



Prosiect Anghydraddoldebau
Lles Plant

Child Welfare
Inequalities Project

Child welfare inequalities in Wales

**Anghydraddoldebau
lles plant yng
Nghymru**

WALES

Regional Partnership Boards



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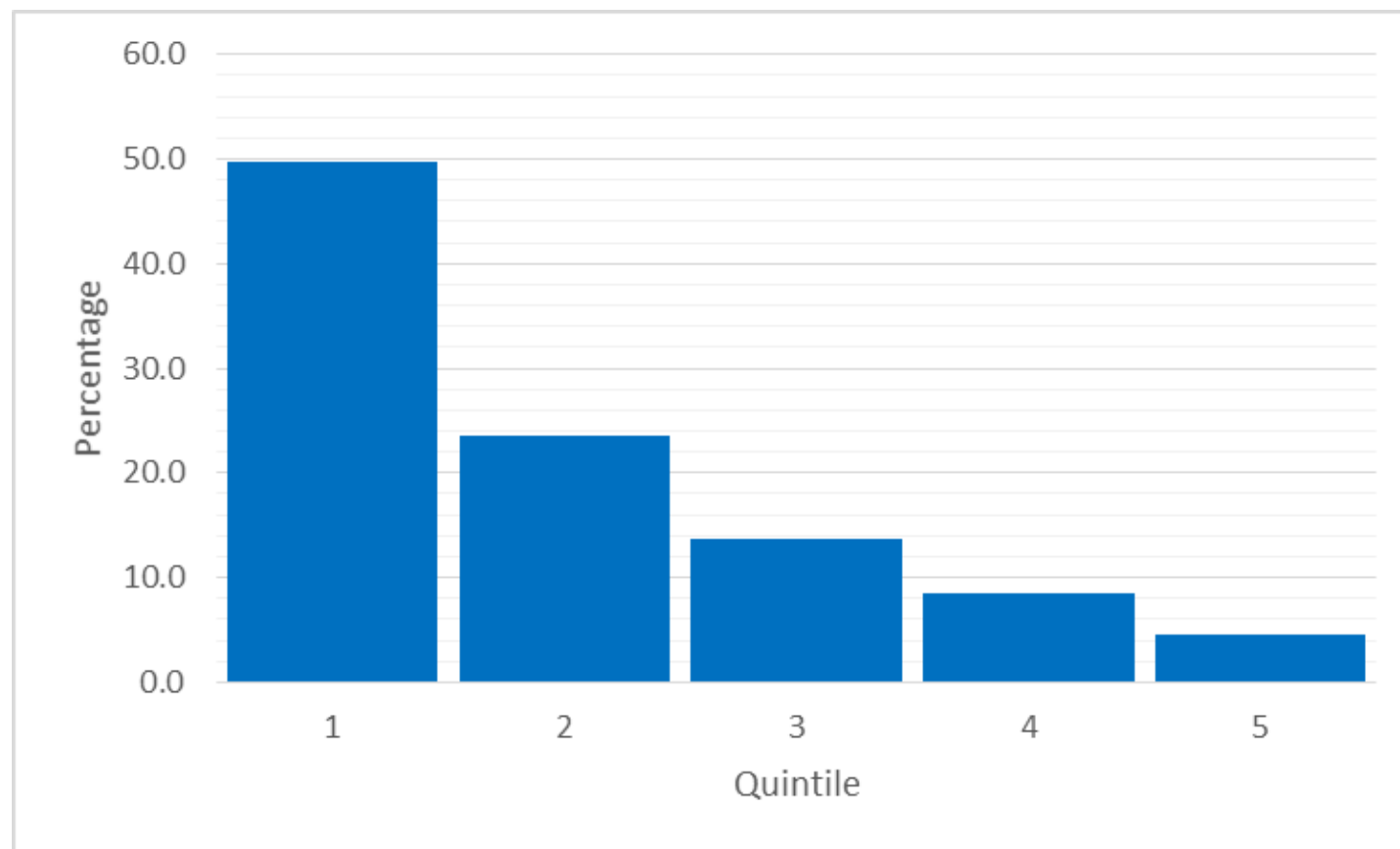
