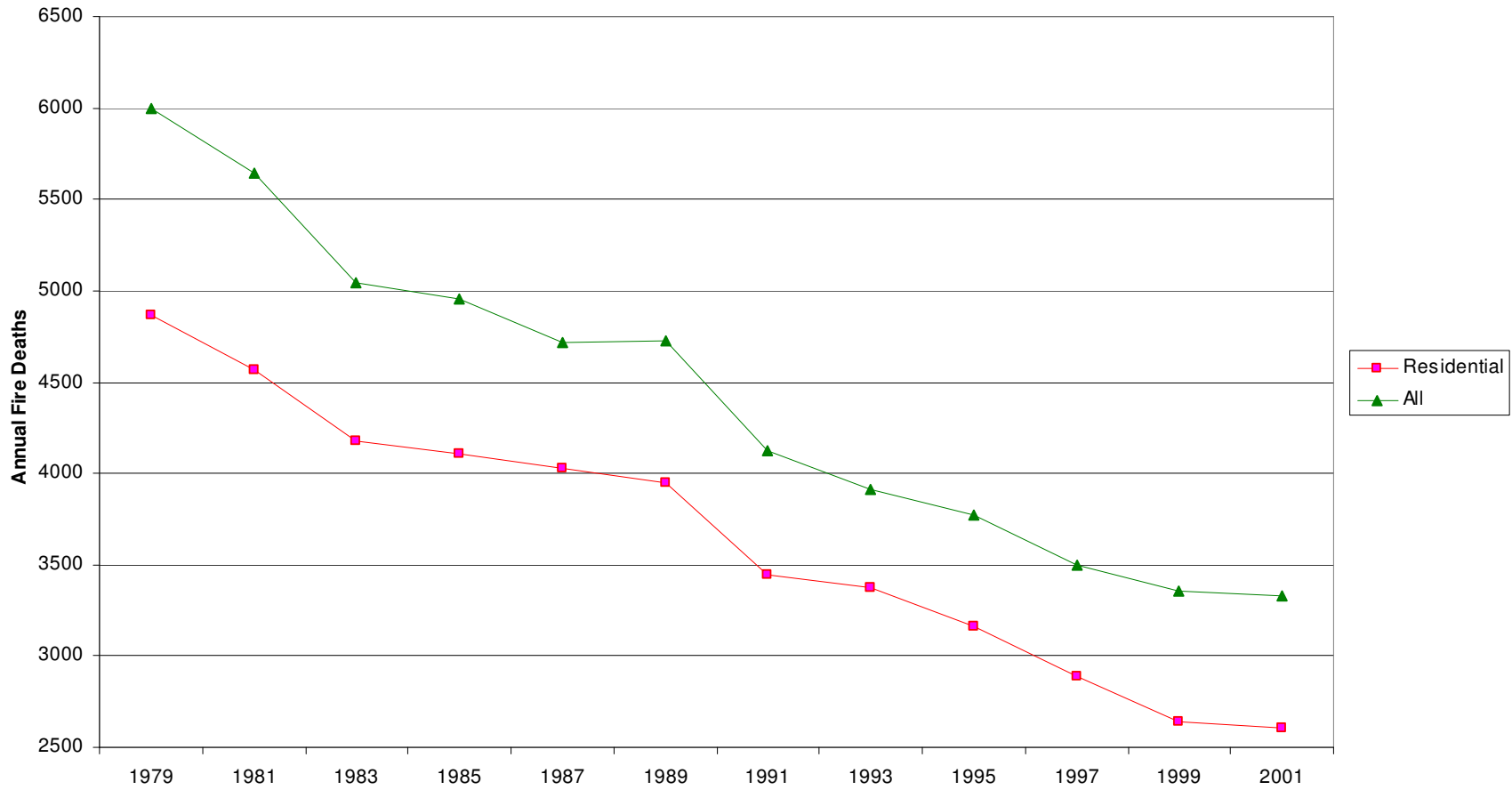


# USA

## Fire Deaths and House Fire Deaths 1979 - 2001



# What does this Mean?

But, since then the curve has flattened out.

The low hanging fruit has been harvested

All these fatalities occur in **existing** houses

To reduce them further what should we do?

–Look at the literature!

# Research Findings

Istre et al. N.E.J of Med 2001: Age of unit, income, lack of detector, minority, elderly.

Runyan et al. N.E.J of Med 1992: Smoking, mobile homes, lack of smoke detectors, alcohol.

Mierley et al. JAMA 1983: Houses most likely to have a fire are least likely to have a detector.

Elick et al. FEMA 1980/Hemenway QJE 1990: Those who get detectors need them least!

# Cost Benefit Analysis

## *(Cost per life Saved)*

Smoke detectors in homes \$0-\$210,000

Airbags in cars \$17,000-\$120,000

Flammability standards for 0-6X PJs \$0-\$220,000

Grooved pavement on highways \$29,000

Widen shoulders on rural roads \$120,000

Crossing control arms for school buses \$410,000

Electronic sensors for school buses \$1,500,000

Ejection system for B-58 bomber \$1,200,000

**Average cost for all interventions \$48,000**

# Cost Benefit Analysis

Canadian government sprinkler study (2005):

Cost per life saved is \$38 million

NAHB analysis based on current U.S. Costs:

Cost per life saved is \$16.7 to \$25 million

# Review

- Save lives by focusing life safety efforts where fire deaths are occurring using proven technology, rather than trying unproven remedies that may or may not save lives in the distant future, that have no proven track record of success, and that do nothing to help those in most need today.