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Fostering in Wales is 'in crisis', claims charity

Carys Thomas

EXPRESS

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Home News UK Call for inquiry into Scot

Call for inquiry into protection services of ruined families

A GRANDFATHER is calling for an inquiry into protection services of ruined families, claiming overzealous state interference.

By BEN BORLAND - EXCLUSIVE
PUBLISHED: 00:01, Sun, Sep 3, 2017

Shortage of foster carers in Sutton, say Greater London Fostering

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DEC 22

Child abuse deaths rose as CPS crisis worsened despite Gov. Greg Abbott's pressure to reform "broken" system

You can make a difference

Give Clean Water charitywater

Most popular

- 1 Motorcyclist brought M4
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Family courts face rise in care applications

Sir James number DALLI Powered by the NEWS

THE CON Academic rigour, journalistic integrity Arts + Culture Business

Abuse and protection "d"

October 22, 2014 8:20pm BST

THE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS IN CHILD PROTECTION

Presents international research and more detailed studies from England and Australia showing:

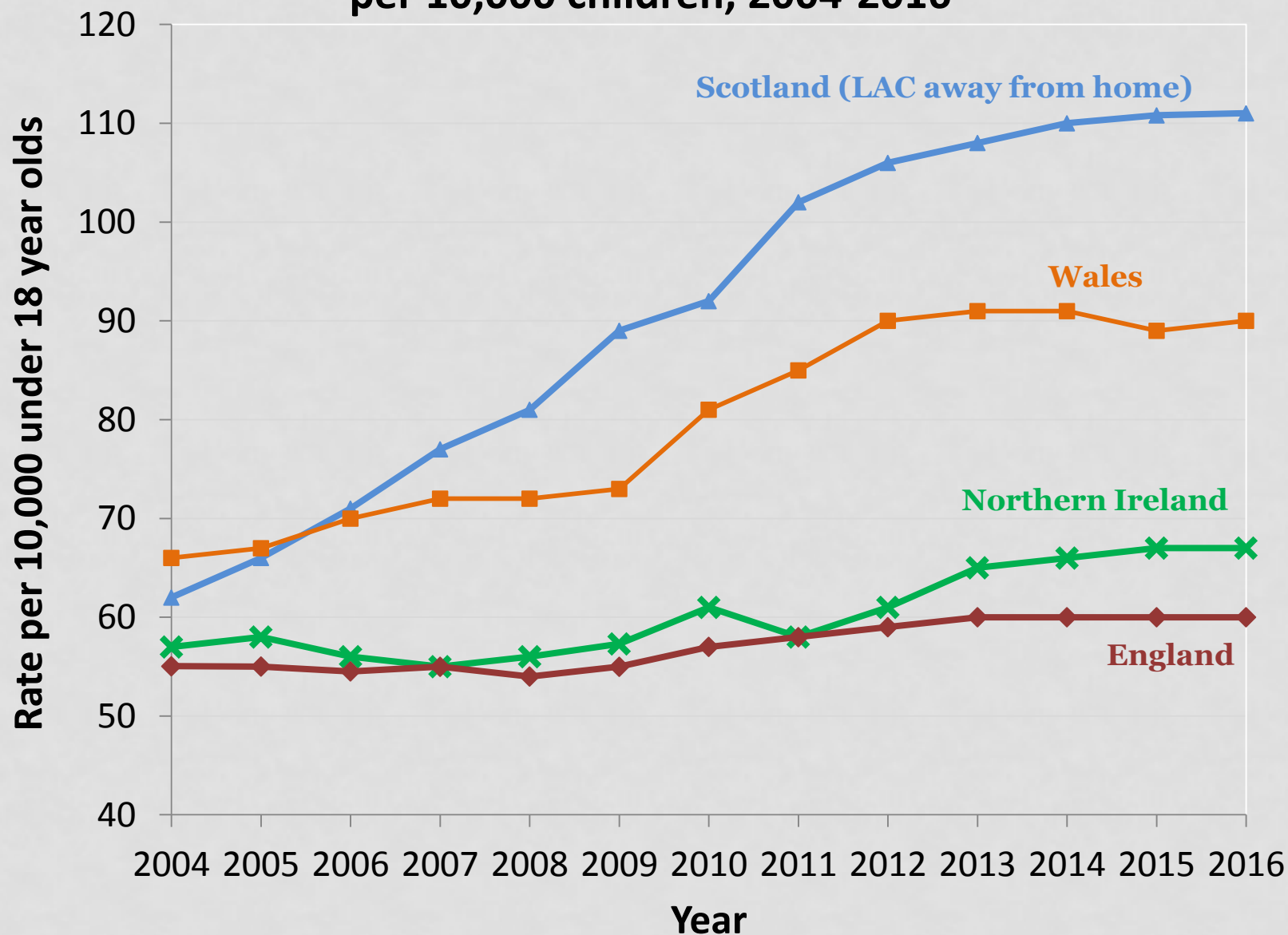
- Trends in child protection interventions
- The level of involvement of children in CP systems over time
- The level of involvement of children in the poorest communities