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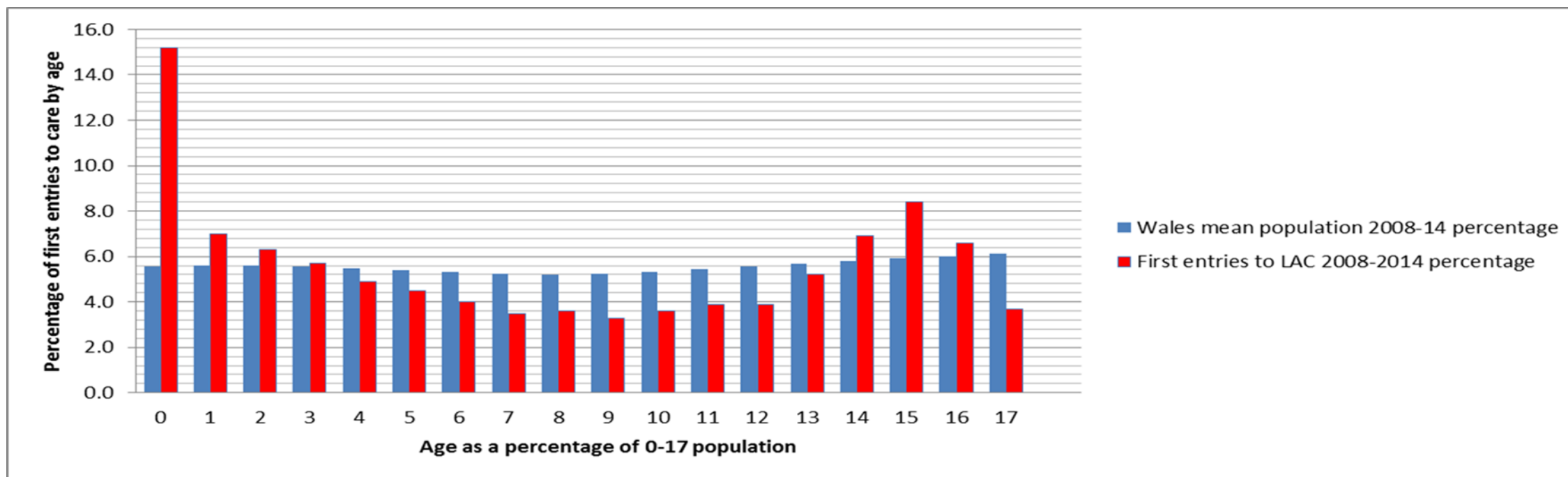
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Of the children that entered care during a six-year period almost half came from neighbourhoods in the 20% most deprived in Wales.

