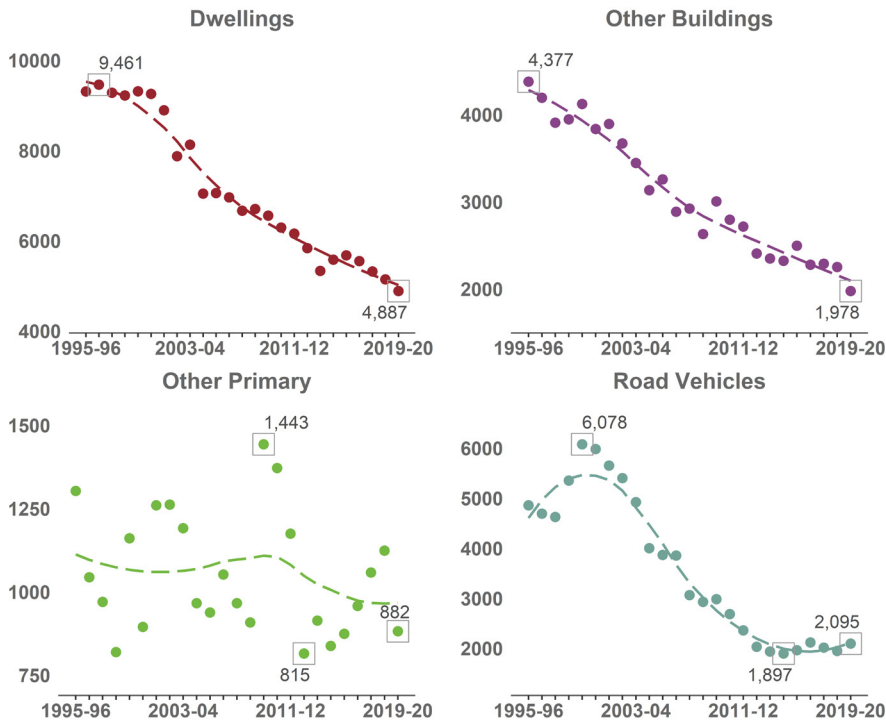


Figure 5: Primary fire trends

Trends in Secondary and Chimney Fires

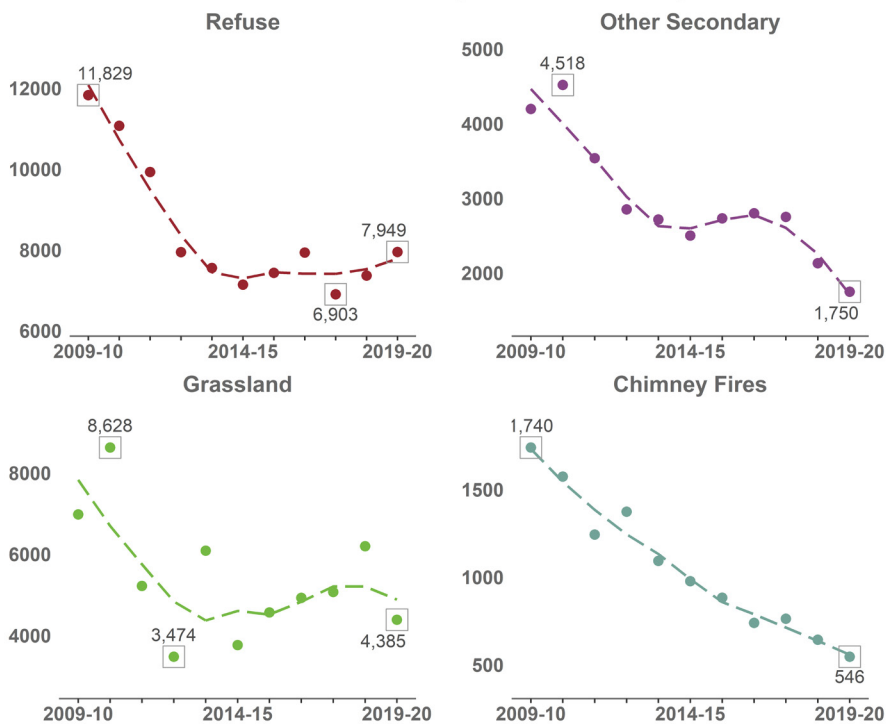


Figure 6: Secondary fire trends

Great Britain Comparisons

There have been similar long-term trends in the number of fires across Great Britain. There were 4,479 fires per million population² in Scotland in 2019-20, notably higher than the 2,735 in England. 2019-20 data for Wales was not available at the time of publishing.

The trend in fire rates has levelled across Great Britain with outdoor fires being the major factor. Dwelling fire rates have continued to decline in each nation, yet in Scotland there were 390 more dwelling fires per million population than England, down from a figure 653 higher in 2001-02.

Two of the most relevant factors influencing fire rates at a national level are the urban-rural profile and the relative deprivation of communities, which goes some way to explaining the differing rates. See pages [11](#) and [12](#) for more details on these factors.

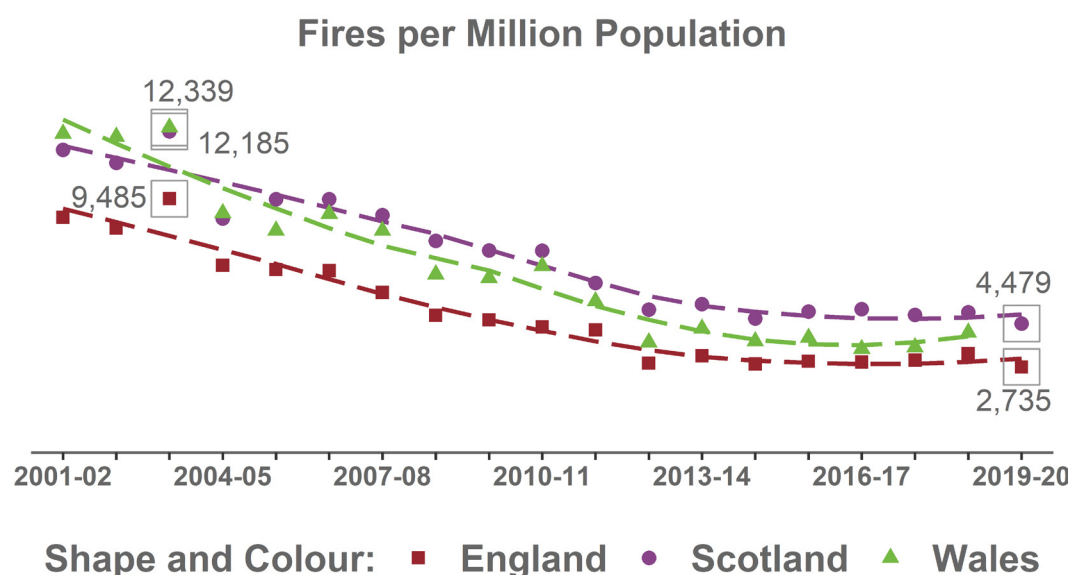


Figure 7: Fires per million population in Great Britain

² Scottish population figures used throughout this document were sourced from National Records of Scotland. Fire statistics for England and Wales were sourced from the Home Office and the Welsh Government. Comparable statistics for Northern Ireland are not available.

Primary Fires per Million Population

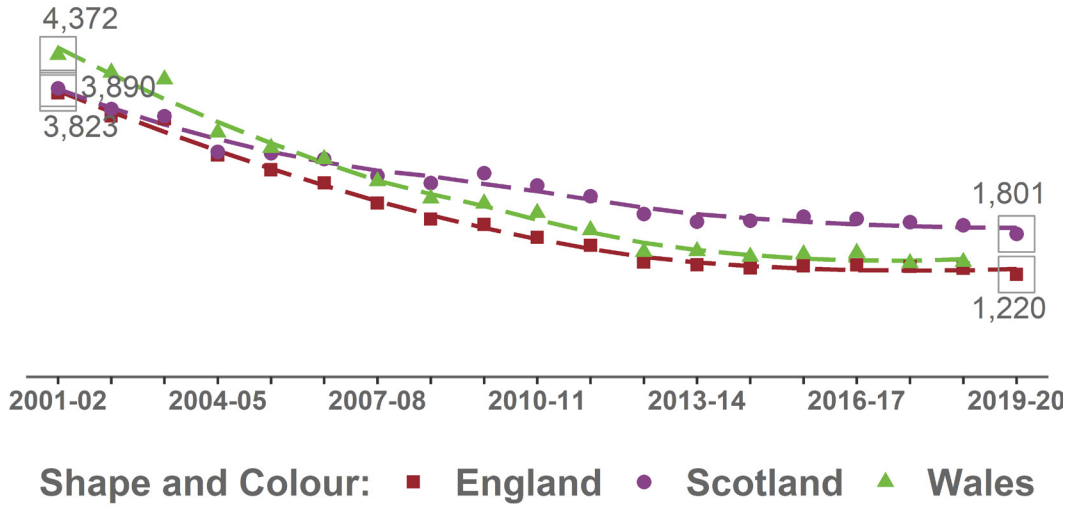


Figure 8: Primary fires per million population in Great Britain

Dwelling Fires per Million Population

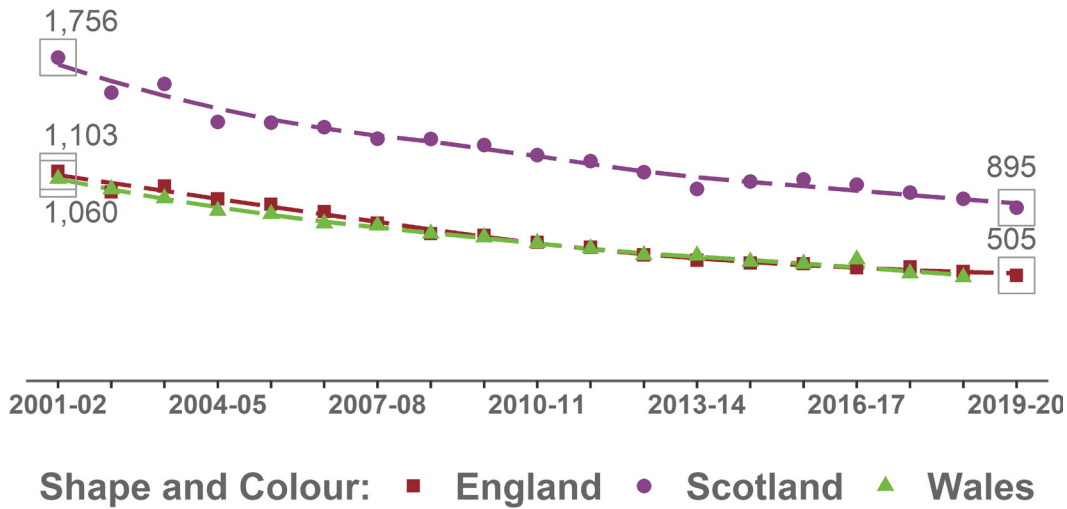


Figure 9: Dwelling fires per million population in Great Britain

Motive

In 2019-20, 57.6% of fires in Scotland were recorded as having been deliberately³ set. Figure 10 shows how the proportion of deliberately set fires varies by incident category. For dwelling fires, deliberate fires are relatively rare at 10.7% of the total, in contrast with 82.7% of secondary fires in 2019-20.

85.4% of refuse fires were deliberate, with 6,791 of these fires in 2019-20. Similarly, 78.4% of grassland fires were deliberate (3,439).

The number of accidental dwelling fires has decreased by 5.8% from the 2018-19 total (from 4,634 to 4,364), the lowest in this series and 16.2% lower than ten years ago. Deliberate dwelling fires have reduced at a faster pace and are 51.8% lower than ten years ago, however they increased by 13 (2.5%) this year from 510 in 2018-19 to 523, this is the second lowest figure recorded.