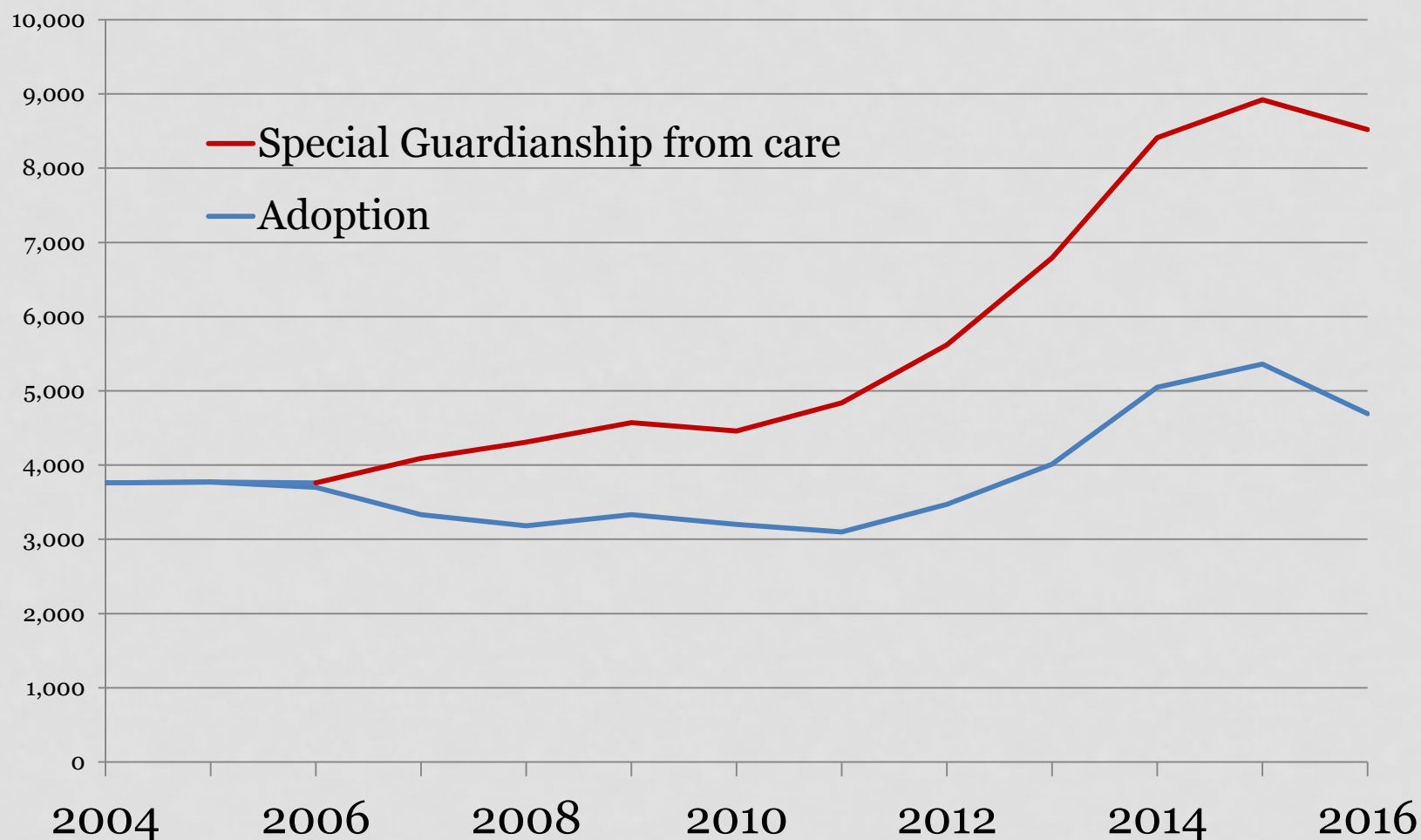
INCREASING STATE INTERVENTION IN ENGLISH SPEAKING POST-INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES

- **Canada** Investigations 1998 vs 2008:
Urgent child protection unchanged Chronic doubles
- **USA** 2011-15 increases: 16.2% referrals; 9.5% investigations; 4.5% substantiations
- **Australia** 2011-12 to 2015-16 increases:
40.7% notifications; 41.6% investigations; 26.0% substantiations; 17.2% children in out of home care
- **England** 2008-16 increases: 15.4% referrals; 124.3% investigations; 86.2% substantiations; 18.6% looked after children
- **Wales** 2008-16 referrals **fall** 22.7% but increases: 19.95 (to 2015) initial assessments; 48.6% placements on CP register; 22.1% looked after

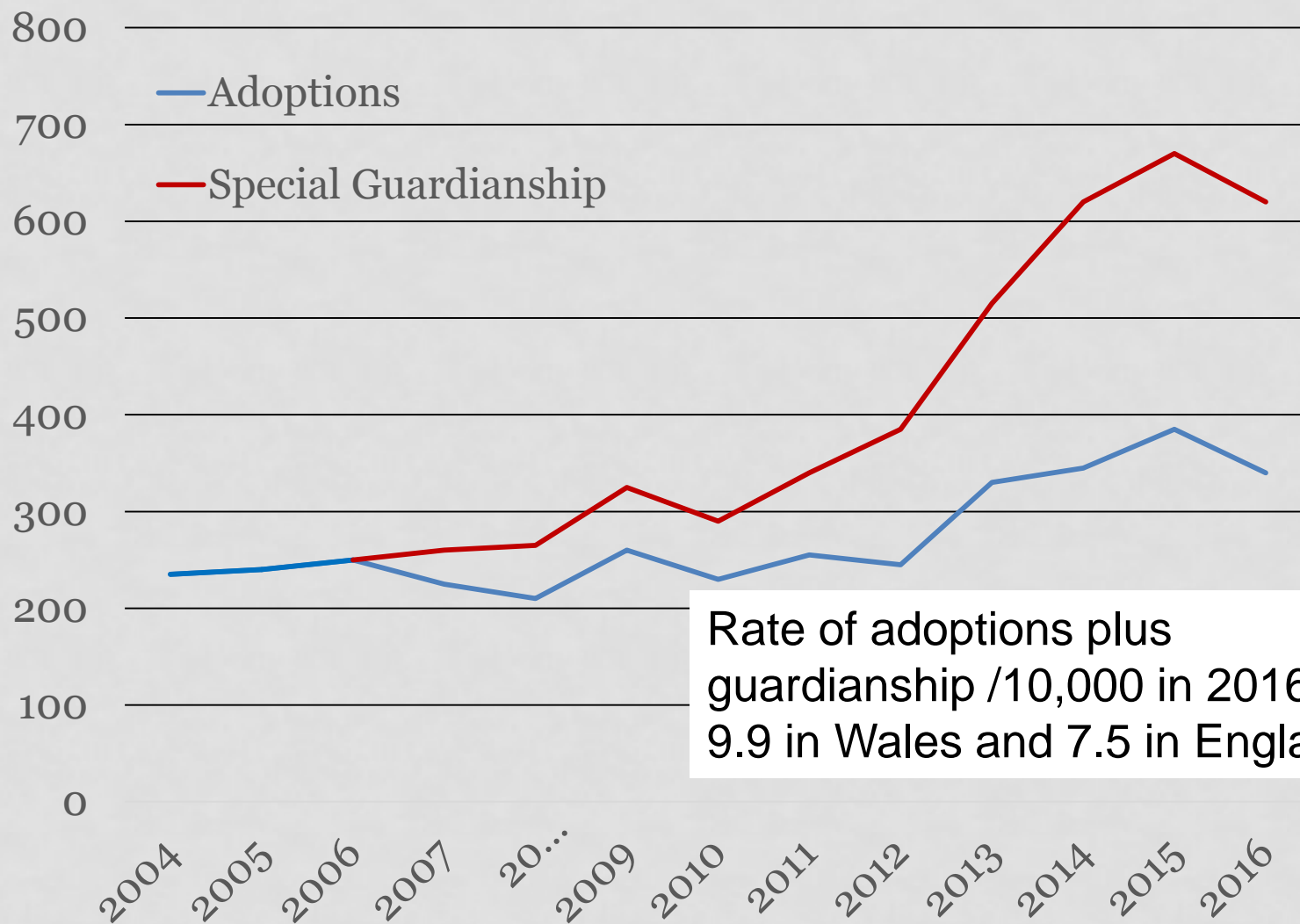
Cross-UK comparison of rate of looked after children per 10,000 children, 2004-2016



