Child welfare inequalities: new evidence, further questions

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Child Welfare Inequalities : new evidence, further questions

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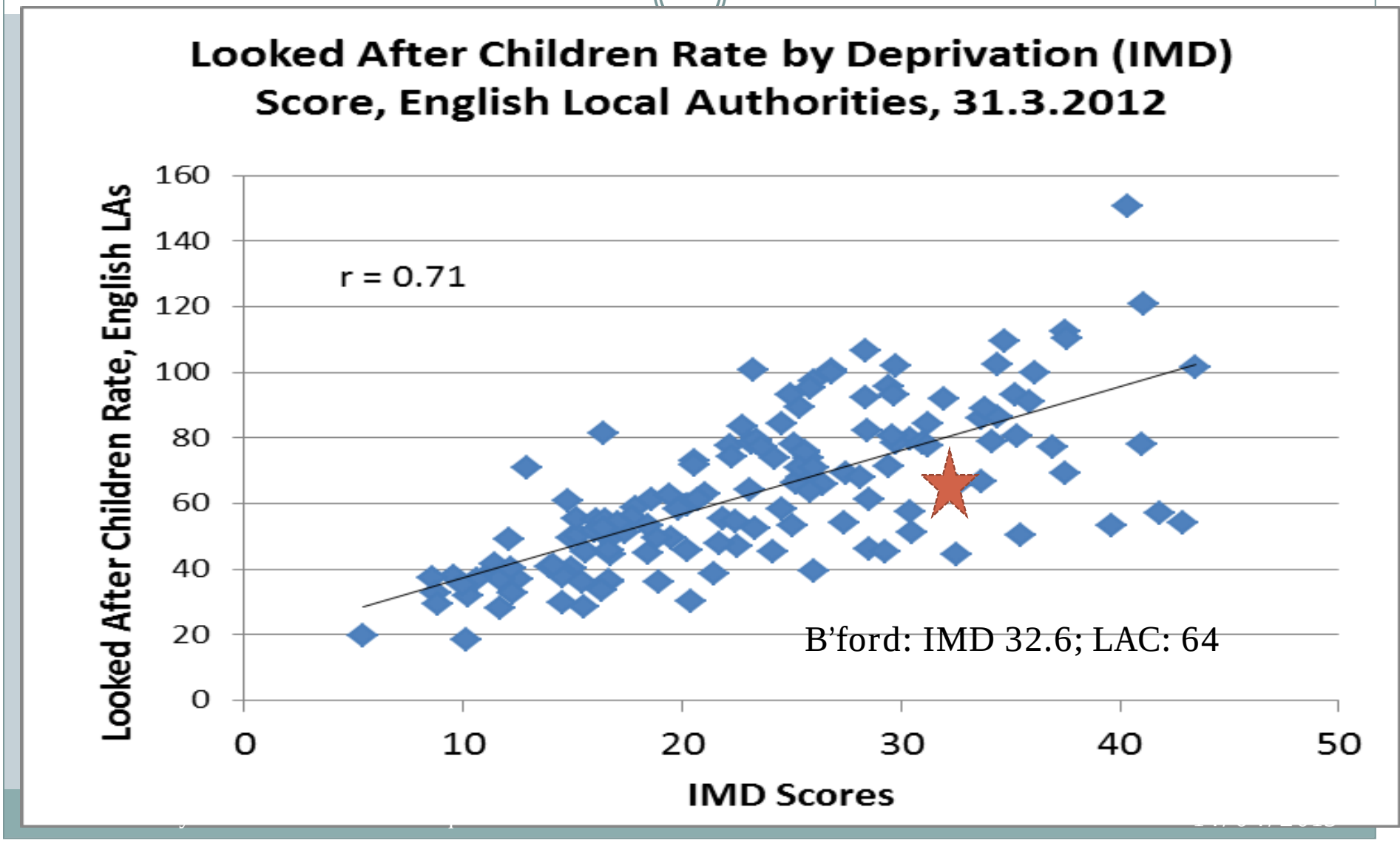
Questions?