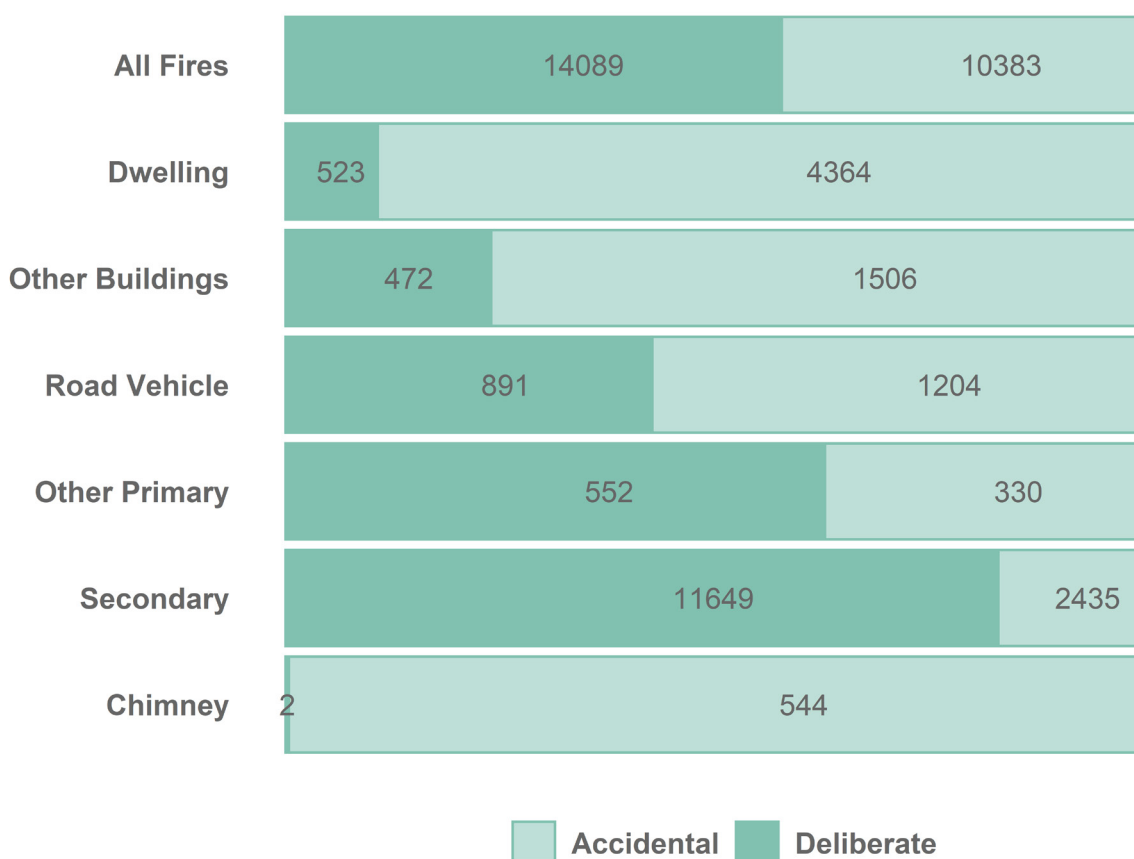


Figure 10: Fires by motive, 2019-20

³ Fires classed as 'Deliberate' should not be interpreted as necessarily resulting from arson or criminal intent

Dwelling Fires

With 21 out of 27 fatal fire casualties occurring in dwelling fires this year and 874 of the 1,024 non-fatal casualties, factors relating to safety in dwelling fires are of great importance.

Ignition Source

The primary ignition sources have remained similar in recent years, with the majority of accidental dwelling fires (61.1% in 2019-20) resulting from cooking appliances. A further 7.7% were from other domestic appliances (excluding cooking and heating appliances), 7.6% were due to the electrical supply or electrical lighting, and 6.9% were smoking related.



Impairment

In 15.8% of accidental dwelling fires this year, impairment through use of alcohol or drugs was suspected to have been a contributory factor. Such incidents have a much higher casualty rate, [see page 22 for details](#).

Spread of Fire

71.7% of dwelling fires resulted in smoke or heat damage only or were confined to the item first ignited in 2019-20, while 9.3% of dwelling fire incidents involved the fire spreading beyond the initial room. 12.7% of dwelling fires had an area of damage greater than 5 square meters.

Smoke Alarms

Fires in dwellings without smoke alarms have reduced by 42.8% in the last ten years, decreasing faster than the overall number of dwelling fires at 22.3%. There were 1,290 dwelling fires where the property had no smoke alarm in 2019-20 (a 1.3% reduction on last year) which amounts to 26.4% of the total (down from 35.9% ten years ago). Conversely the proportion of incidents where there was a smoke alarm present which raised the alarm has risen from 40.9% ten years ago to 52.0% in 2019-20.

In the 10.7% of dwelling fires where a smoke alarm was present but did not operate (525 incidents), 52.3% were due to the detector being too far from the fire. This has increased from 40.8% ten years ago due to a reduction in the number with failed operation from other causes.

Deprivation (SIMD ⁴)

Deprivation is strongly associated with the rate of dwelling fires as can be seen in figure 11. The 20% most deprived areas of Scotland have a rate of dwelling fires 4.2 times higher than the 20% least deprived and 1.9 times higher than the Scotland average.

This relationship has persisted over time as dwelling fire reductions have occurred for each deprivation quintile in relatively similar proportions. In the eight-year period 2012-13 to 2019-20 there was a 21.0% reduction in the 20% most deprived areas, followed by 13.7% for the next 20% of areas, then 16.2% and 19.8% for the least deprived areas. These figures vary each year as the totals can fluctuate.

There is a similar relationship for secondary fires with the most deprived areas having a rate 4.6 times higher than the least deprived and 2.4 times higher than the all Scotland average.

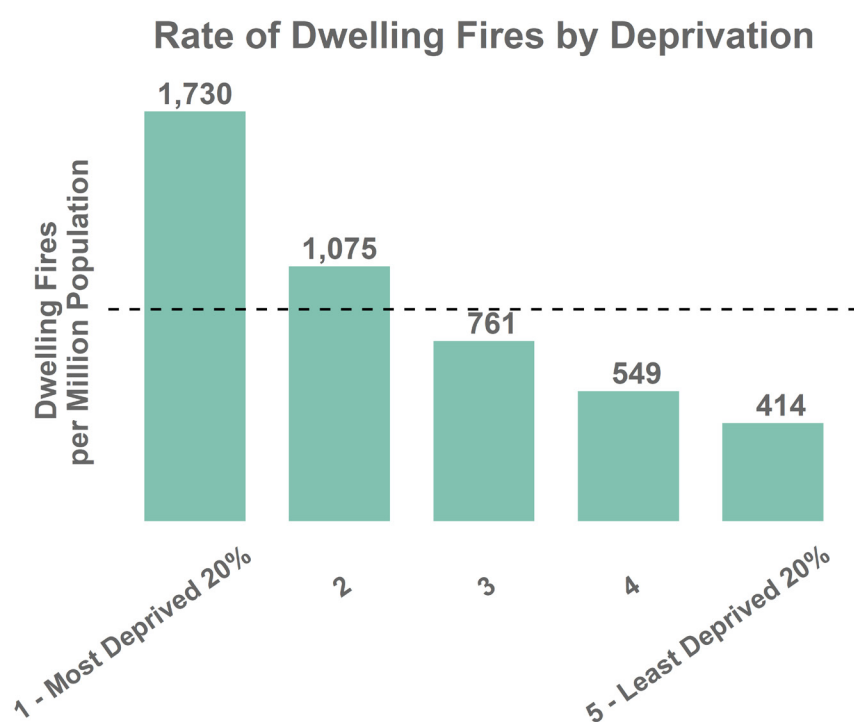


Figure 11: Rate of dwelling fires per million population by level of deprivation, 2019-20. The Scotland average is 895.

⁴ Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

Urban-Rural ⁵

The most urban areas of Scotland have a rate of dwelling fires per million population that is 1.9 times higher than the most rural areas, and 1.3 times higher than the Scotland average. Other urban areas have a rate close to the Scotland average yet much higher than the four most remote areas.

This is gradually changing over time as dwelling fire rates are decreasing much faster in urban areas than in rural areas. In the last eight years the all Scotland rate has decreased by 18.6%, while the rate for large urban areas has reduced 25.2%. Reductions in other areas were below average with other urban areas reducing 13.7%, accessible small towns reducing 12.6%, remote small towns 5.1%, accessible rural 14.7% and remote rural 3.2%. The annual figures fluctuate but it is very clear that inner cities account both for a large proportion of incidents and the reduction over time; the rate was 41.0% higher than average in 2012-13 decreasing to 29.5% this year.

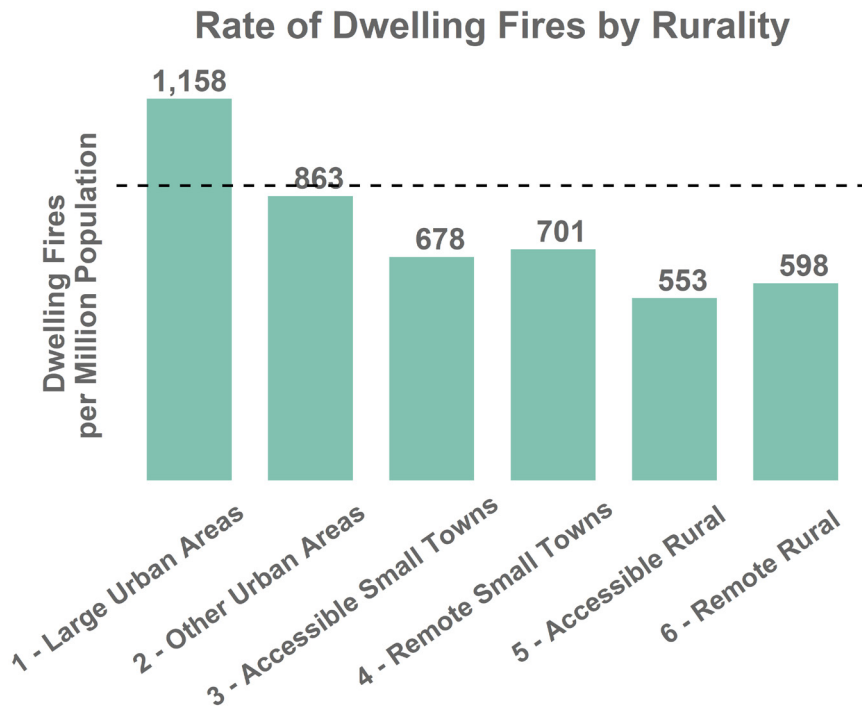


Figure 12: Rate of dwelling fires per million population by level of rurality, 2019-20. The Scotland average is 895

⁵ Scottish Government Urban Rural Six Fold Classification

Local Authority Comparisons

The number of incidents and casualties vary considerably across the 32 Local Authority areas of Scotland. We use rates adjusted for population or the number of dwellings to more fairly compare these areas.

Accidental Dwelling Fires

There was an average of 165.5 accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings in Scotland. Glasgow City had the highest rate at 244.1 per 100,000 dwellings, followed by Dundee City at 233.7. Highland had the lowest rate at 94.9.