ENGLAND TRENDS IN ADOPTION AND SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR CHILDREN CEASING TO BE LOOKED AFTER



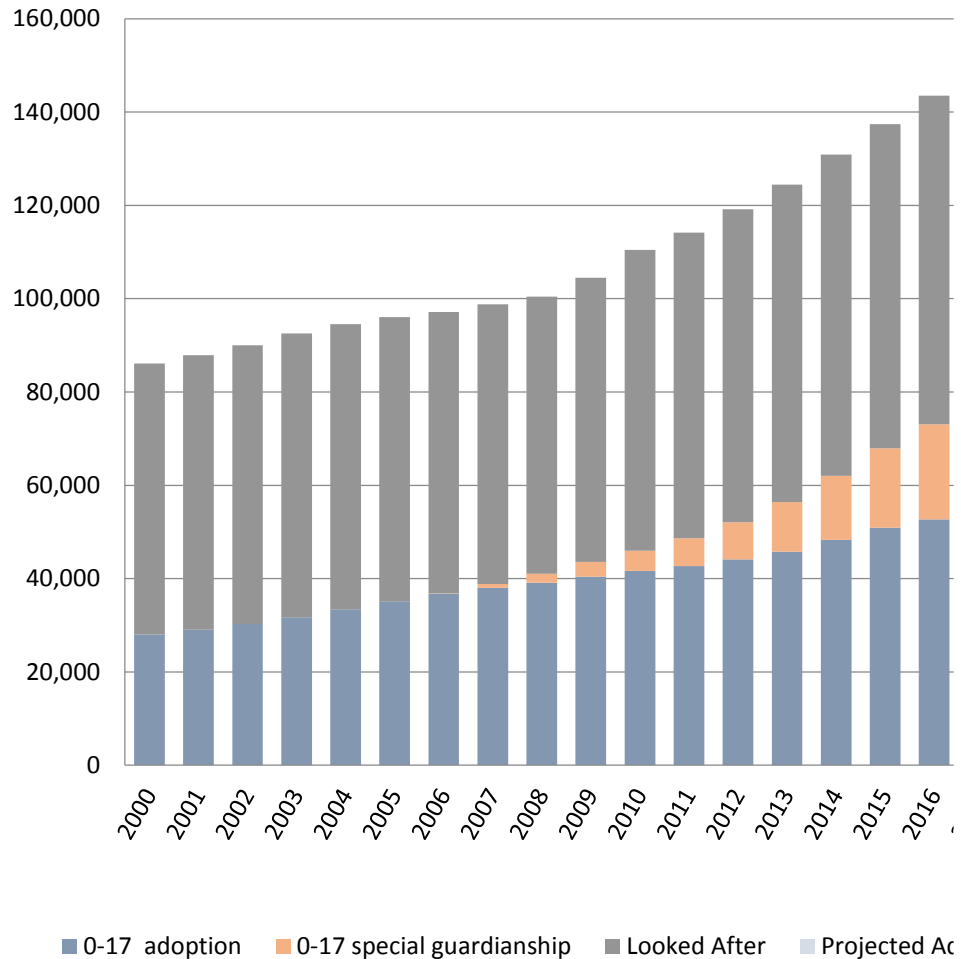
WALES: TRENDS IN ADOPTION AND SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR CHILDREN CEASING TO BE LOOKED AFTER