- What proportion of families that children's Services work with live in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods?
- Are the proportion of children who are looked after or on child protection plans higher in Herefordshire or Sandwell?
- Are Black children over-represented in the looked after population compared to White children?

Child Welfare Inequalities

- Safeguarding: vulnerability and risk or social inequality and injustice.
- New evidence about child welfare inequalities between and within local authorities
- Questions and discussion

Child Welfare Inequalities: England



Child Welfare Inequalities: Definition

Unequal chances, experiences and outcomes of child welfare that are systematically associated with social advantage/disadvantage.

Rates of intervention as one marker of inequalities. But a complex issue. Higher death rates clearly worse. Higher CPP rates might mean safer childhoods.

Child Welfare Inequalities and Health Inequalities

By comparison with health inequalities

Very little recent detailed research, for example, about the circumstances of families or inequalities in rates of intervention below LA level

Very little theorising – explanations of the relationship between deprivation and inequalities in intervention rates

Language of 'variations', 'differences' and 'disparity' not inequalities

Few policies aimed at reducing inequalities

Child Welfare Inequalities: Key Dimensions

- Who receives child welfare interventions (and why)?
- Which children get what kinds of interventions (and why)?
- What differences are there in the childhood outcomes between children involved with child welfare services and those who are not (and why)?
- What differences are there in the adult outcomes between children involved with child welfare services and those who are not (and why)?
- What policies and interventions reduce inequalities in child welfare: upstream, midstream and downstream?

Deprivation and Children's Services Outcomes

Aim:

to examine the role of deprivation in explaining differences in key children's services' interventions between and within local authorities (LAs)

Focus is only on the first of the 5 dimensions of CWIs: who receives children's services interventions?

Study Methods

14 Local Authorities in the English Midlands

Over 10% of all children England and of LAC and CPP

Routine data for all CPP and LAC: age, gender, ethnicity, disability, reason for CPP and legal status in LAC at 31.3.12

plus

Neighbourhood (Lower Layer Super Output Area) of origin.

Interviews with senior managers to provide contextual information and subsequent telephone focus groups with front line staff.

Analysis

Sorted neighbourhoods (LSOAs. MSOAs) in our sample by their national deprivation rank using 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation scores and divided into deciles (10 groups of 10%) or quintiles (5 groups of 20%).

Where we refer to decile 10 in our sample, it means those LSOAs or MSOAs in the midlands sample that are in the 10% **most** deprived LSOAs nationally. Decile 1 are the LSOAs amongst the least deprived 10% nationally.

Summary

- Children are over-represented in deprived neighbourhoods
- Some groups of children are particularly liable to deprivation
- The distribution of children by deprivation interacts with child welfare practice to produce very large inequalities in a child's chances of being on a CPP or being a LAC.

Deprivation Amongst Child Population

Table 1: Percentage of child population living in each quintile of neighbourhoods (MSOAs) by deprivation.