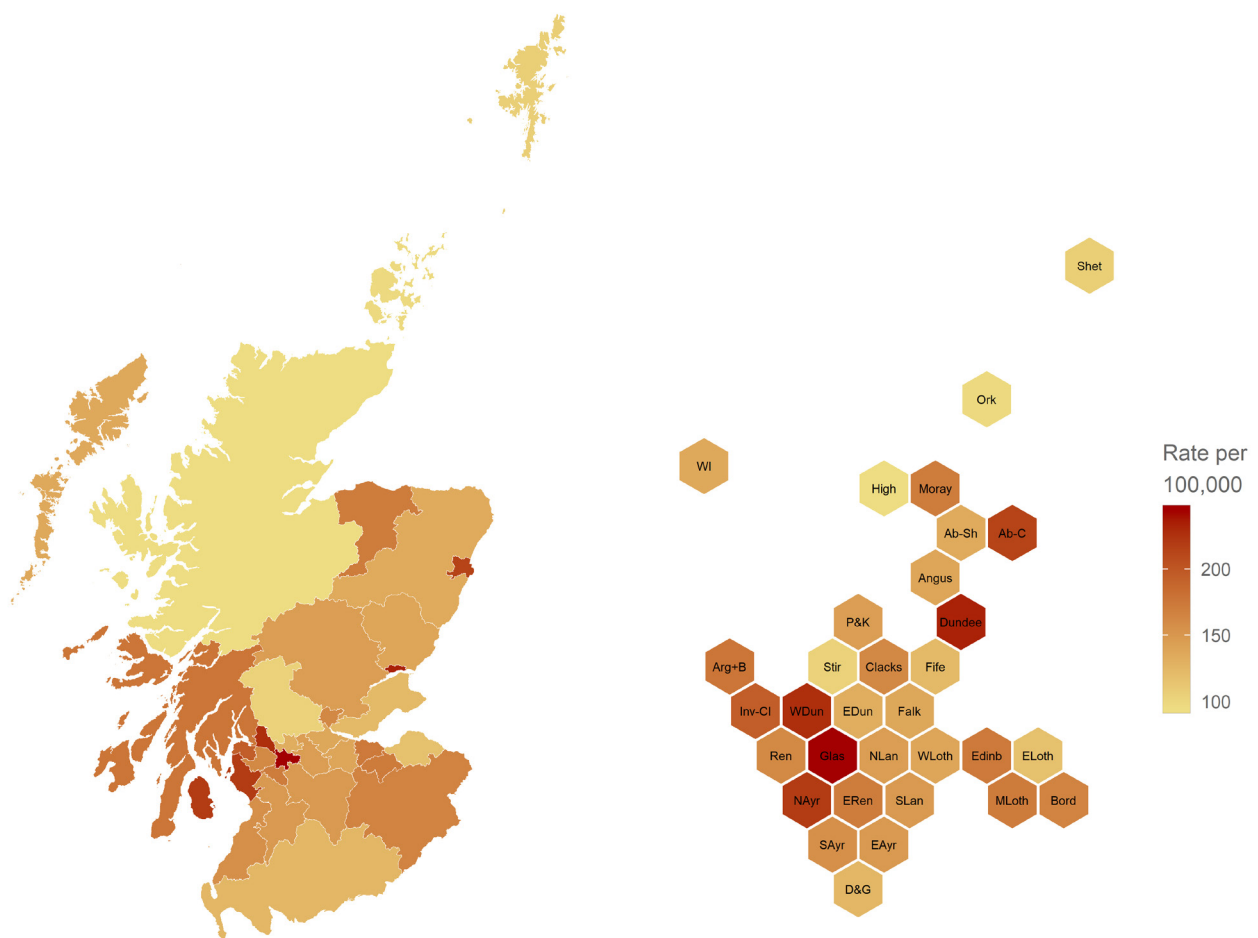


Figure 13: Accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2019-20

Deliberate Fires

Fires recorded as deliberately set varies considerably across Scotland, with 577.2 recorded per 100,000 population in Inverclyde (the highest in Scotland) compared to 4.5 deliberate fires recorded in Orkney Islands. The all Scotland average is 257.8 deliberate fires per 100,000 population in 2019-20. As can be seen from figure 14, deliberate fire setting is more frequent in the more urban Local Authority areas and west of the Central Lowlands.

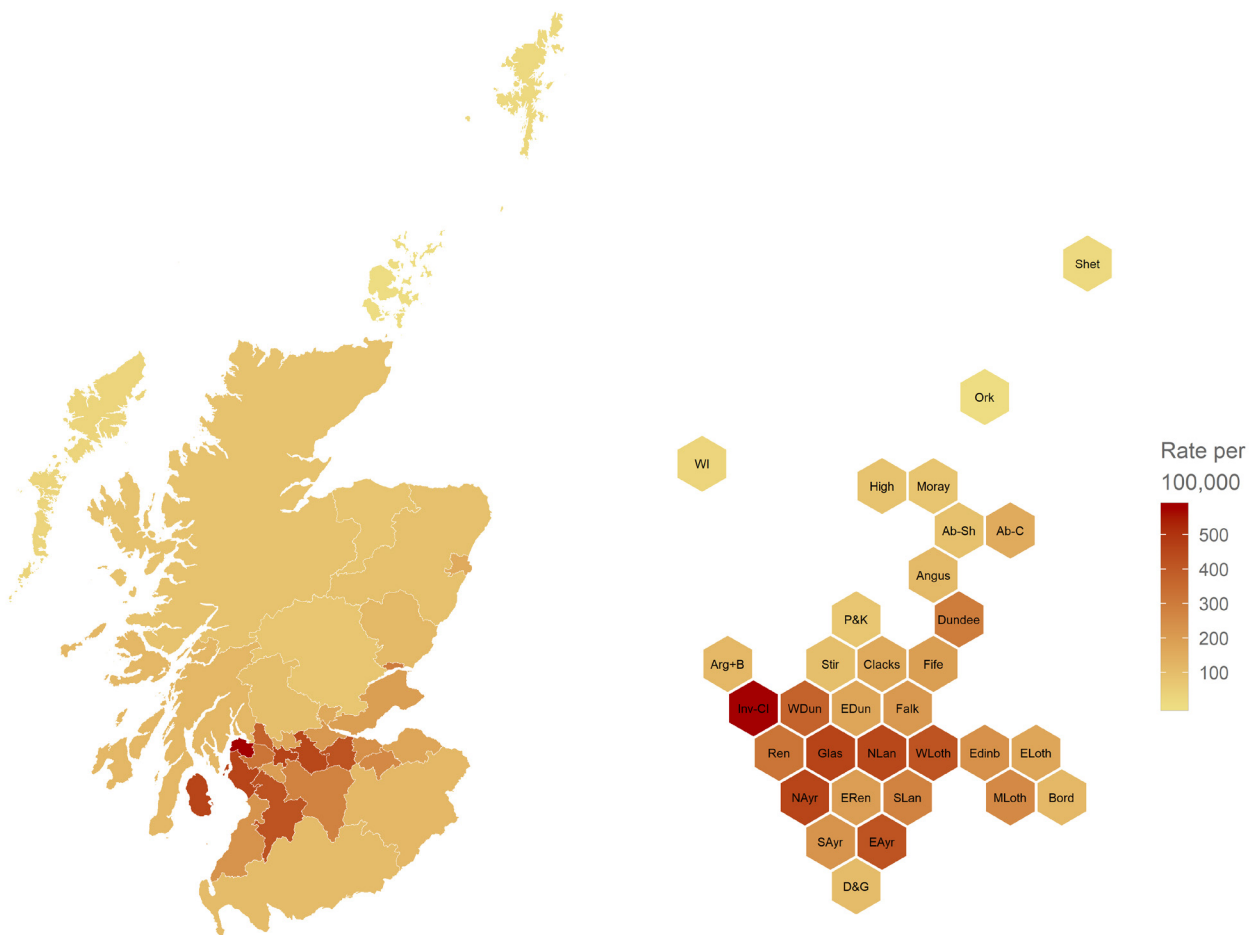
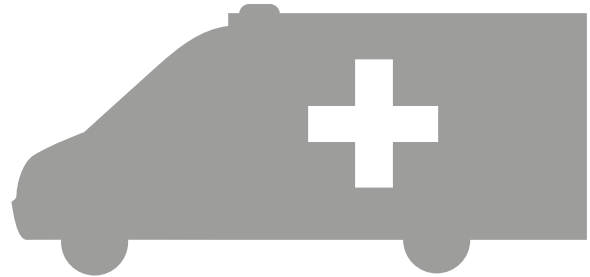


Figure 14: Deliberate fires per 100,000 population, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2019-20

For more local authority graphs and statistics please see the downloadable tables and charts workbook.

4. Casualties in Fires

There were 27 fatal fire casualties in 2019-20, down from 45 last year, this is the lowest total on record. Annual totals have fluctuated considerably in the past; indeed, we last saw a sharp decrease like this in 2013-14. However, in recent years the trend had shown a levelling off with annual totals in the range 40-46 for six out of seven years. The sharp decrease this year has pulled down the trend line as can be seen in figure 15.



Of the 27 fatal fire casualties, 21 occurred in dwelling fires, 3 occurred in other buildings types, and 3 occurred in road vehicles. All the dwelling fires resulting in a fatal casualty were recorded as accidental in 2019-20.

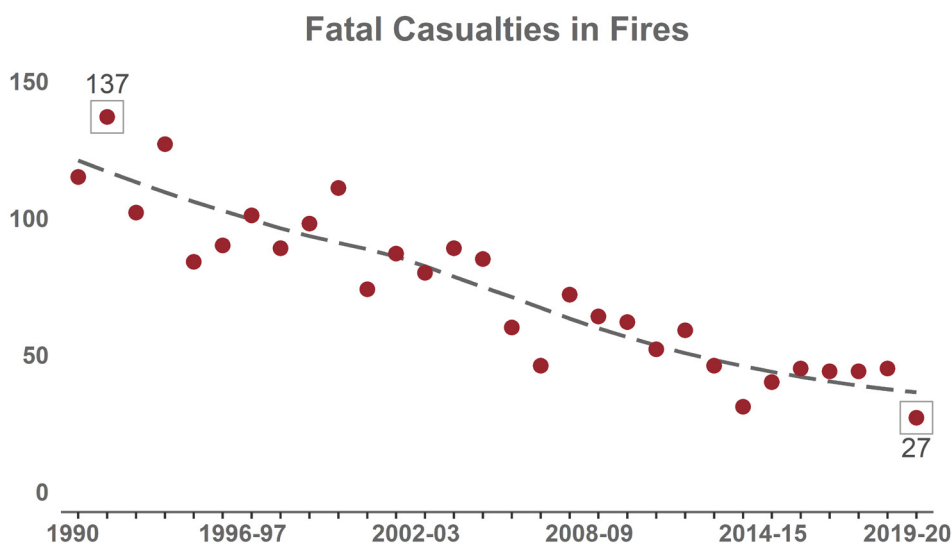


Figure 15: Long-term trend in fatal fire casualties. Note that the series changed from calendar year to financial year after 1993.

There were 1,024 non-fatal fire casualties in 2019-20, down 14.5% from 1,197 last year, now the lowest total recorded. The number of non-fatal casualties in Scotland reduced considerably in the early 2000s, but reductions have levelled off in recent years, as can be seen in figure 16.

Most fire casualties occur in dwelling fires, with 874 in 2019-20 (85.4% of the total). 740 of these were accidental down 16.5% on last year (from 886).

There were 91 non-fatal casualties in other building types, 29 in road vehicle fires and 30 in categories of outdoor fire.

The number of casualties in deliberate fires decreased by 22 to 167.

Non-fatal Casualties in Fires

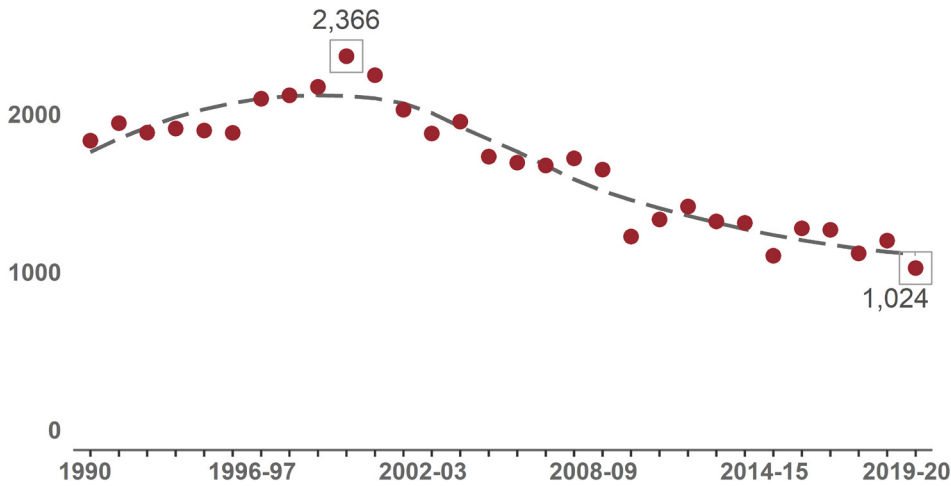


Figure 16: Long-term trend in non-fatal fire casualties. Note that the series changed from calendar year to financial year after 1993.