Trends in England

Children in Care, with Adoptive Parents or Special Guardians

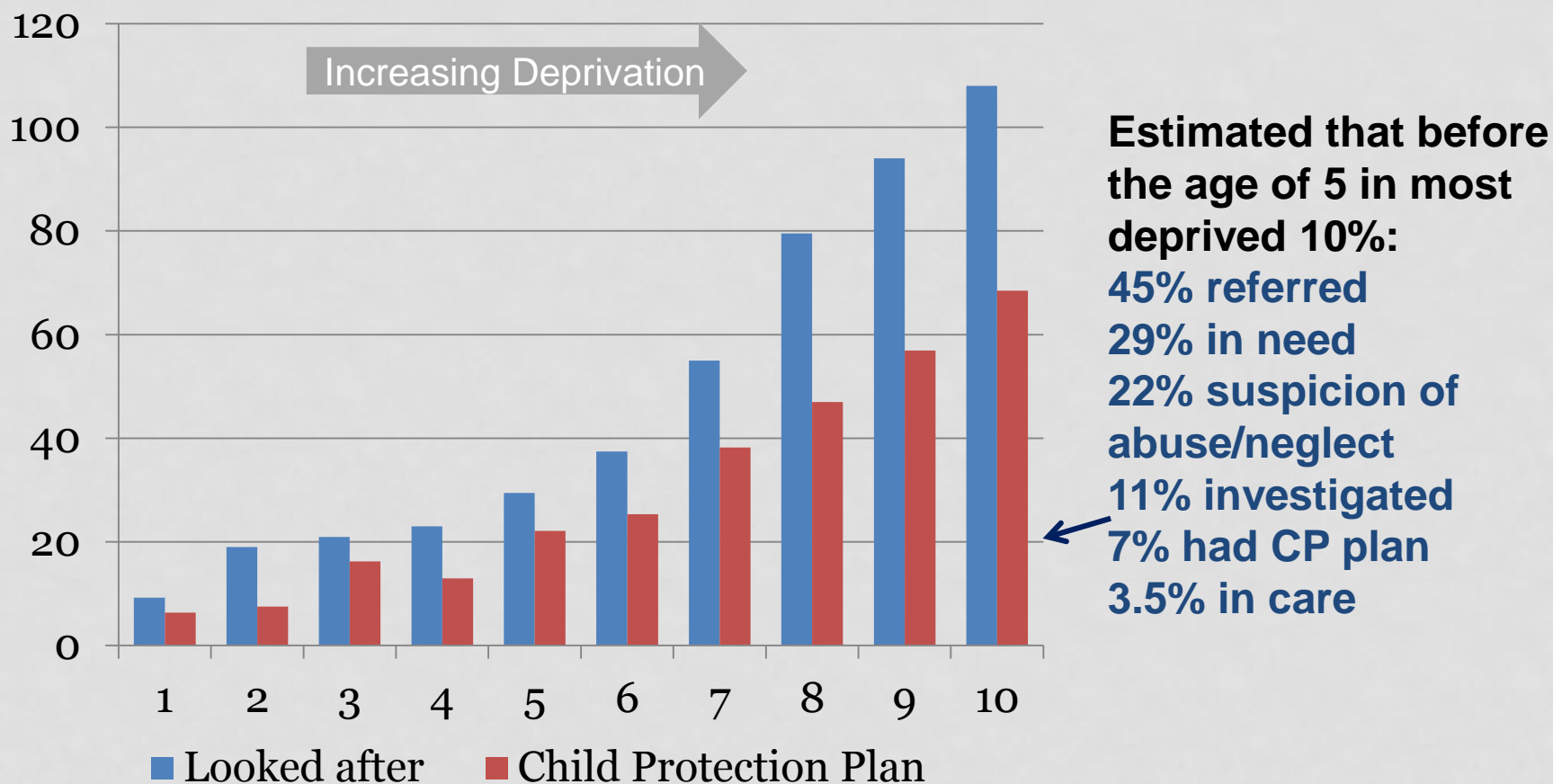
Projections to 2026 based on current level of placements



INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN CP SYSTEMS IN ENGLISH SPEAKING INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES

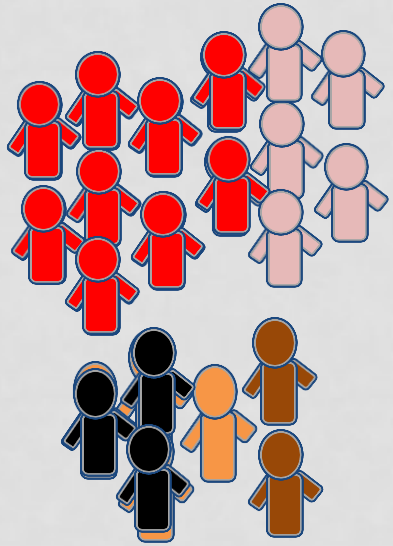
- **USA** 37.4% investigated before age of 18 & 53.0% African Americans (Kim et al 2017)
- **South Australia**: 1 in 4 reported to child protection by age 16 and “between 57 and 76 per cent” of Aboriginals Delfabbro et al. (2010)
- **England** children born 2009-10 before 5th birthday: 22.5% referred; 5.4% investigated; 3.5% CP plan
- **Wales**: ??

CP AND DEPRIVATION IN WEST MIDLANDS AND ESTIMATES OF INVOLVEMENT IN MOST DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES



Rate of Children looked after and on Child Protection Plans on 31.03.2012 per 10,000 aged 0 to 17 by deprivation decile

Source: Bywaters, P., Brady, G., Sparks, T., & Bos, E. (2014)



14
referred (45%)

9 in need (29%)

4 suspected abuse or neglect

2 classified as dysfunctional family



3 Child Protection investigated (11%)

2 Child Protection Plan (7%)

1 in care (3%)