Over 70% came from the 40% most deprived

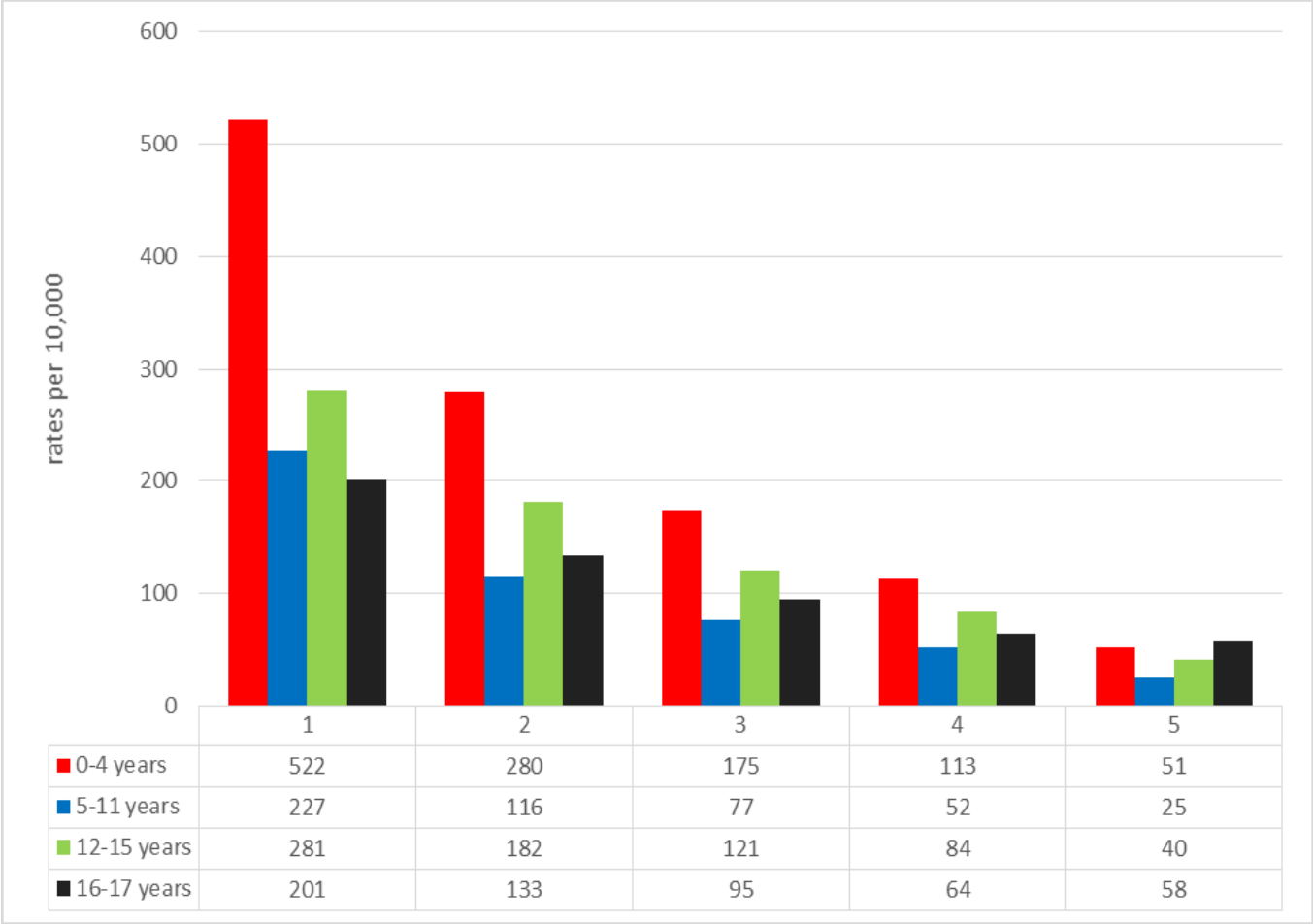


Children under one year of age make up 5.5% of the population, but 18.9% of children at first entry to care – more than three times what might be expected based on child population