217 fire casualties received no treatment at the scene but were encouraged to see a doctor as a precautionary measure. There were 807 casualties requiring treatment, down from 949 last year (15.0%). 367 casualties attended hospital, down from 426 last year (13.8%), with the remaining 440 casualties having received first aid at the scene (down 15.9% from 523 last year).

The primary cause of injury in fires was being overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes at 55.5%, with burns accounting for a further 14.4%.

Treatment of Non-fatal Casualties

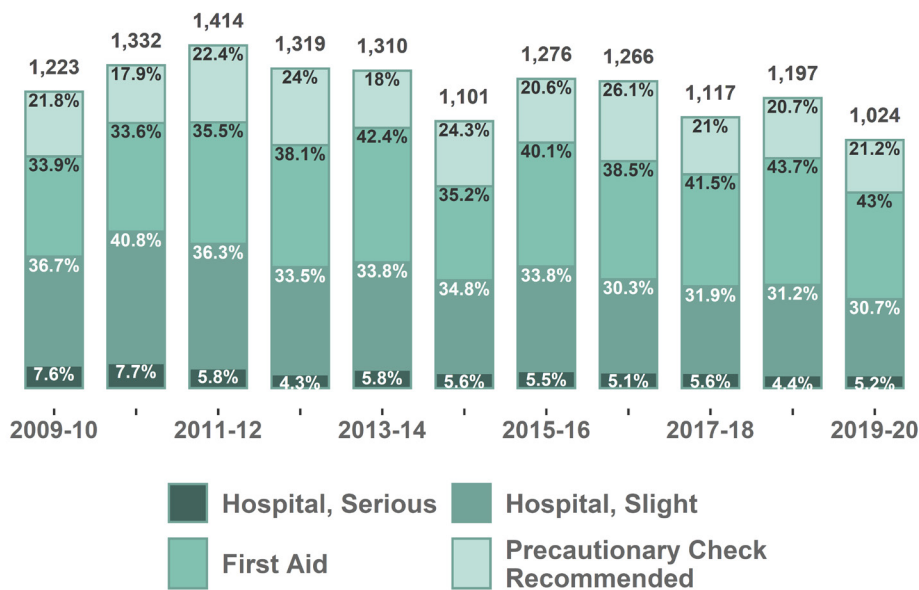


Figure 16: Long-term trend in non-fatal fire casualties. Note that the series changed from calendar year to financial year after 1993.

Great Britain Comparisons

The number of fatal casualties incurred in fires varies each year, particularly in Scotland and Wales where the populations are lower. Figure 18 shows that the rate of fatal fire casualties per million population has been higher in Scotland than in England and Wales. There has been a long-term reduction across Great Britain in rates of fatal fire casualties. Differing demographic, deprivation and urban-rural profiles of each country are likely factors in explaining the different rates.

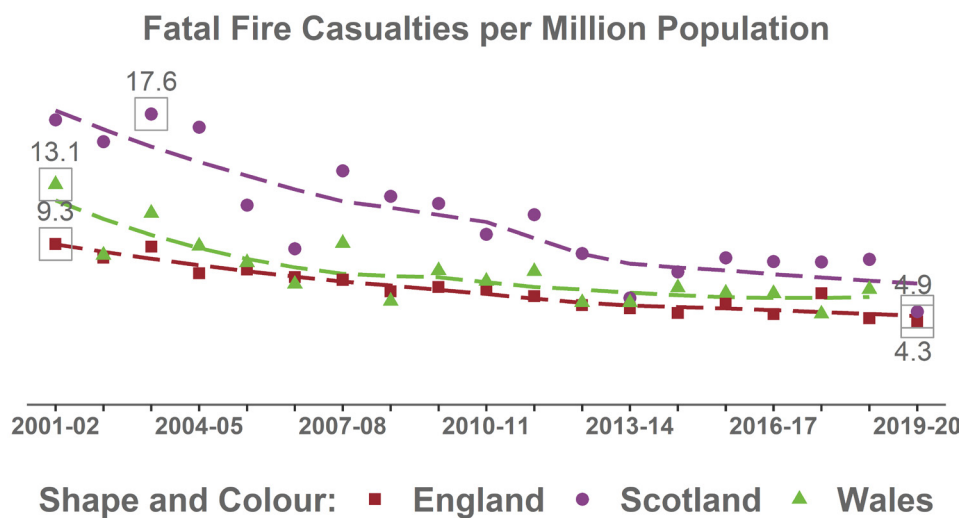


Figure 18: Fatal fire casualties per million population in Great Britain

With hospitalised non-fatal fire casualties, there has been a clear downward trend. In 2019-20 there were 53.2 hospitalised casualties per million population in England and 67.2 in Scotland, 26% higher.

Hospitalised Non-fatal Fire Casualties per Million Populator

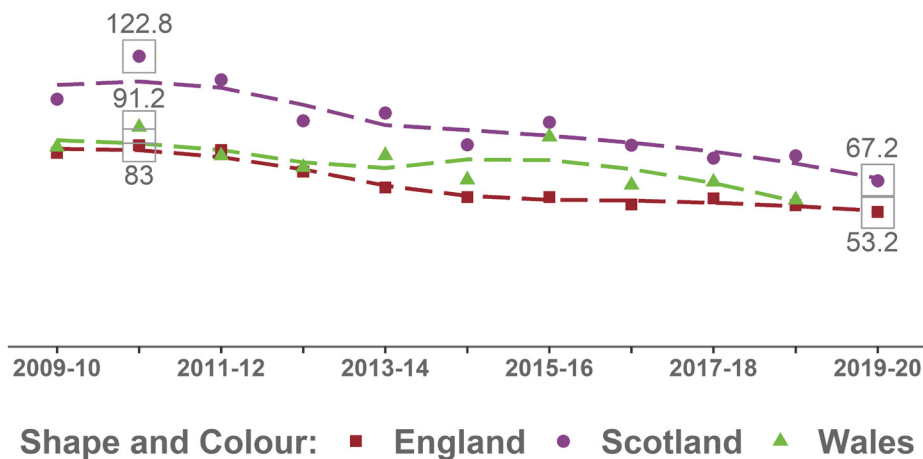
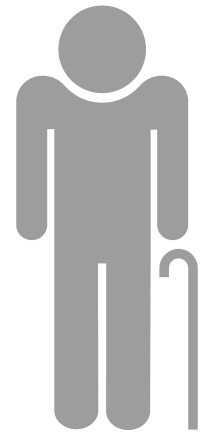


Figure 19: Hospitalised fire casualties per million population in Great Britain

Casualty Profile

Age

There is a strong relationship between age and rates of fatal casualties as shown in figure 20. The rates for those aged below 16 are less than a tenth of the Scotland average, while the rate for those aged 80-89 is more than triple the average figure and for the over 90s it is over five times higher. We used the ten-year average figures to make sure that the comparisons are robust, one-year figures can vary considerably.



**Fatal Casualties per Million Population
- 10 Year Average**

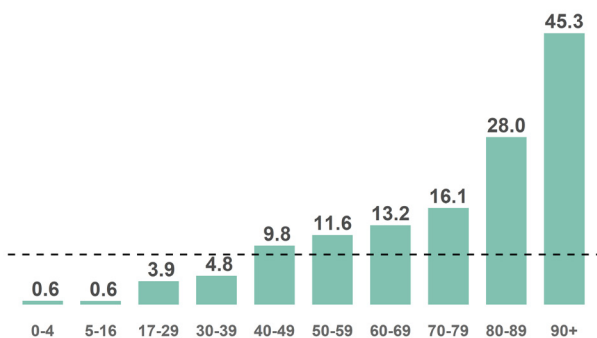


Figure 20: Ten-year average rate per million population of fatal casualties by age band. The dotted line represents the average figure of 8.4

**Nonfatal Casualties per Million Population
- 10 Year Average**

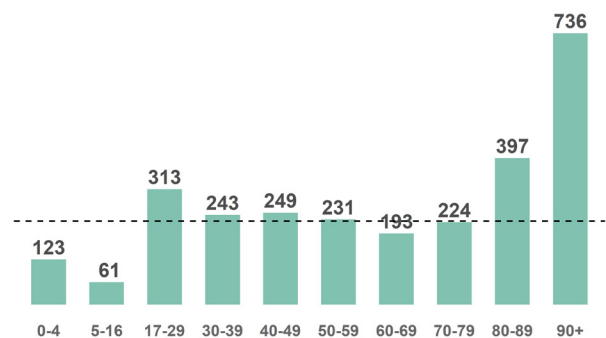


Figure 21: Ten-year average rate per million population of non-fatal casualties by age band. The dotted line represents the average figure of 226.7

For non-fatal casualties the picture is quite different. The rate does not simply increase with age, rather adult age categories below 80-89 have relatively similar rates. Those aged 17-29 have a 38% higher than average rate and those aged 60-69 have a slightly lower than average rate. Those aged 80-89 have 1.8 times the average rate and those aged over 90 have 3.2 times the average rate.

Gender

Of the 27 fatal casualties in 2019-20, 20 were male. In the last ten years 60.3% of fatal casualties were male. The rate of fatal casualties per million population is markedly different by gender, the average rate of fatal casualties in Scotland over the last ten years was 8.1, for women the average rate was 6.2 while for men it was 10.0. On average the rate of fatal fire casualties is 61.3% higher for men than women.

There is also a gender difference in non-fatal casualty rates though the difference is smaller. The ten-year average rate for non-fatal casualties per million population in Scotland is 227, while for men it is 256 and for women 195. There is a 31.3% higher rate for men than women on average. In 2019-20 54.7% of non-fatal casualties were male.

Deprivation

There is a clear relationship between deprivation and fire casualty rates in Scotland. For fatal casualties, the most deprived areas in Scotland have a 4.4 times higher fatal casualty rate than the least deprived and 1.8 times the Scotland average. The middle 60% of Scottish areas have rates quite close to the Scotland average, while the least deprived 20% of areas have a rate less than half the average.

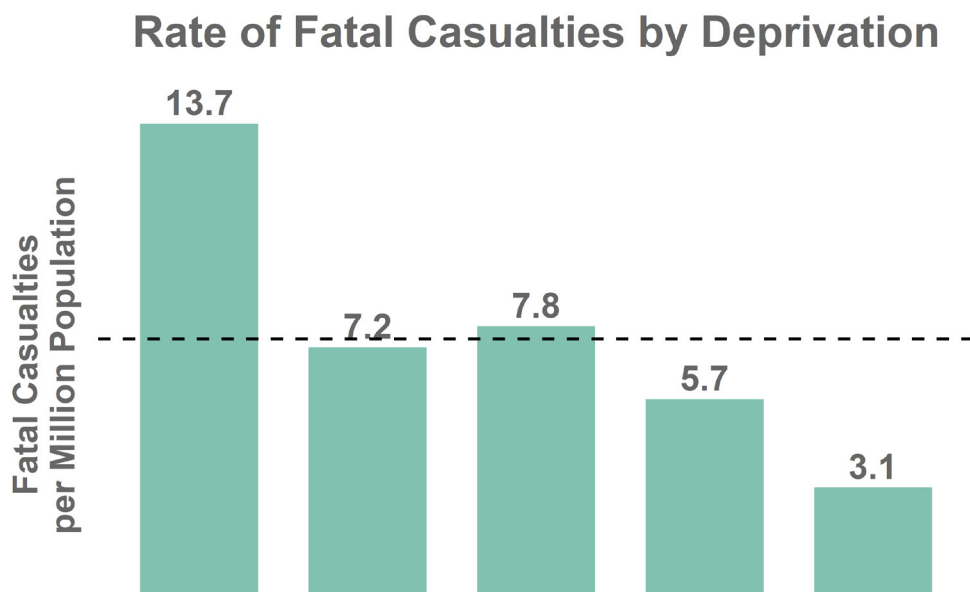


Figure 22: Eight-year⁶ average rate of fatal fire casualties per million population by level of deprivation. The Scotland average is 7.5. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

⁶ An eight-year average has been used as only eight years of population data is available. As the annual totals vary substantially, multiple years of data is needed to produce robust statistics

For non-fatal casualties the situation is similar, with the most deprived areas having a 5 times higher casualty rate than the least deprived.

