



PART 1: THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM

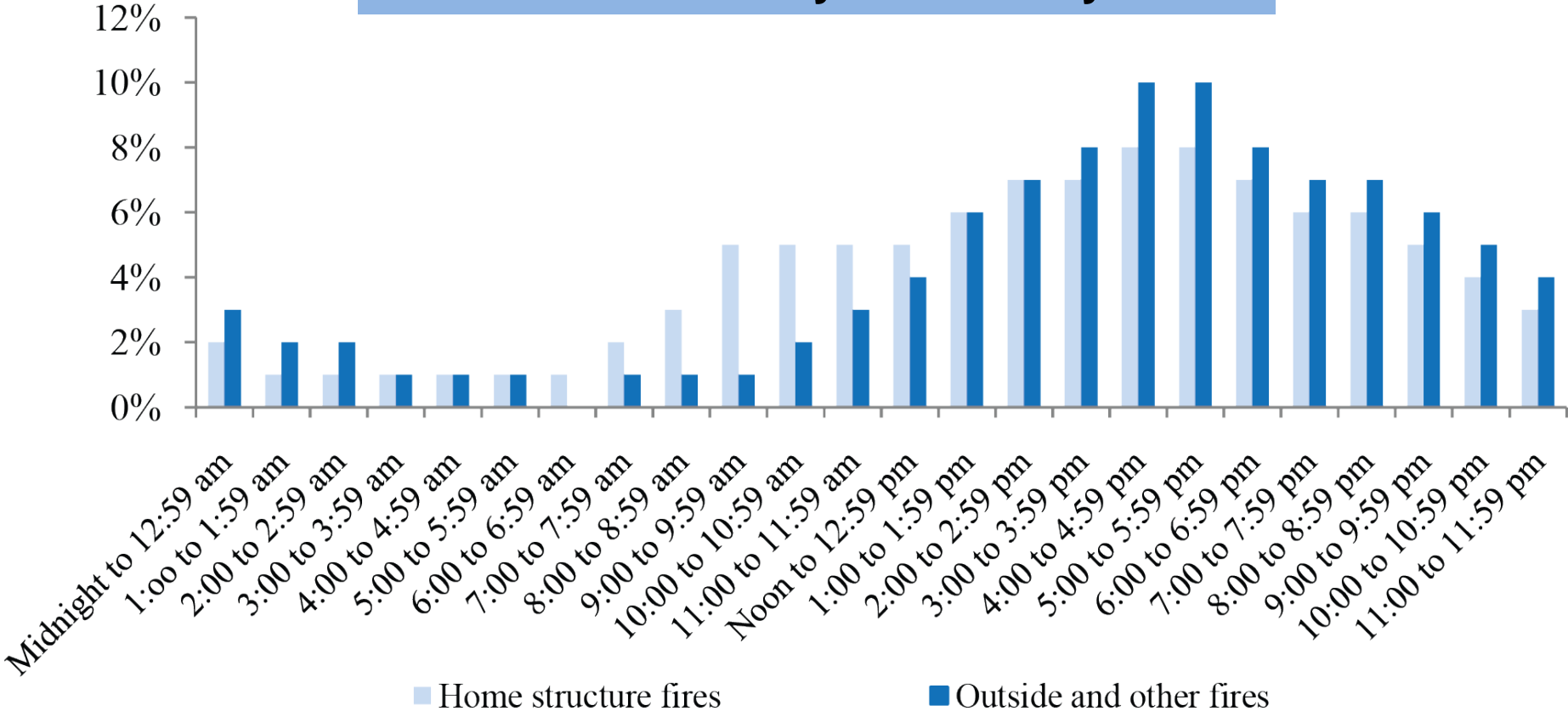
THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

- Statistically speaking, youth between the ages of 11 and 14 are at the greatest risk for setting fires.
- Boys are at the greatest risk for setting fires.