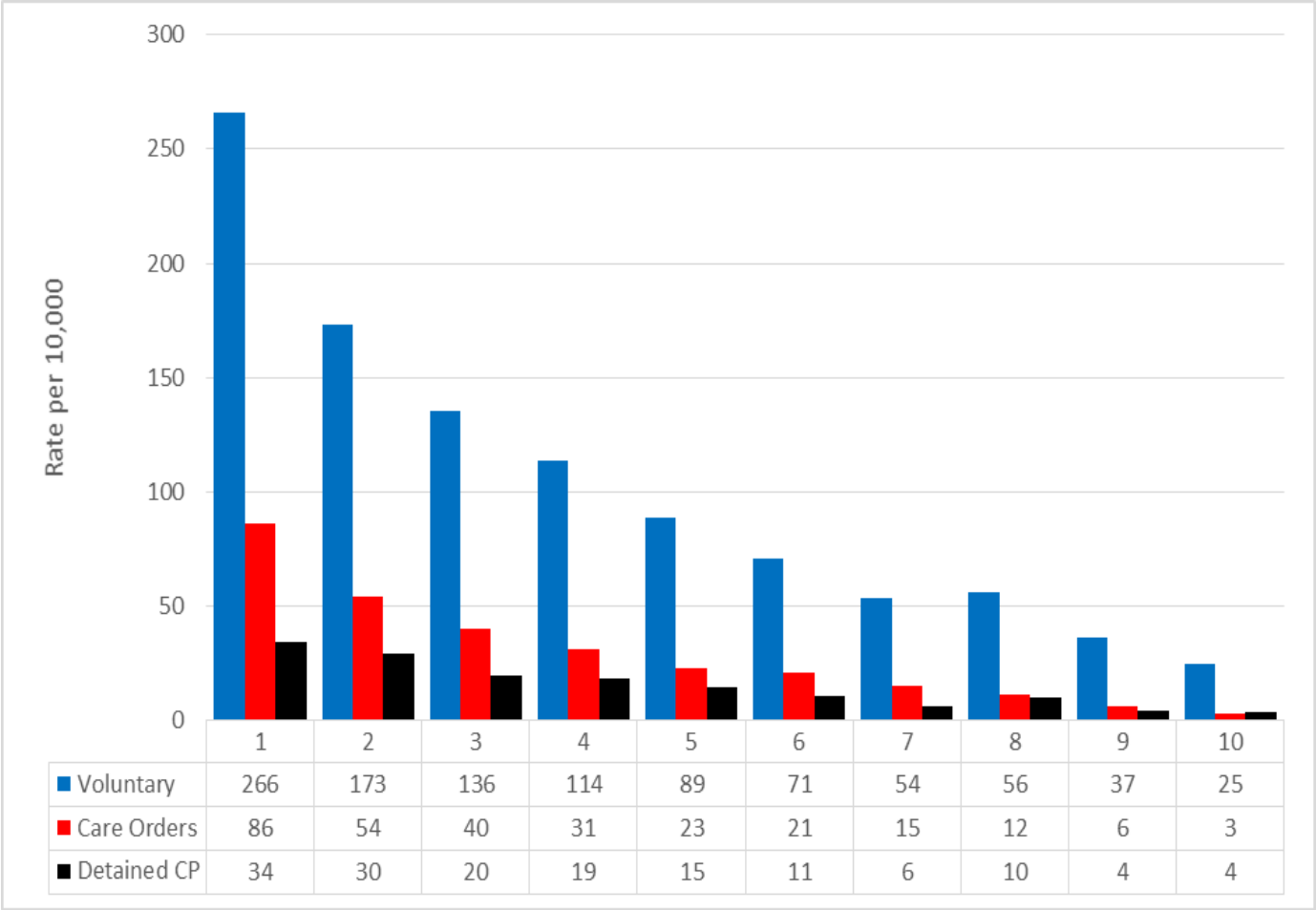
A child under 4 years of age living in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods is over 10 times more likely to enter care than those living in the least deprived neighbourhoods of the same age

For a young person aged 16-17 years the difference is less than fourfold.



There is a 10 fold difference between children entering care under a voluntary arrangement between the most and least deprived