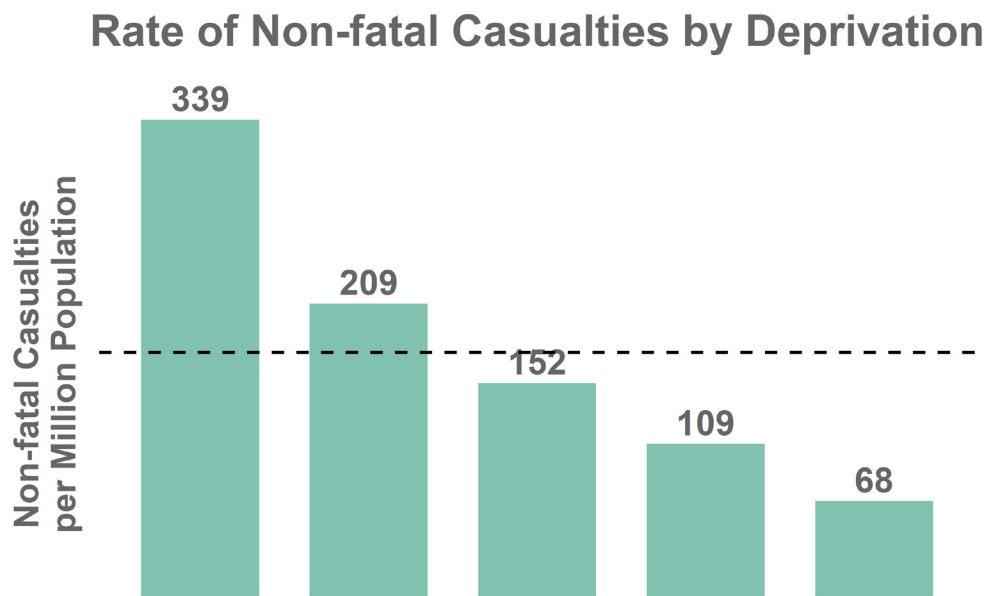


Figure 23: Eight-year average rate of non-fatal fire casualties per million population by level of deprivation. The Scotland average is 174. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

Deprivation is a very clear factor in the historic casualty profile regardless of gender or age. This comes out clearly in figures 24 and 25. Please note, these charts are presented to highlight the historic casualty profile only, each bar should not be interpreted as the true risk of any individual or group.

For fatal casualty rates it is clear from these charts that adults in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland have had a significantly higher rate regardless of gender or age. Men in SIMD quintile 2 have had a higher rate for those aged over 30. Those aged over 70 clearly have much higher rates than average for all but those in the least deprived areas, a caveat which does not apply for those over 80.

The over 90s have not been included in this chart, as with a high number of casualties and low population the resulting rates for some areas exceeded 100 fatal casualties per million population. This made the chart difficult to read. 19 fatal casualties in the last eight years were aged over 90, 10 of whom were men in SIMD quintiles 3 and 4.

Fatal Casualties per Million Population - 8 Year Average

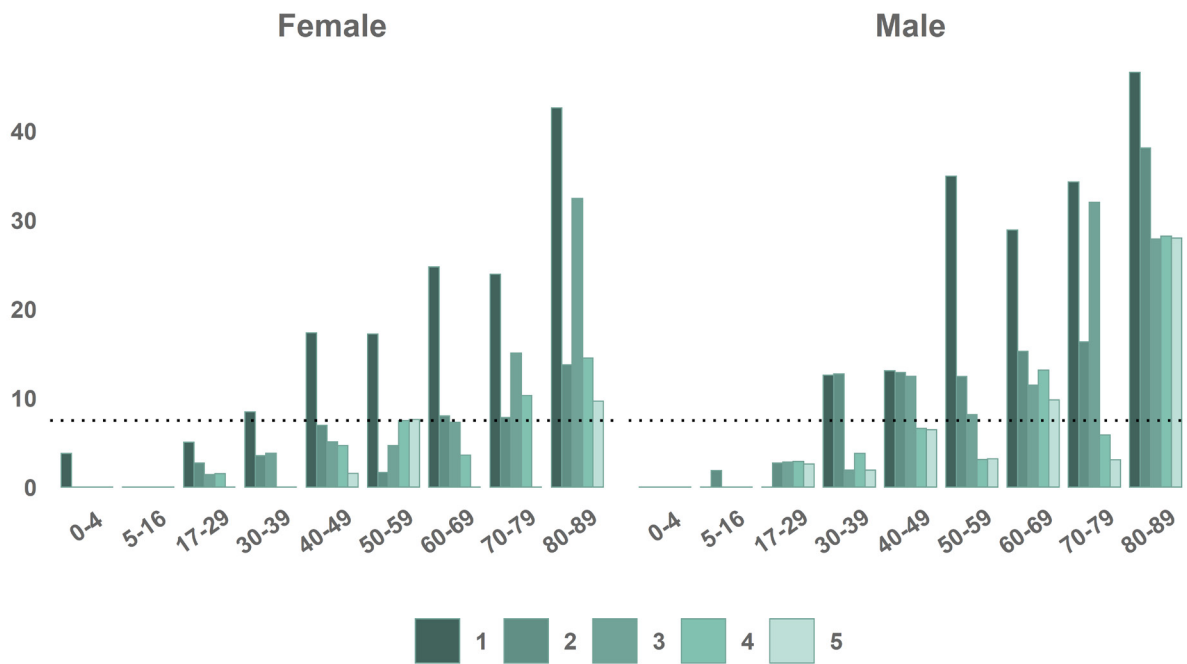


Figure 24: Fatal fire casualties per million population by gender, age and by level of deprivation where 1 is the 20% most deprived areas and 5 is the 20% least deprived areas. The horizontal line represents the Scotland average (7.5)

For non-fatal casualties the rates show that all adults in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland have higher casualty rates than average. For males this extends further, as those in the 40% most deprived areas have higher than average rates. Those aged over 80 have higher than average rates regardless of gender or level of deprivation.

Hospitalised Casualties per Million Population - 8 Year Average

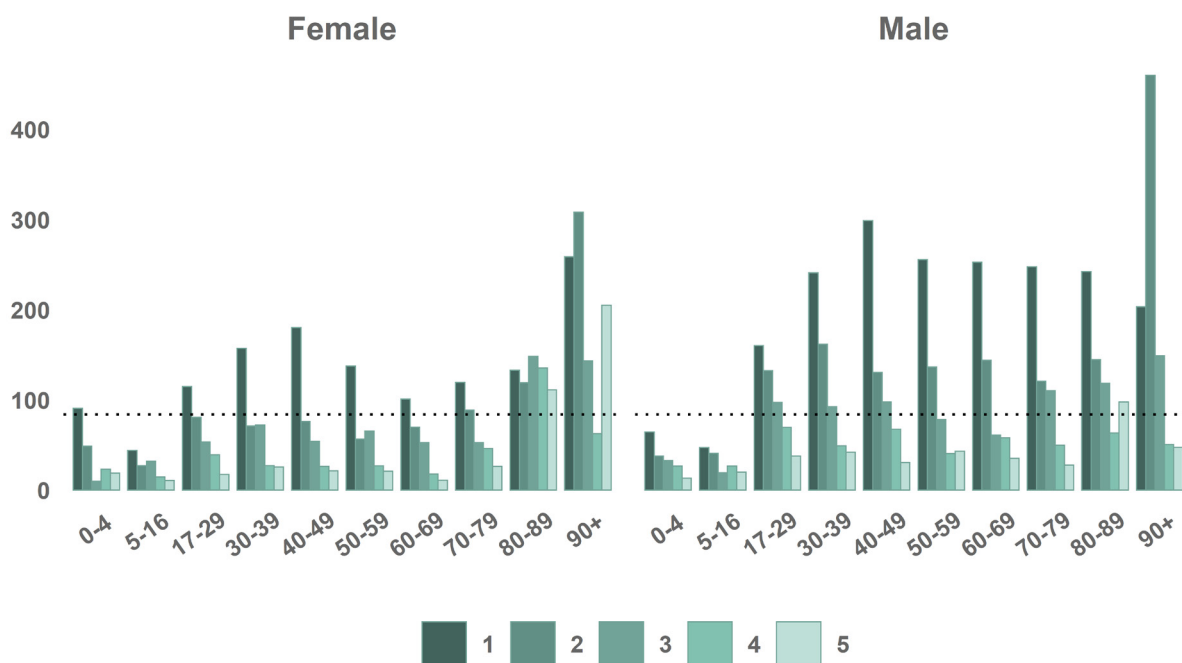


Figure 25: Hospitalised fire casualties per million population by gender, age and by level of deprivation where 1 is the 20% most deprived areas and 5 is the 20% least deprived areas. The horizontal line represents the Scotland average (84).

Impairment

In 15.8% of accidental dwelling fires this year, impairment through the use of alcohol or drugs was suspected to have been a contributory factor. These fires have a much higher casualty rate, with an average of 12.4 fatal casualties per 1,000 accidental dwelling fires compared to 2.6 fatal casualties where impairment was not suspected. For non-fatal casualties, there are 363.6 casualties per 1,000 fires with such impairment compared to 140.4 without. These averages are based on ten years of casualty data as there is no clear trend in recent years and the relatively low number of casualties means that a longer-term average is fairer. In 2019-20 there were 6 fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires where impairment by alcohol or drugs is a suspected factor and 251 non-fatal casualties.

Urban-Rural

The rate of non-fatal casualties is 1.6 times higher in the most urban areas compared to the most rural.

Non-fatal casualty rates have been decreasing proportionally faster in the most rural areas. These figures vary each year, however using three-year averages removes some of the volatility. In doing so we see a reduction in the rate non-fatal casualties in all areas. In large urban areas there was a decrease of 13.6%, for other urban areas the decrease was 1.5%, in accessible small towns it was 10.5%. The largest proportional decreases occurred in remote small towns at 27.9%, in accessible rural areas it was 24.1% and in remote rural areas 26.4%. Using this rolling average approach, the all Scotland decrease was 11.2%.

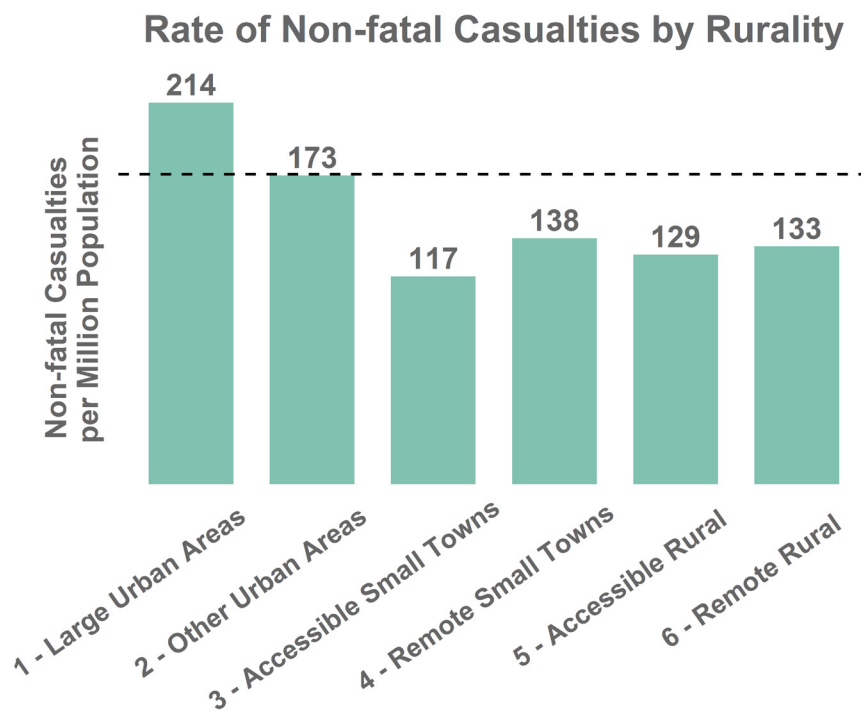


Figure 26: Eight-year average rate of non-fatal fire casualties per million population by level of rurality. The Scotland average is 174. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

For fatal casualties the pattern differs; the rate of fatal casualties per million population in the most rural areas is 1.6 times that of the most urban areas. The three categories of remote areas in Scotland all have higher rates of fatal casualties per million population than average, yet all have lower than average rates of non-fatal casualties.

