

Fuel Poverty, Children and Families.

Findings based on the
NI House Condition Survey
2006

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UK Fuel Poverty Strategies 2001-2008

Nationally and regionally these
define 3 vulnerable groups for FP

People with disabilities

Seniors

Juniors (under 16)

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Change in FP prevalence rate 2004 to 2006 for children's families

2004 : **12%**

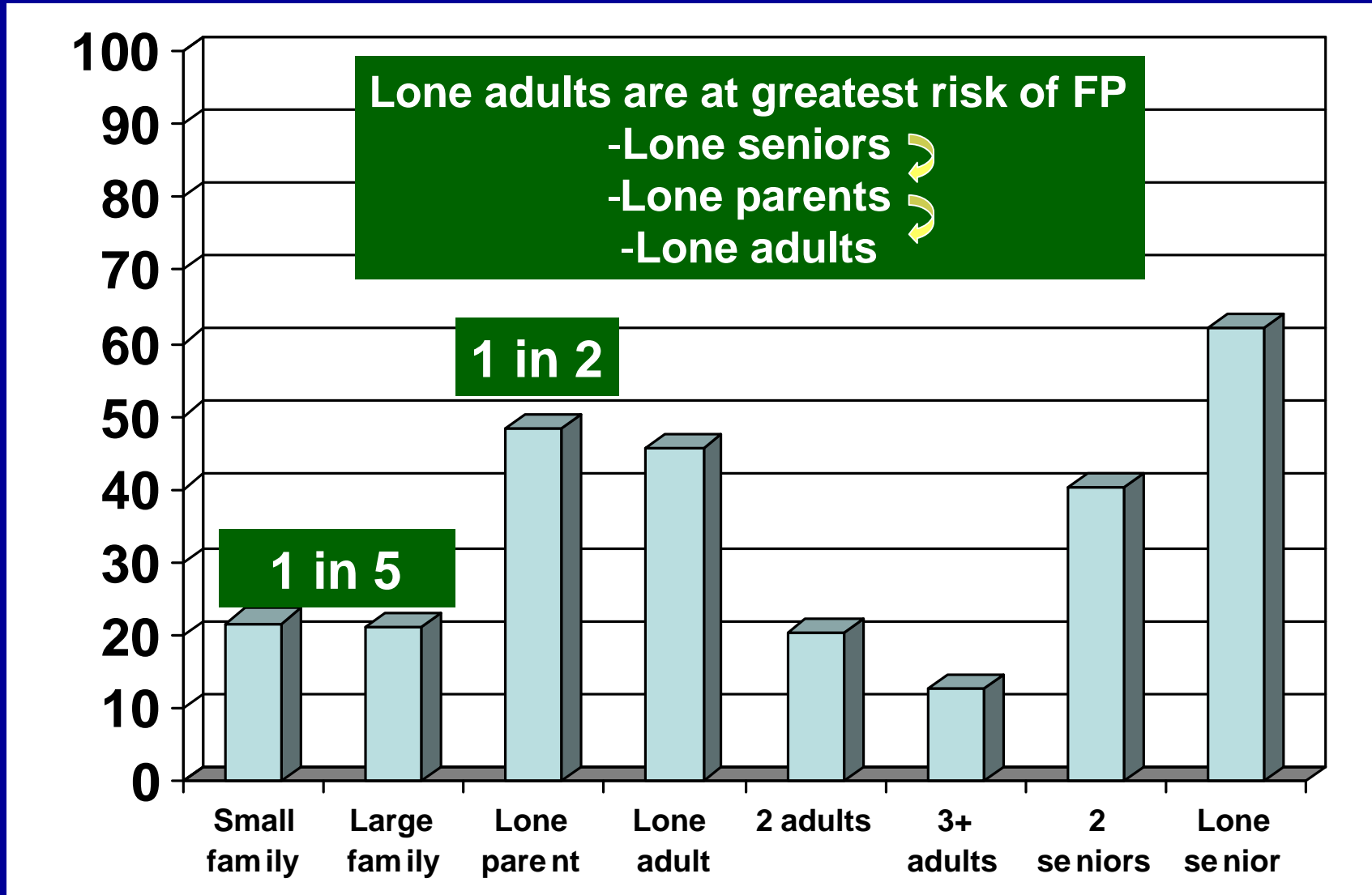
2006 : **27%**

NI Fuel Poverty prevalence amongst families
with children **doubled** in 2 years.