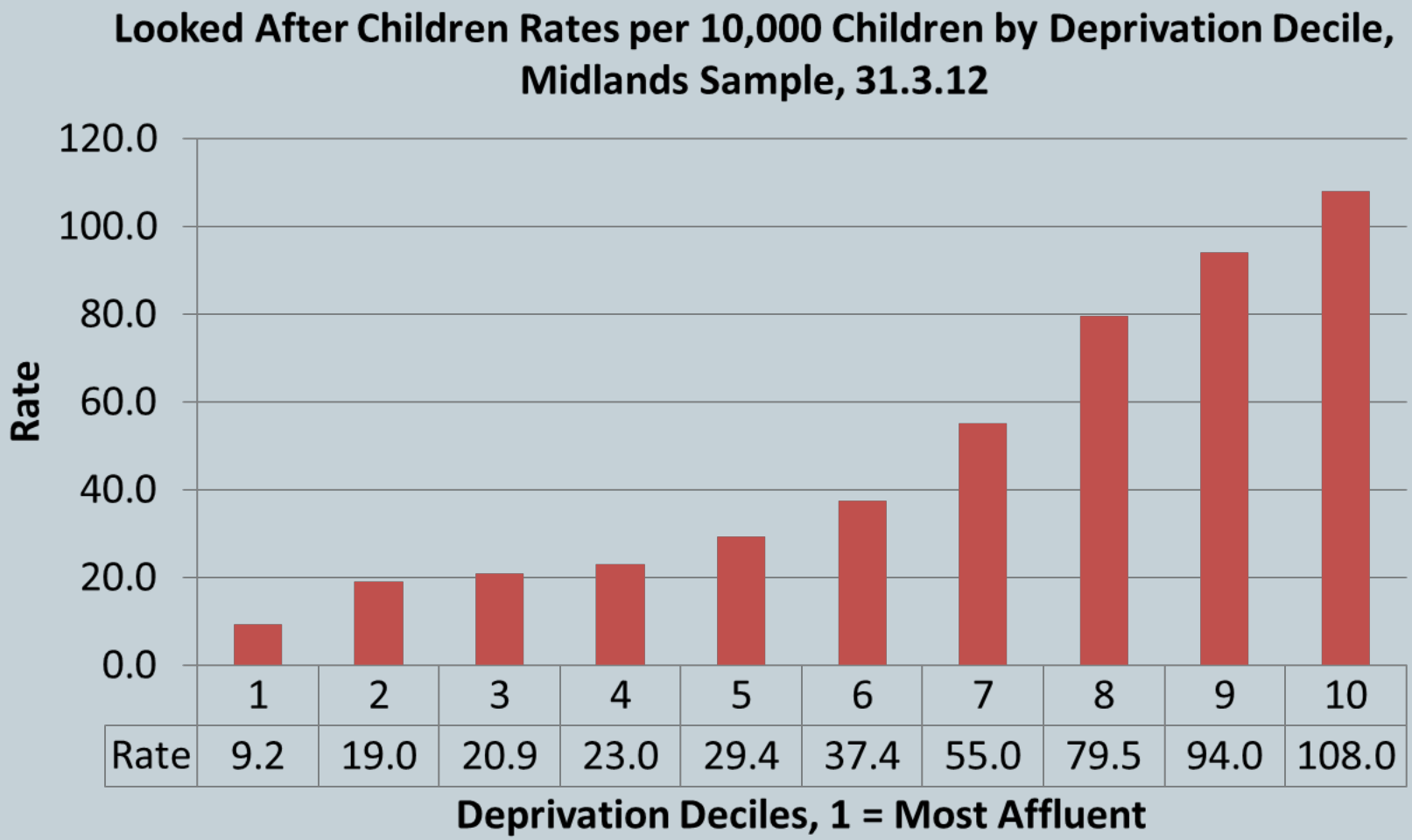
1 = most affluent 20% of neighbourhoods; 5 = least affluent.

Deprivation Quintile	1	2	3	4	5
Child population in England	19.4%	18.3%	18.5%	20.1%	23.7%
Child Population Midlands Sample	12.1%	15.9%	15.7%	18.1%	38.2%
All 0-4	10.1%	14.1%	15.1%	18.7%	42.0%
Birmingham	2.3%	3.8%	13.0%	16.2%	64.7%
Warwickshire	30.3%	24.4%	20.5%	16.8%	8.0%

Key Findings 1: Very Large Inequalities

Very large inequalities in children's chances of being on a child protection plan or being a looked after child, systematically and significantly related to deprivation levels.

Key Findings 1: Very large inequalities



Key Findings 1: Very large inequalities

Midlands	CPP	CPP	LAC	LAC
	Decile 1	Decile 10	Decile 1	Decile 10
Rates	6.3	68.5	9.2	108.0
Numbers	50	1823	73	2874
Ratio	CPP	1: 36.5	LAC	1: 39.4