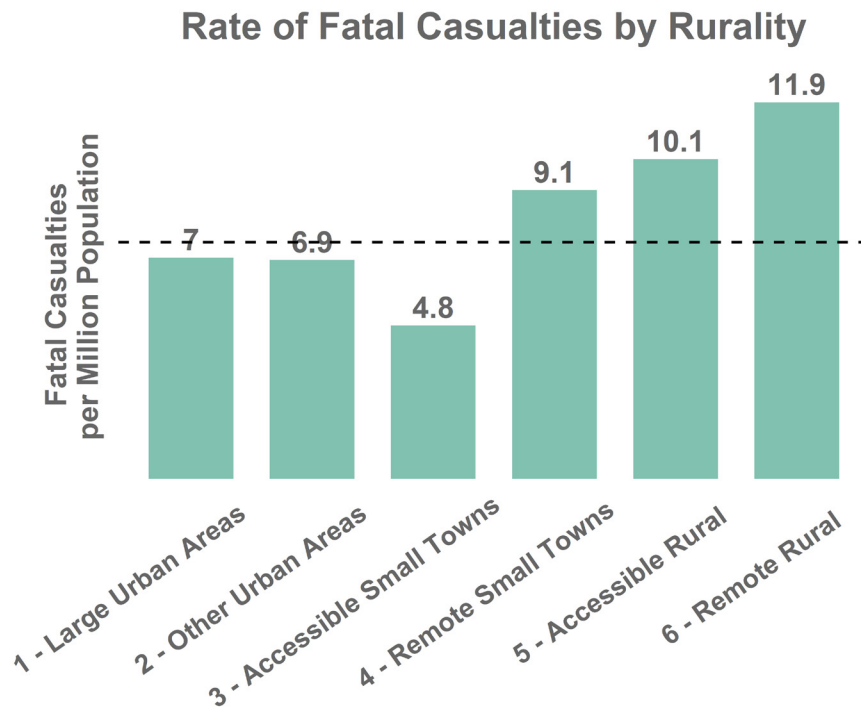
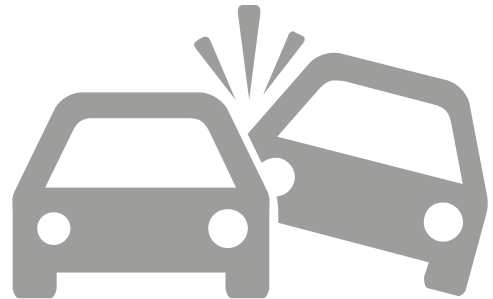


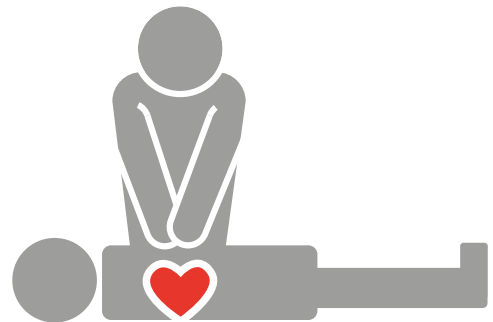
Figure 27: Eight-year average rate of fatal fire casualties per million population by level of rurality. The Scotland average is 7.5. Eight years of data was used to ensure a fair comparison.

5. Non-fire Incidents and Casualties

There were 14,377 non-fire incidents attended in 2019-20, the highest number on record and up 10.7% on last year. Recent years have seen a deliberate increase in inter-agency cooperation in Scotland which accounts for the major changes in this category. This is clearest in the 'Assist Other Agencies' and 'Effecting Entry or Exit' incident types which have both increased this year (5.4% and 21.9% respectively) and both reached new record values (1,255 and 3,991 respectively).



Effecting entry or exit frequently involves the breaking open of a locked door to assist Scottish Ambulance Service or Police Scotland with their work. Incidents of this kind now amount to 27.8% of non-fire incident activity. See figures 30 to 35 for trends in the major non-fire incident categories.



There was a significant uptick in flooding related incidents (including burst pipes) in 2019-20 with 1,626 in total, an increase of 40.7% on last year, and the highest total since 2010-11. Similarly, there was a significant uptick in incidents involving rescue or evacuation from water, at 218, a 26.7% increase on last year and the highest value on record.

Non-fire Incidents

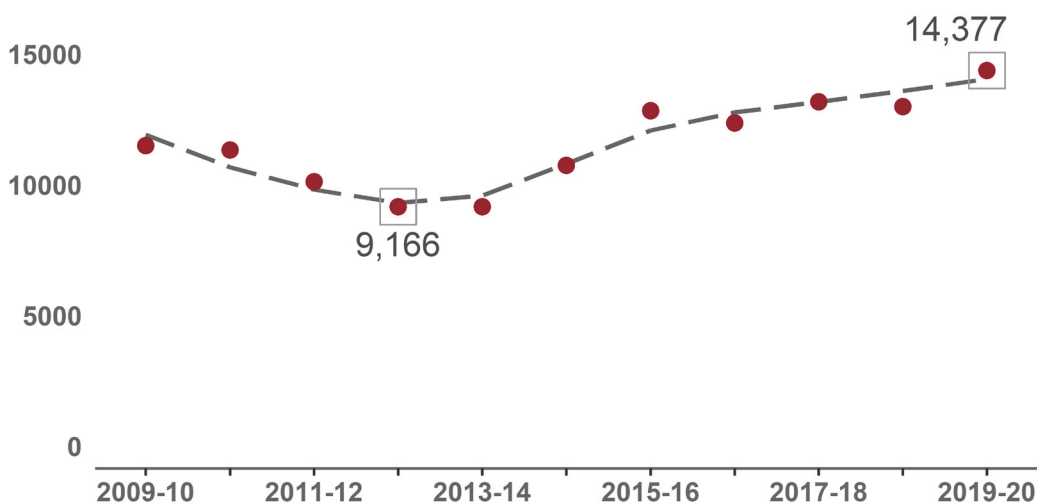


Figure 28: Trends in non-fire incidents

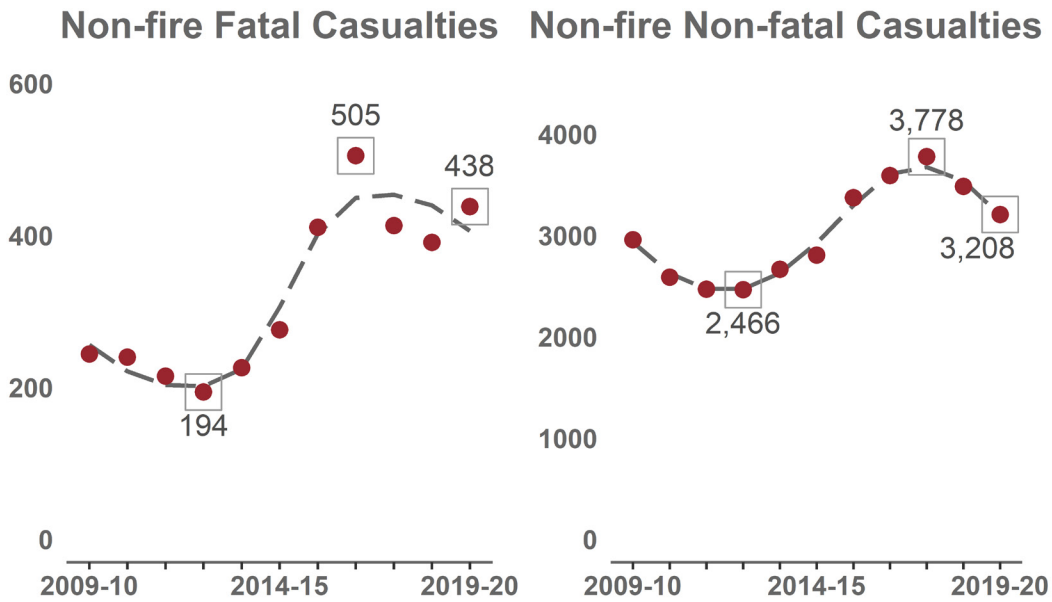


Figure 29: Trends in non-fire casualties

There were 438 fatal casualties in non-fire incidents attended in 2019-20, a 12.0% increase on last year and the second highest figure on record. The number of fatal casualties encountered by SFRS crews has substantially increased in recent years, as a result of increasing inter-agency cooperation.

In contrast with the number of fatal casualties in non-fire incidents, there was a decrease in non-fatal casualties recorded in 2019-20, reducing 7.9% to 3,208. This is the second year of decreases following several years of increases.

There has been an increase in fatal suicide casualties recorded, up from 33 to 51 (54.5%). There has been a decrease in non-fatal casualties recorded, reducing from 44 to 27 (38.6%). In the last two years there has been a notably higher number of suicide related incidents attended and resulting casualties.