Sources : NIHCS 2004, 2006

Source NIHCS, 2006

Fuel poverty : ALL households in NI



Changes 2004 to 2006 (NIHCS)

| Household Type | Change in FP rate 2004 to 2006 |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Small family | 12% increase |
| Large family | 9% increase |
| Lone parent | 30% increase |
| Lone adult | 21% increase |
| 2 adults | 5% increase |
| Several adults | <i>12% decrease</i> |
| 2 older people | <i>2% decrease</i> |
| Lone older | 20% increase |
| NI Average (<i>all households</i>) | 10% increase |

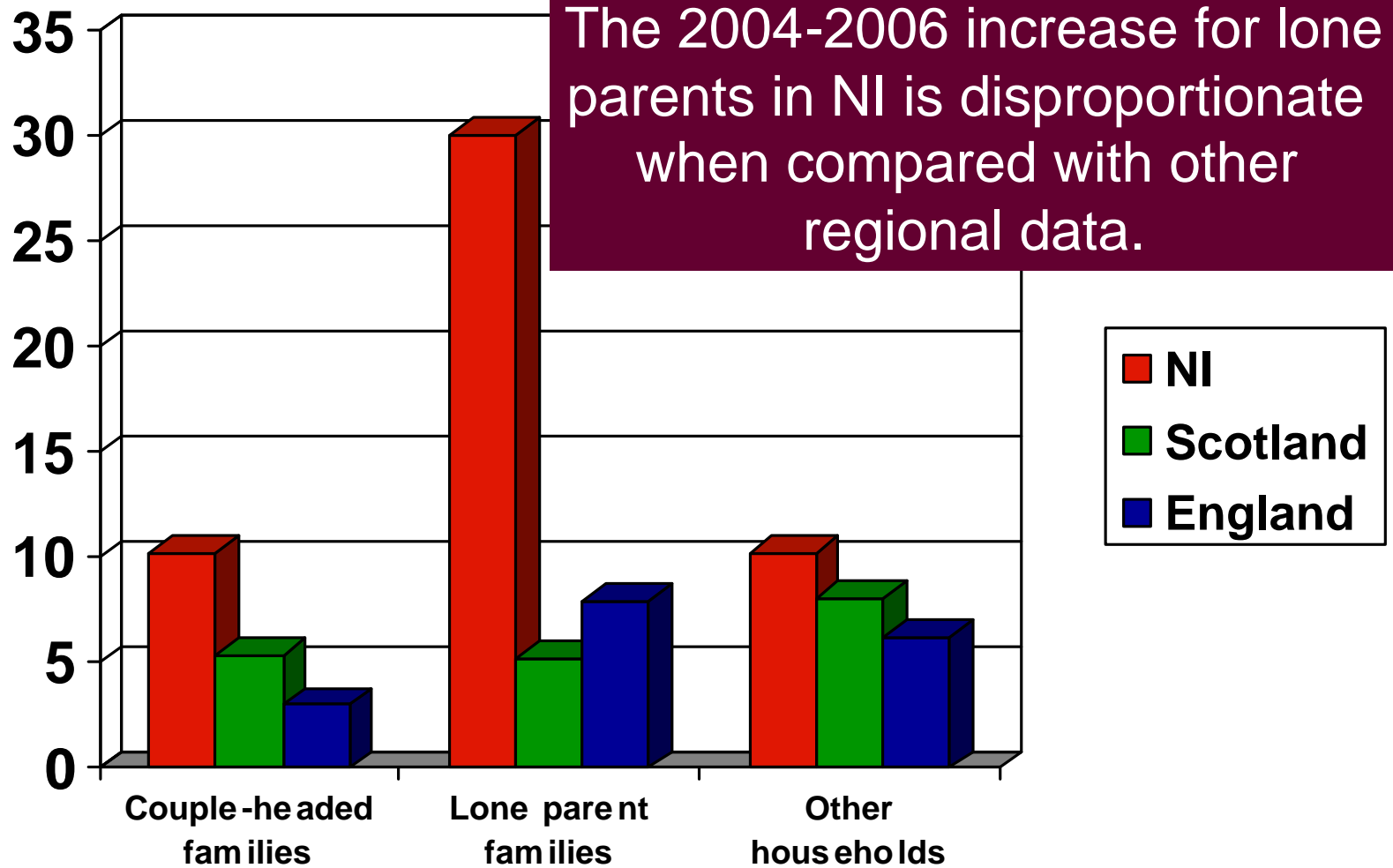
Higher than NI average increase

Highest of all

Effective policy



2004 - 6: Regional comparisons

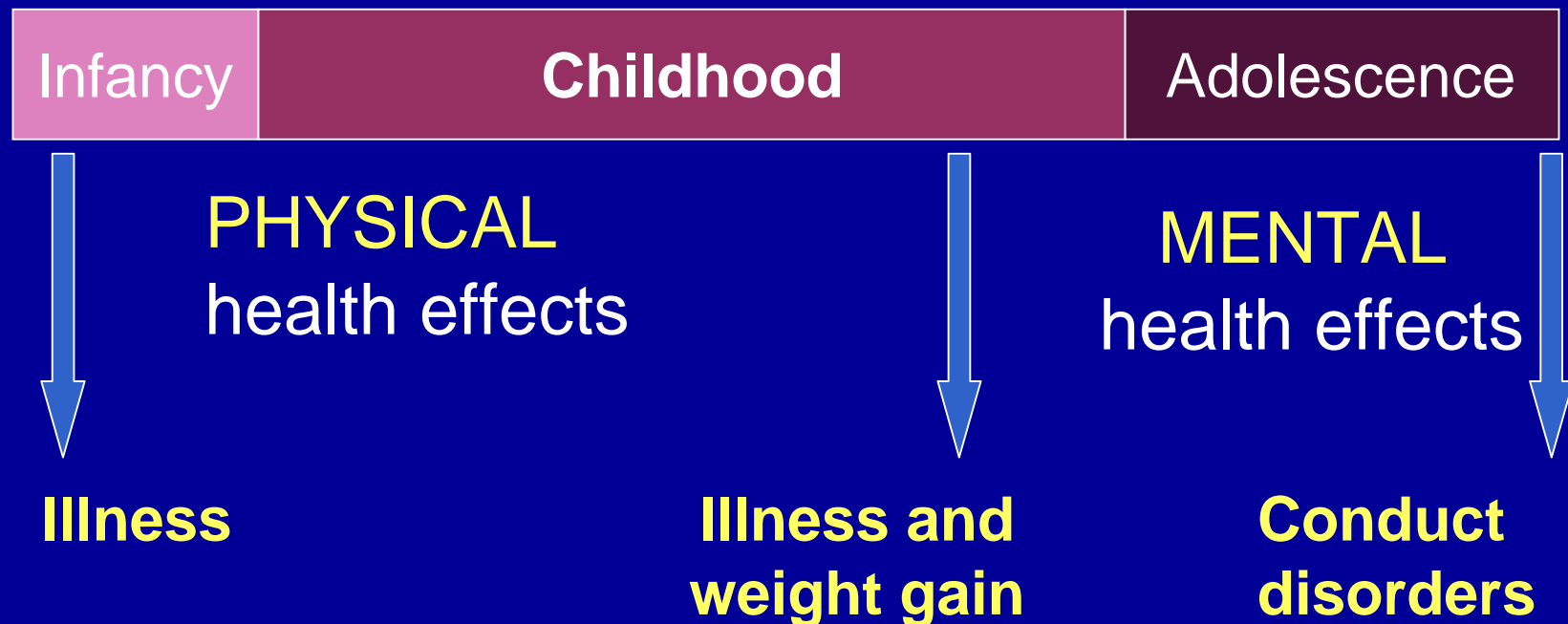


Does it matter? Consequences of FP for the young



Children and Young People in Fuel Poverty: Health risks

- Different for 3 different age bands



Physical health impacts of reducing FP - infants



Winter fuel payments

30% fewer admissions to
hospital and emergency
care units.

Source : C-SNAP, 2006

Physical health impacts of reducing FP - children



Respiratory disease
25% reduction @ 1yr follow-up

Allergies
Halved @ 1yr follow-up

Weight gain
30% fewer light-for-age @ 3 years

Sources : C-SNAP, 2006; Green, 2008; Howden Chapman, 2007

Mental health impacts of reducing FP – teenagers

Source : Barnes et al., 2008



- Only house quality measure to predict MMHR
- More exposure to bullying
- More anxiety about mugging
- Less happy at home
- More risk of absconding from home

FP increases young people's vulnerability

Costs and benefits

Savings to the NHS from
infant/child/adolescent health effects

- **12%** of the Warm Homes investment recouped

Add adults :

- **42%** of Warm Homes investment recouped

Public costs of children with conduct disorders @28 years old

- 1 unit cost to the NHS
- 6 units cost to schooling and employment system
 - 20 unit cost to social justice system

No need to do the math

Towards a Fuel Poverty Children's Charter

- A way of bringing children's concerns into the public domain
- Being launched on 1st December
- By Save The Children (Northern Ireland)

Thanks for your time