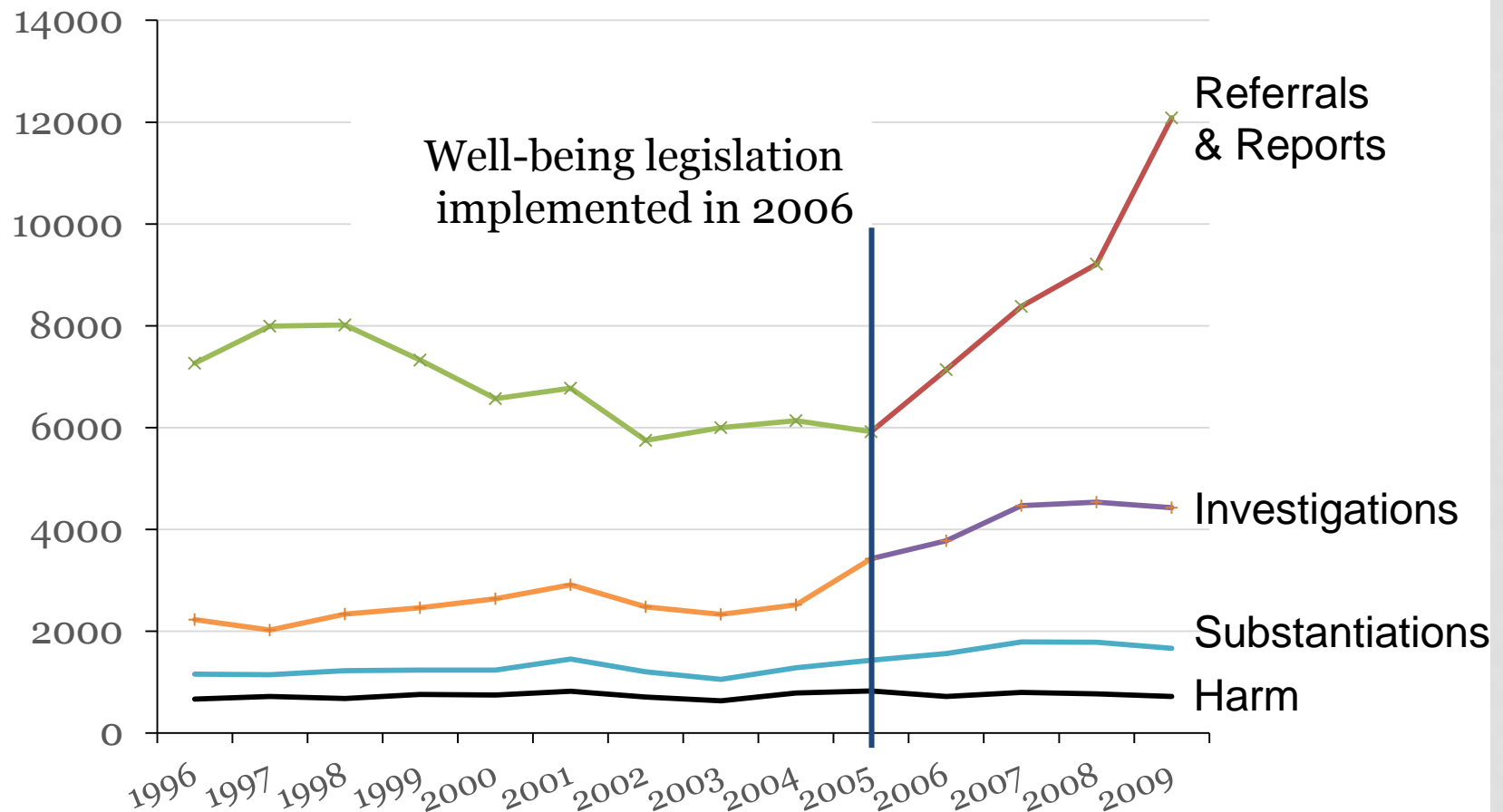
**In an average class
of 30 children
aged 5 in 2014-15
from 10th Decile
of Deprivation**

DOES CHILD PROTECTION PROTECT CHILDREN?

Gilbert et al. (2012a) used data in a comparison of six countries to consider trends in physical abuse and neglect in reports and outcomes focusing on children younger than eleven. Their conclusion was that:

Our results show no clear evidence for an overall decrease in child maltreatment despite decades of policies designed to achieve such reductions (Gilbert et al., 2012, p. 770).

REPORTS, INVESTIGATION AND HARM IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1996 TO 2009



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

AN ALTERNATIVE PARADIGM FOR SOCIAL WORK

Key features of social development relevant to child protection are:

- **Social investments** that enhance capabilities including: “employment placement, childcare, adult literacy, micro-enterprise, and asset savings accounts” (Midgley & Conley, 2010: xii–xiv)
- **Advocacy oriented** to move from a narrow preoccupation with practice with families and children
- **Community oriented and asset based approaches** to combat social exclusion
- **Strengths-basis** acknowledging and focussing on family and community assets and aiming to promote resilience
- **Interdisciplinary** focus including promoting access to housing, medical care, education, and recreational facilities

QUESTIONS RAISED

- Does the current increasing child protection intervention reduce harm to children?
- Can early intervention be introduced helpfully without a paradigm change from our 'individualised' approach?
- What is the impact of child protection's concentration on the most deprived communities?

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