Road Traffic Collisions

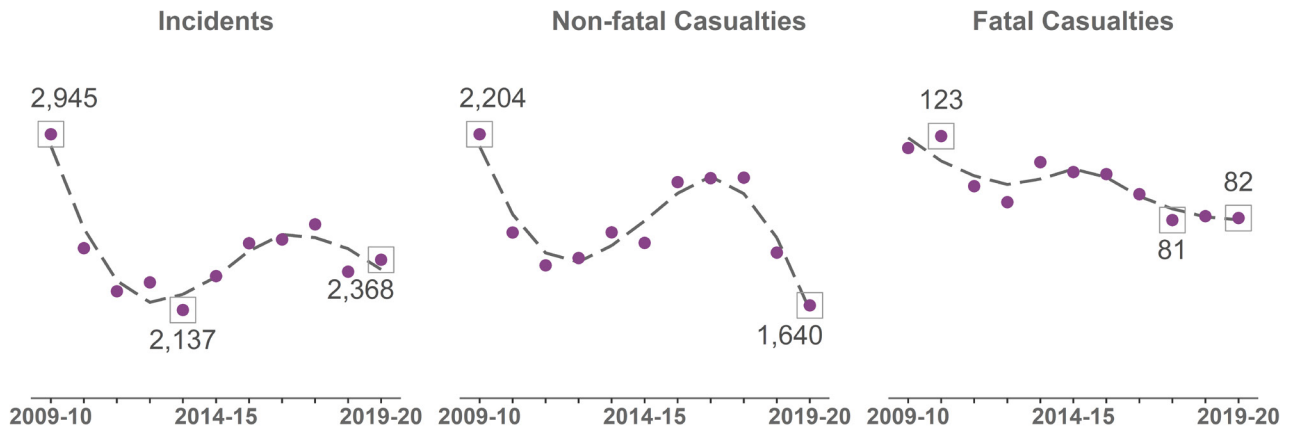


Figure 30: Trends in Road Traffic Collisions

Flooding and Rescue or Evacuation from Water

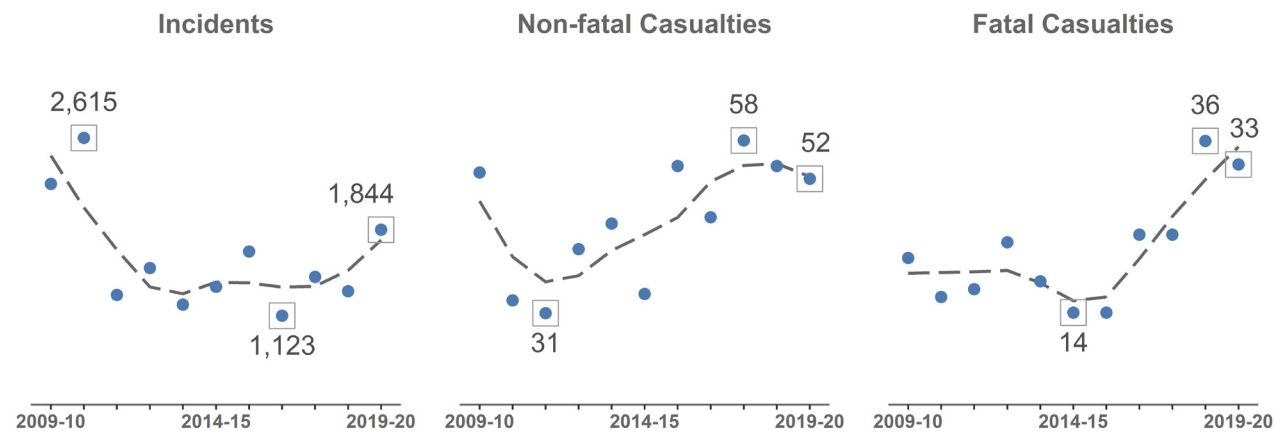


Figure 31: Trends in Flooding

Medical Response

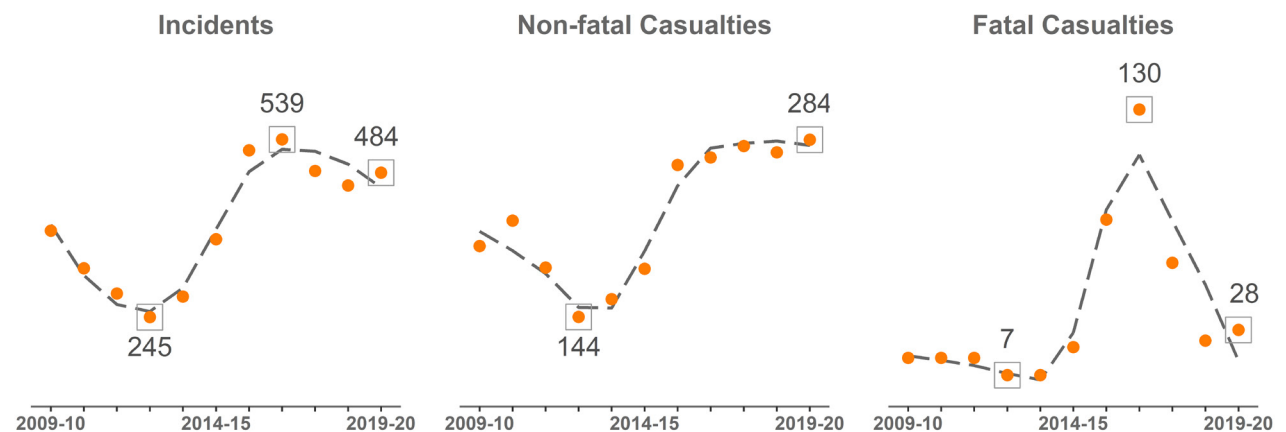


Figure 32: Trends in Medical Incidents

Suicide (including attempts)

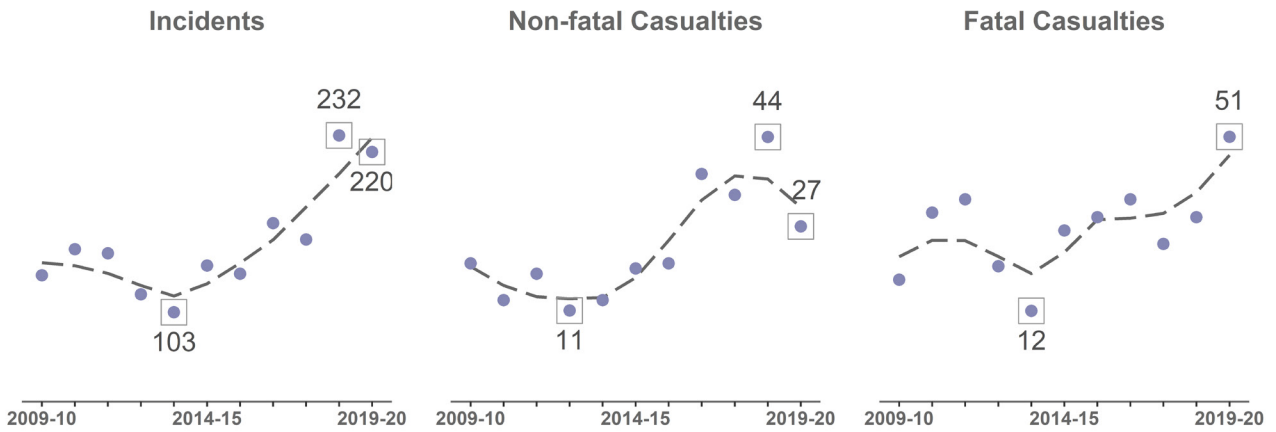


Figure 33: Trends in Suicide (including attempts)

Effecting Entry or Exit

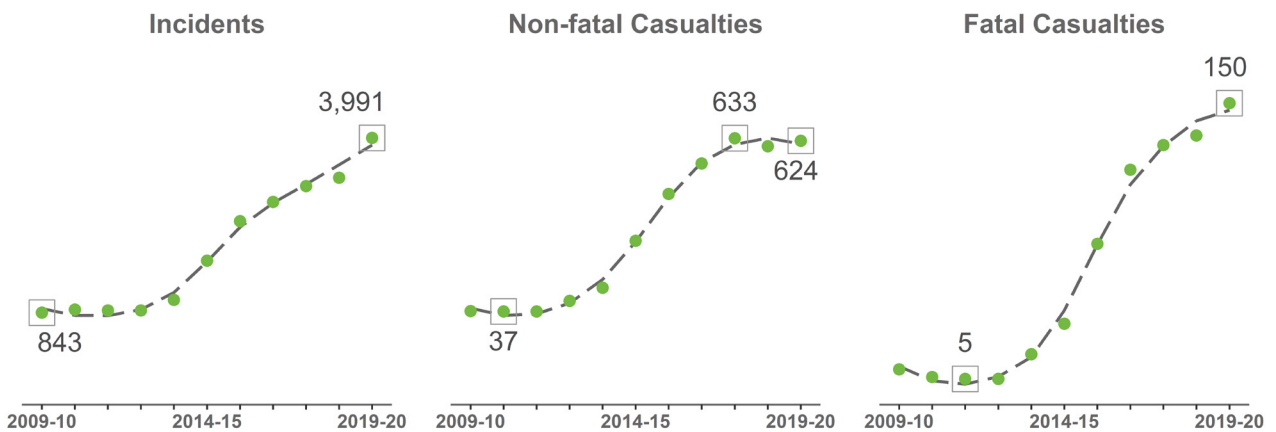


Figure 34: Trends in Effecting Entry or Exit

Assist Other Agencies

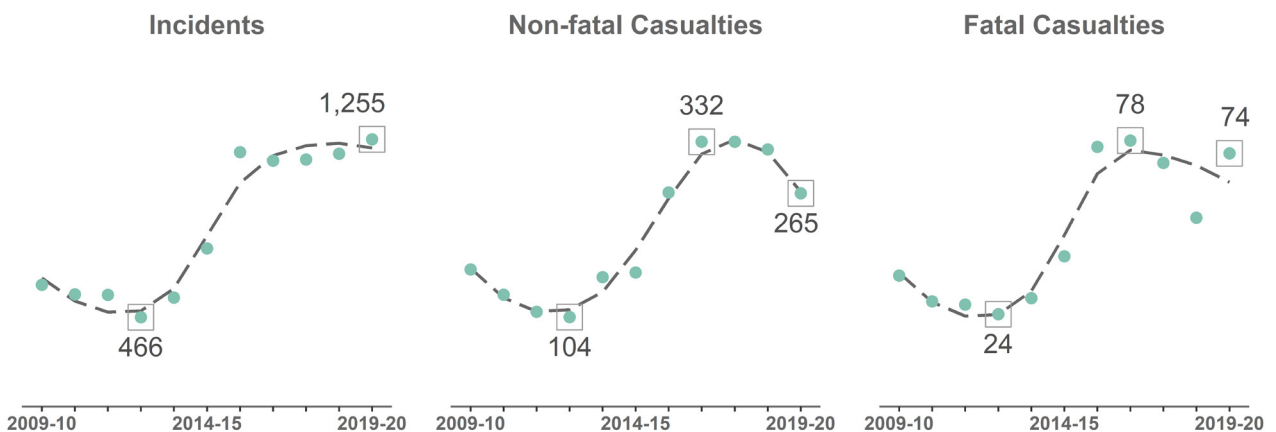
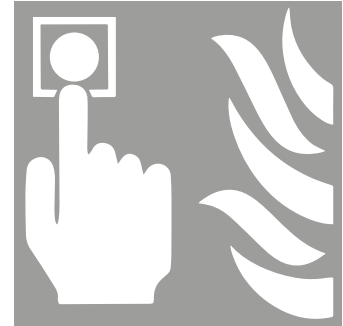


Figure 35: Trends in Assist Other Agencies

6. False alarms

There were 53,122 false alarms in 2019-20, very similar to last year though slightly up (0.4%). Of these, 52,248 were fire false alarms. Total fire false alarms have been close to 50,000 for many years. In recent years there have been around twice as many fire false alarms as fire incidents attended due to declining fire totals. There has been a recent trend of increasing false alarm attendances caused by raised alarms from detecting apparatus, which, at 41,420 in 2019-20, accounts for 45.0% of all incidents attended by SFRS this year.



Fire False Alarms

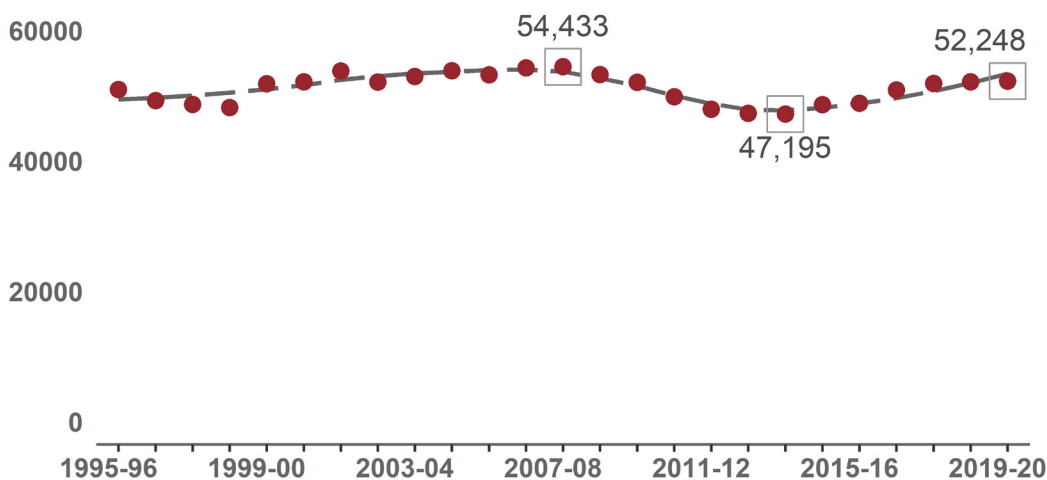


Figure 36: Long-term trend in fire false alarms

The long-term trend in figure 36 shows that the number of fire false alarms increased over the late 1990s to the mid-2000s. Figure 37 reveals that this was due to a rising number of automated signals while the number of false alarms with good intentions remained steady and the numbers of malicious calls decreased. From the mid-2000s to around 2013-14 the number of automated signals was steady each year while there were decreases in other false alarms. In the last five years however, the trends in malicious and good intent false alarms have levelled and the number of automated signals has increased, now at the highest figure since records began.

The increasing prevalence of false alarms due to apparatus in dwellings is the main cause of increased false alarms overall. The total number of apparatus false alarms in dwellings is a new high in this series at 13,845, up 1.5% on last year and up 49.7% in the last ten years. False alarms in 'Other Buildings' is at a relatively similar level to ten years ago.