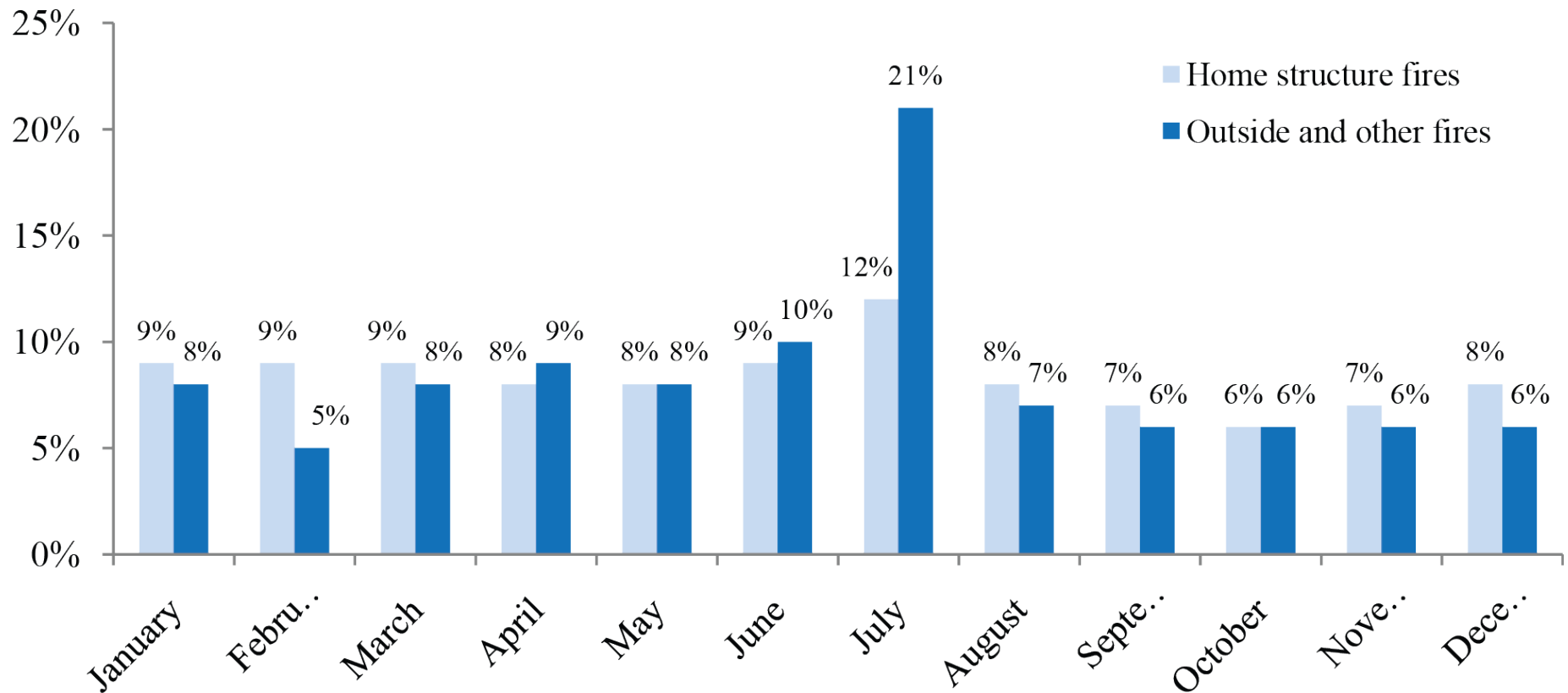
THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

Youth Fires by Time of Day



WHAT PATTERN MAY THESE STATISTICS INDICATE?

Youth Fires by Month



THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

- Youth-related fires peak during the month of July.
- One out of every four fires that occurred outside was in the month of July.
- More than two out of every three youth-related fires in July involved fireworks.