There is however a 29 times difference in entry through care orders



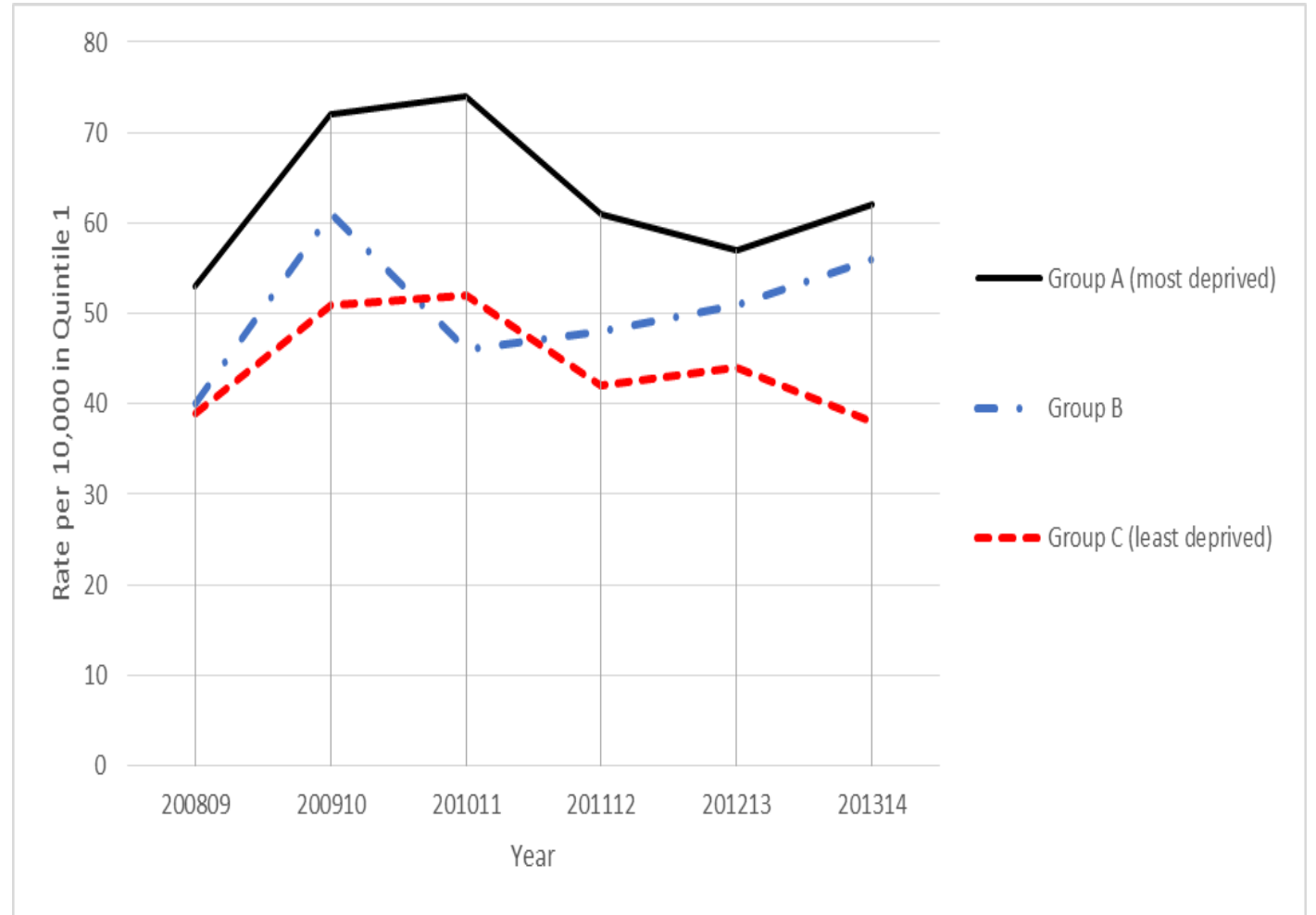
Local authorities in Wales split into three groups based on overall deprivation

Comparing the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in each – so comparing like with like

All local authorities show an increase in rates in the wake of the Baby P case

However, 2013/14 rates in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the least deprived group of authorities have returned to 2008/09 levels, but in the other groups has remained higher

Younger children, from the most deprived neighbourhoods, in the most deprived local authorities overall, with a higher likelihood of intervention through the courts



Cartoon by
Harry
Venning



Deprivation ↔ child protection - why?

- Discriminatory response or differing levels of need?
- Why is child harm concentrated in deprived areas?
 - Poverty causes personal and social problems which put children at risk
 - People with such problems also become poorer
 - Fragmented social networks in extreme poverty
 - Poverty itself is a causal factor for child harm (US evidence)
- More research needed
 - More analysis of existing administrative data
 - More and better evaluation of prevention services

The research findings speak to....

Adverse childhood experiences agenda

Child Poverty Strategy

Regional partnerships for social services

Public Services Boards



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Actions

- Child welfare inequalities to be considered in policy alongside health inequalities and educational inequalities
- Postcode data to be collected annually in the Children in Receipt of Care and Support Census and WG to report annually on this
- Social workers to actively help families maximise incomes and manage debt



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Longer term, reducing inequalities should reduce harm to children

For further information

- Google 'child welfare inequalities Wales' for the Wales report
- see www.coventry.ac.uk/cwip for further information on the project
- email scourfield@cardiff.ac.uk



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