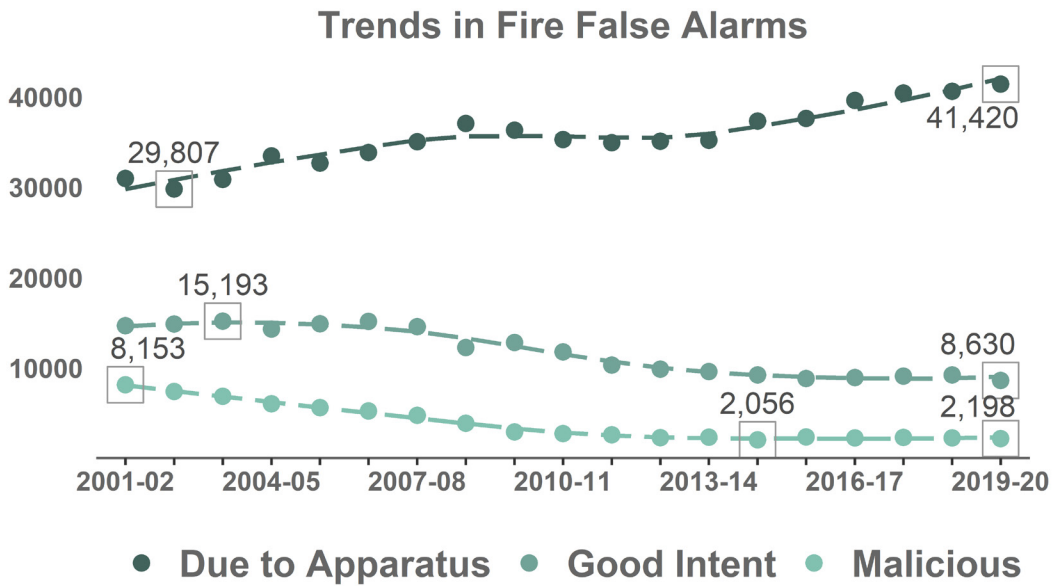


Figure 37: Trends in cause of fire false alarms

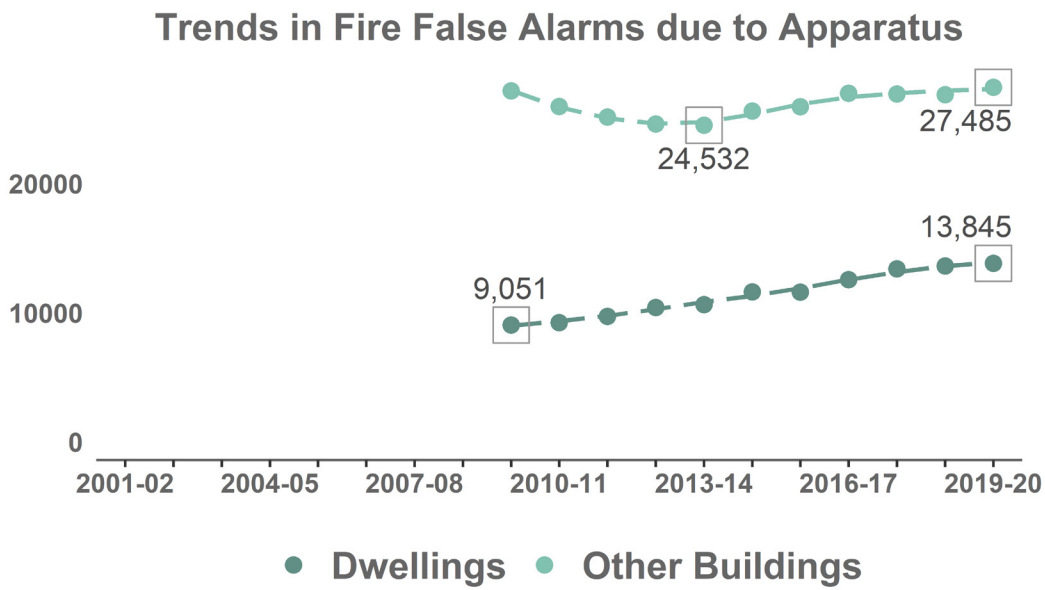


Figure 38: Trends in the location of fire false alarms due to apparatus

Great Britain Comparisons

The rate of false alarms per million population is notably higher than in England and Wales and has diverged further over time. In 2001-02 there was a 33.4% higher rate of fire false alarm attendances in Scotland than in England, by 2019-20 this difference extended to a 132.6% higher rate. 2019-20 figures for Wales were not available at the time of publishing, however the long-term statistics show similar rate decreases to England.

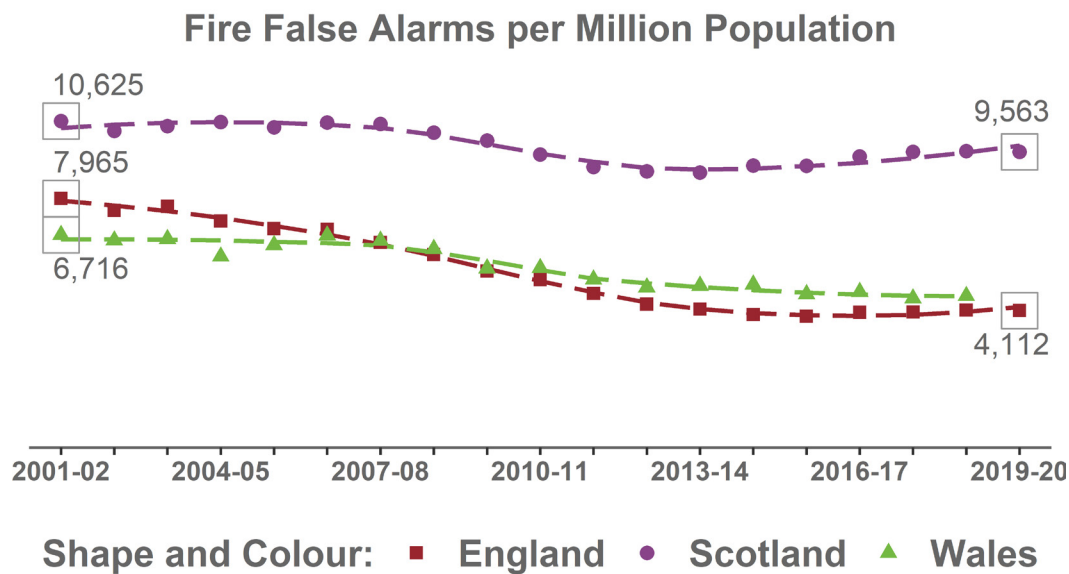


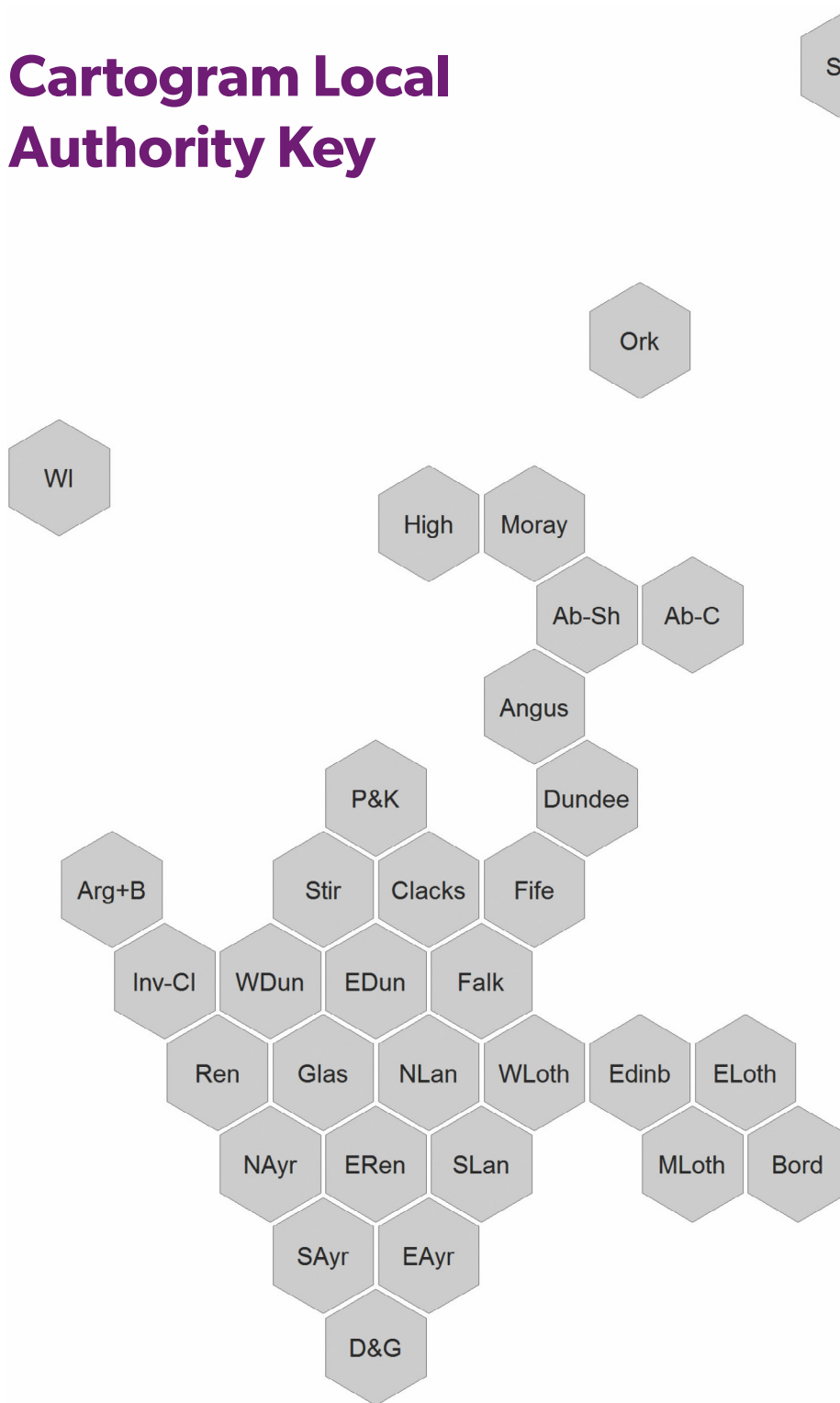
Figure 39: Trends in the fire false alarms by nation

Appendix A – Key for Local Authority Maps



Key	Local Authority
1	Aberdeen City
2	Aberdeenshire
3	Angus
4	Argyll and Bute
5	Clackmannanshire
6	Dumfries and Galloway
7	Dundee City
8	East Ayrshire
9	East Dunbartonshire
10	East Lothian
11	East Renfrewshire
12	Edinburgh, City of
13	Na h'Eileanan Siar
14	Falkirk
15	Fife
16	Glasgow City
17	Highland
18	Inverclyde
19	Midlothian
20	Moray
21	North Ayrshire
22	North Lanarkshire
23	Orkney Islands
24	Perth and Kinross
25	Renfrewshire
26	Scottish Borders
27	Shetland Islands
28	South Ayrshire
29	South Lanarkshire
30	Stirling
31	West Dunbartonshire
32	West Lothian

Cartogram Local Authority Key



Shet

Key	Local Authority
Ab-C	Aberdeen City
Ab-Sh	Aberdeenshire
Angus	Angus
Arg+B	Argyll and Bute
Clacks	Clackmannanshire
D&G	Dumfries and Galloway
Dundee	Dundee City
EAyr	East Ayrshire
EDun	East Dunbartonshire
ELoth	East Lothian
ERen	East Renfrewshire
Edinb	Edinburgh, City of
WI	Na h'Eileanan Siar
Falk	Falkirk
Fife	Fife
Glas	Glasgow City
High	Highland
Inv-CI	Inverclyde
MLoth	Midlothian
Moray	Moray
NAyr	North Ayrshire
NLan	North Lanarkshire
Ork	Orkney Islands
P&K	Perth and Kinross
Ren	Renfrewshire
Bord	Scottish Borders
Shet	Shetland Islands
SAyr	South Ayrshire
SLan	South Lanarkshire
Stir	Stirling
WDun	West Dunbartonshire
WLoth	West Lothian

An Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

Correspondence and enquiries

Lead statistician for this bulletin and associated documents:

Gregor Welsh

For enquiries or feedback please contact:

National.Statistics@firescotland.gov.uk

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The next edition of Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics bulletin and associated documents is scheduled for release on **29th October 2021**.



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SFRS Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics 2019-20
Version 1.0 - 30 October 2020