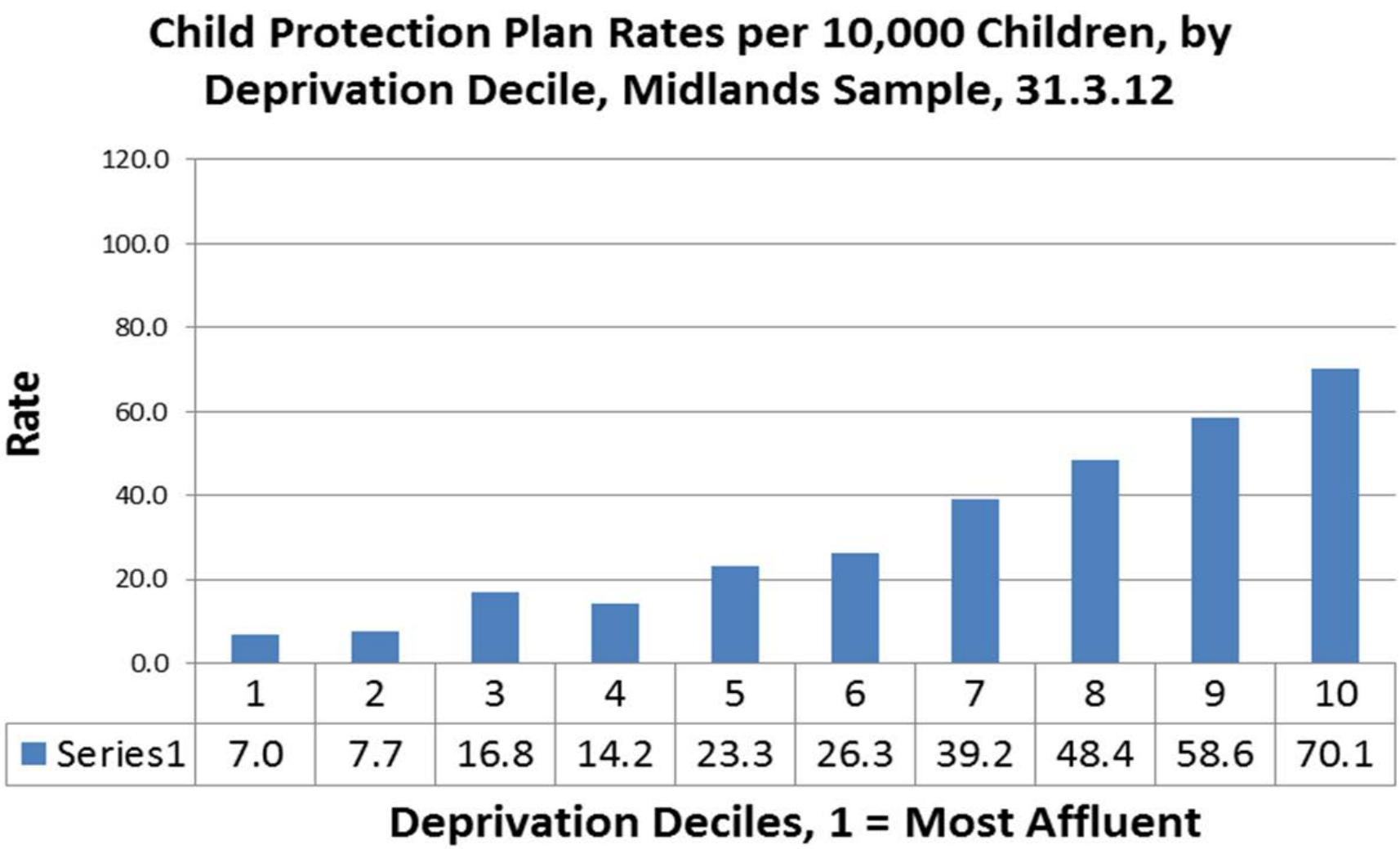
Key Findings 2: A Gradient of Inequality

There is a gradient in rates across levels of deprivation, just as there is a gradient in other outcomes (health, education) for children across the whole of society:

Deprivation is a key factor but CPP and LAC are not found only in areas of high deprivation.

60% of CPP and LAC live in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods. 40% live in more affluent 80% of neighbourhoods.

Key Findings 2: A Gradient of Inequality



Key Findings 2: A Gradient of Inequality

Child safeguarding is not only about families in poverty.