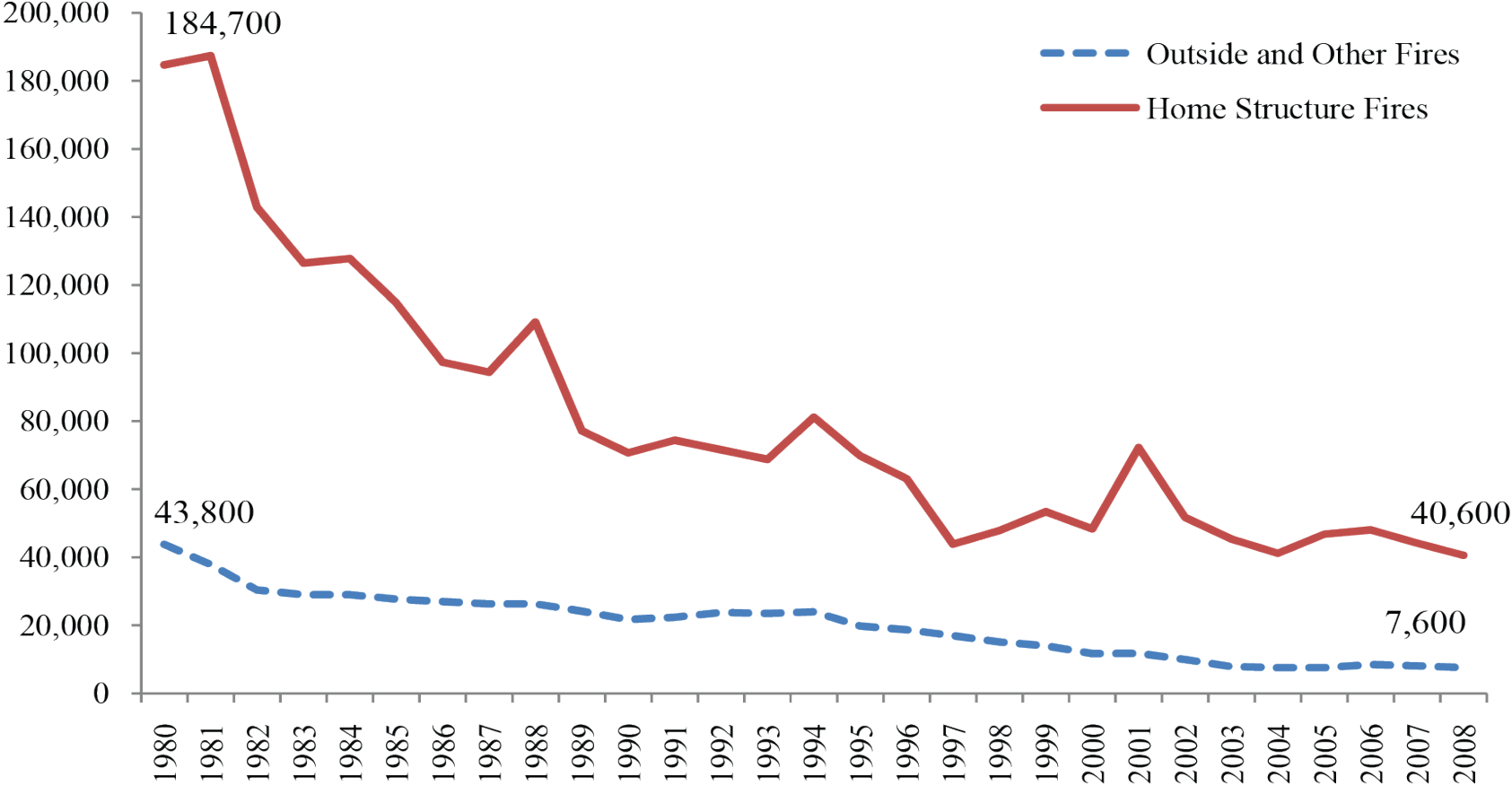


THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

- The good news:
 - Youth firesetting-related home fires down over 80 percent since 1980.
 - Civilian deaths reduced by 84 percent.
 - Injuries reduced by 61 percent.
 - Property loss cut by 38 percent.

THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

Trend in Youth Fires, 1980-2008



THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

- The crime of arson has the highest rate of youth involvement compared to other crimes.
- The (FBI) identifies half of all arson arrests in the United States are youth under the age of 18.
- Nearly one-third of those arrested were under the age of 15, and 5 percent were under the age of 10.

THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

- In 2008, there was an estimated 6,600 youth arrested for arson in the U.S.
- Of those arrested, 56 percent were under age 15, and 12 percent were female.

THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

- The youth arrest rate for arson declined by 46 percent between 1994 and 2008.
- This rate is the lowest point since 1980.
- School issues continue, and in some states are on the rise.

THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

- Most deadly school fire in America:
 - Chicago, 1958, Our Lady of the Angels parochial school.
 - Three nuns and 92 students died.
 - Fire started by a student.



THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

- Elementary schools are summer targets.
- Middle and high schools peak in fall/spring.
- Half of school fires occur between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

THE EXTENT OF THE YOUTH FIRESETTING PROBLEM (cont'd)

- Of school fires, 25 percent originate in bathrooms.
- Nearly 80 percent of bathroom fires are in middle and high schools.
- Need element of trust with school officials.

Why do you think a school official may be reluctant to report a fire that has occurred in his or her school?

YOUTH USE OF EXPLOSIVE AND PRESSURE-CREATING DEVICES

- Youth have been experimenting with incendiary devices for years.
- This problem has expanded dramatically.
- Youth have easy access to information.
- Websites provide visual examples.