Reducing inequalities in rates between and within areas is a possible policy objective underpinned by social work's commitment to social justice.

If we could reduce the steepness of the gradient of deprivation or the impact of deprivation on family life, we could reduce the demands on children's services.

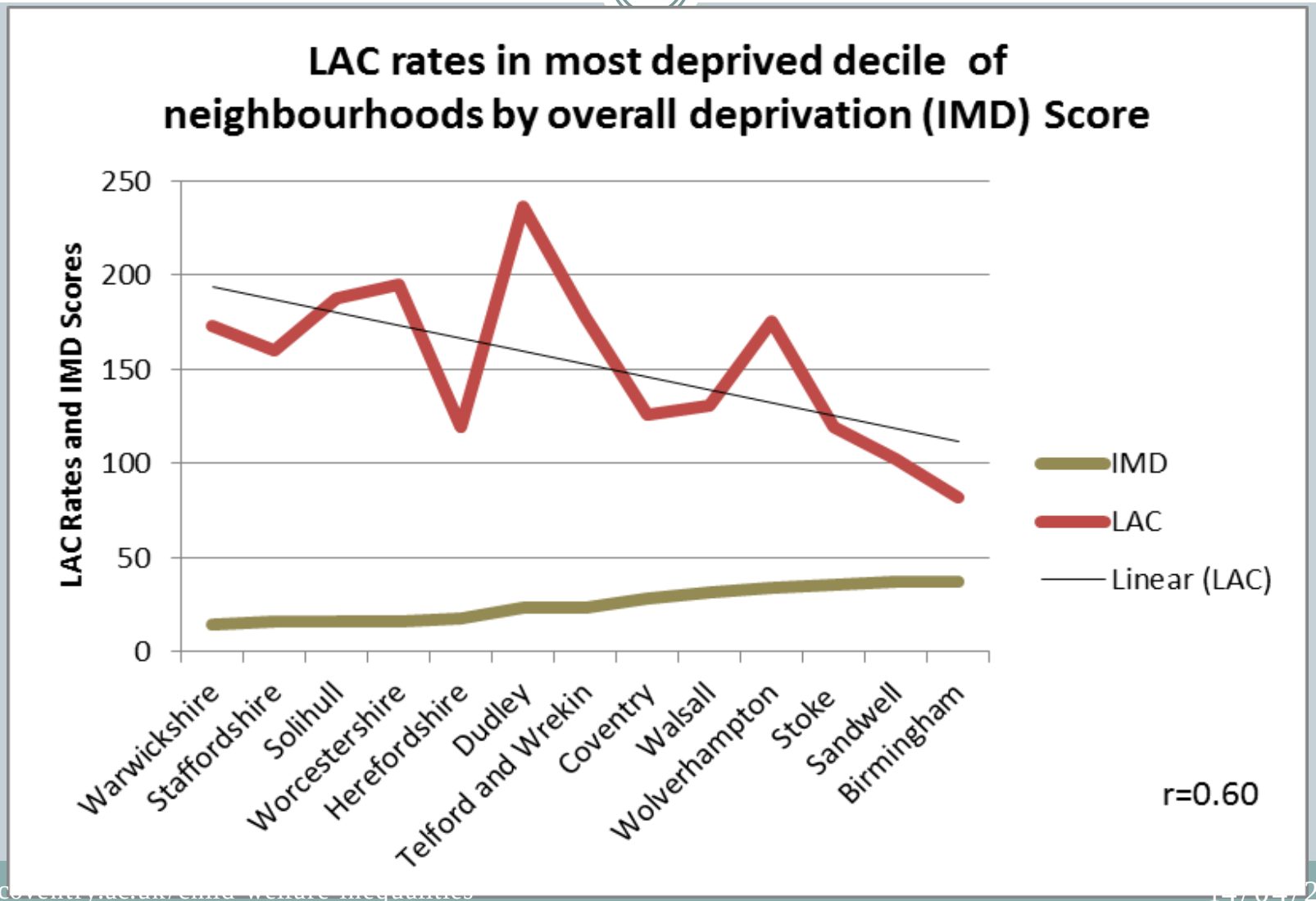
Key Findings 3: An Inverse Intervention Law

Overall a child's chances of an extreme child welfare intervention is much greater at higher levels of deprivation, but **for a given level of deprivation a child in a more affluent local authority is more likely to be on a CPP or to be a looked after child.**

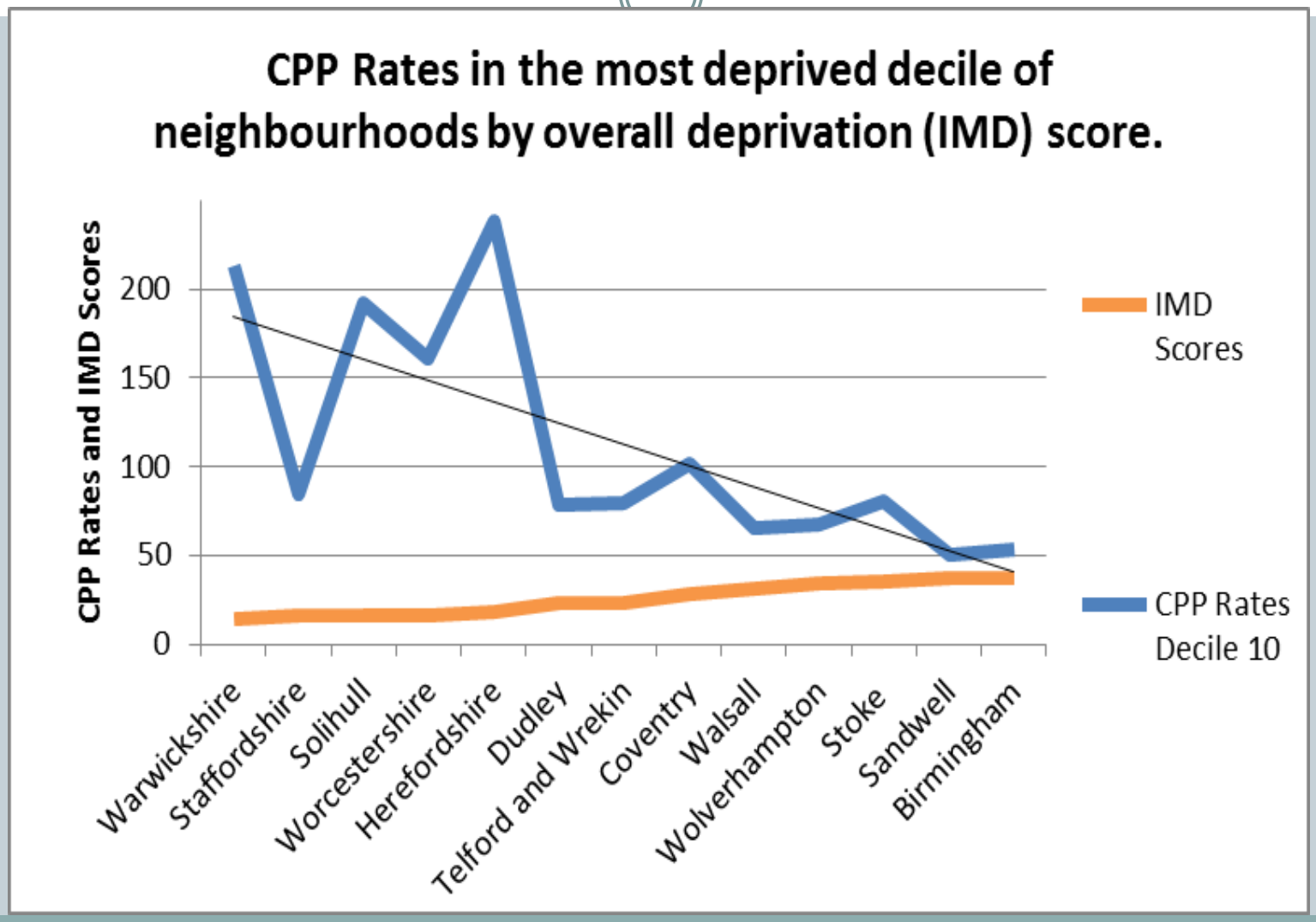
Key Findings 3: An Inverse Intervention Law

LA	IMD score	CPP Rate in Decile 10	Overall CPP Rate
Herefordshire	17.91	238.1	42.2
Sandwell	36.97	50.2	41.9
Warwickshire	14.77	213.1	46.9
Coventry	28.44	93.2	53.5

Key Findings 3: An Inverse Intervention Law



Key Findings 3: An Inverse Intervention Law



Key Finding 4: Inequalities by Ethnicity

'children from black and mixed heritage backgrounds are over-represented among children who are looked after and Asian children tend to be under-represented' (Owen and Statham 2009)
'it is clear that minority ethnic children are over-represented in the care population' (Selwyn and Wijedesa 2011)

CIN, CPP and LAC Rates per 10,000 Children at 31.3.12 (Midlands Sample).

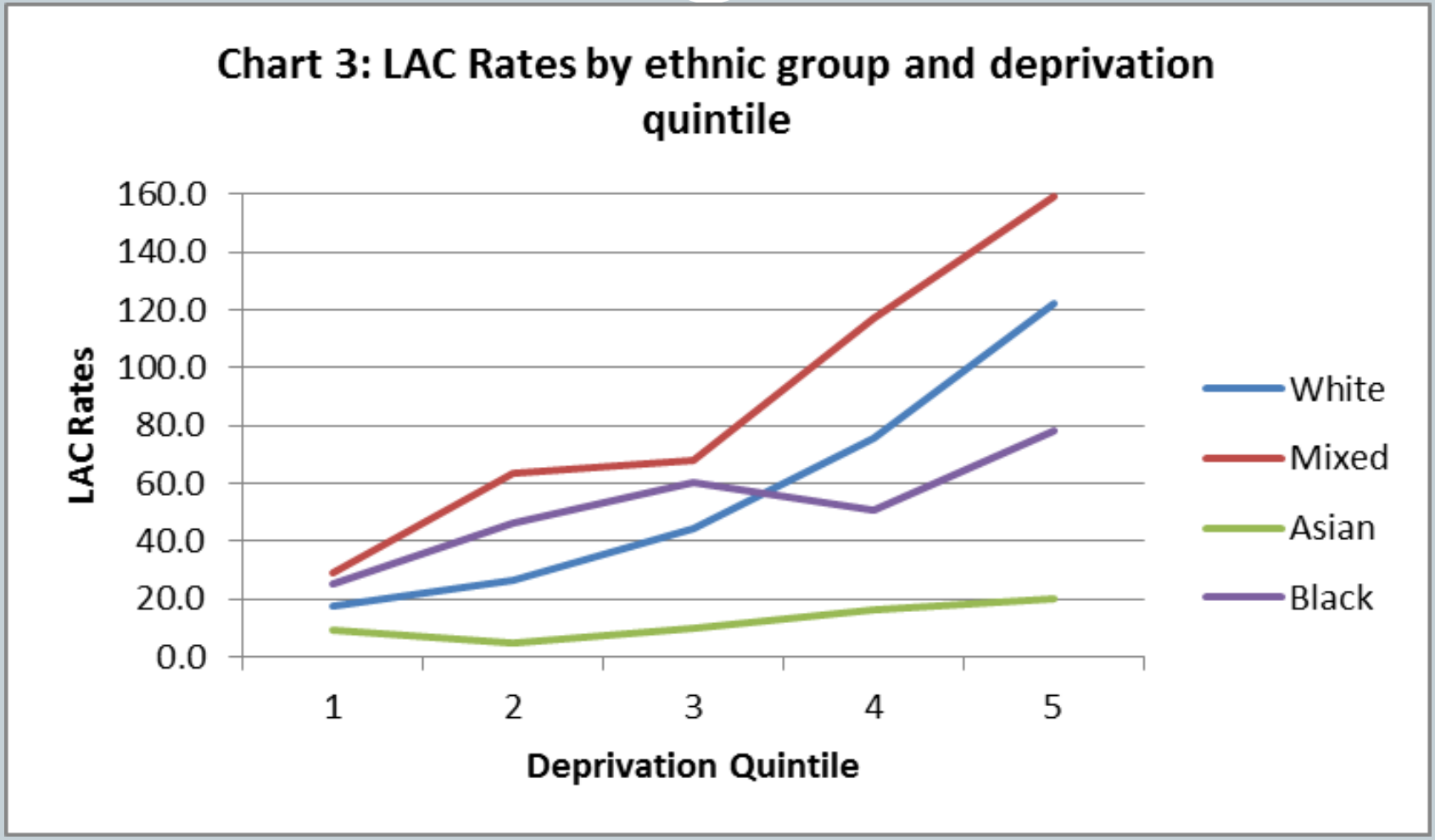
	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other	All
CIN	253.7	351.5	109.4	226.7	298.9	235.8
CPP	39.5	62.9	21.6	34.1	37.7	37.7
LAC	64.4	122.7	17.7	71.9	51.6	60.5

Key Finding 4: Inequalities by Ethnicity

Population 0-17 by Ethnic Group in Deprivation Quintiles 4 and 5 (%)

	Midlands	
Quintile	4	5
White	19.3	27.8
Mixed	18.3	53.3
Asian	14.3	67.5
Black	12.7	76.5

Key Finding 4: Inequalities by Ethnicity



Key Findings 4: Inequality by Ethnicity

LAC Rates by Ethnic Group				
Quintiles	1 to 3	4	5	All
White	30.2	75.5	122.1	64.4
Mixed	57.0	117.0	159.6	122.7
Asian	8.2	16.7	20.4	17.7
Black	51.4	50.8	78.3	71.9
Other	36.5	40.7	59.0	51.6
All	30.0	69.4	91.2	60.5

LAC Numbers and Ethnicity:Bradford 2013

	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other	
LAC						
Number	590	140	100	25	20	434
Percent	67	16	11	3	2	100.0
Child Population						
Number	72,042	6,750	53,308	2,097	2,382	136,579
Percent	53	5	39	2	2	100

CPP and LAC Rates Comparison

	CIN RATE	CPP RATE	LAC RATE	CPP+LAC	IMD Score
Bradford	271.9	27.2	64	91.2	32.6
Birmingham	412.9	37.2	69	106.2	37.5
W. Midlands	360.8	42.1	72	114.1	
Bolton	362.8	33.1	83	116.1	30.5
Walsall	432.5	39.4	91	130.4	31.2
Hartlepool	548.6	67.1	95	162.1	33.7
Wolverhampton	353.9	43.6	118	161.6	34.4

Actual and Predicted Rates: Controlled for Ethnicity

		White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other	All
Bradford Rates		81.9	207.4	18.8	119.2	84.0	64.1
Bottom Third Rates		79.7	125.4	17.9	73.5	42.7	
B'ford	Actual	590	140	100	25	20	875
B'ford	Predicted	574	85	95	15	10	779

Findings: Summary

Very large inequalities in children's chances of a safeguarding intervention, systematically related to deprivation.

A gradient in child welfare intervention rates: only 60% children on CPP or LAC living in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods nationally.

An 'inverse intervention law': for equivalent levels of deprivation a child in a more affluent local authority overall is more likely to be on a CPP or to be a looked after child.

After controlling for deprivation, **Black children are much less likely than White children to be LAC in quintiles 4 and 5**, **Asian children in quintile 5 are six times less likely to be LAC than White children**.

Web Pages

- **www.coventry.ac.uk/child-welfare-inequalities**

- Data set available

Conclusion: Key issues

1. New studies: replication
2. New studies: explanations
3. An epidemiology of child welfare: the intersection of deprivation and identity
4. Taking deprivation seriously
5. Taking inequalities seriously
6. Understanding ethnic inequalities
7. Measuring the effectiveness of child welfare systems

Acknowledgements

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For further details:

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Web Address

http://www.coventry.ac.uk/child-welfare-inequalities

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