

# Children's services intervention rates: an inequalities issue

Bywaters, P. , Brady, G.M. , Sparks, T. and Bos, E.

Presentation slides deposited in CURVE April 2015

**Original citation & hyperlink:**

Bywaters, P. , Brady, G.M. , Sparks, T. and Bos, E. (2014). *Children's services intervention rates: an inequalities issue*. Invited seminar for Coventry City Council Managers, held 2014, Coventry, England.

<http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research-bank/research-archive/business-management/sustainable-regeneration/current-projects/mapping-childrens-service-outcomes-project/>

Copyright © and Moral Rights are retained by the author(s) and/ or other copyright owners. A copy can be downloaded for personal non-commercial research or study, without prior permission or charge. This item cannot be reproduced or quoted extensively from without first obtaining permission in writing from the copyright holder(s). The content must not be changed in any way or sold commercially in any format or medium without the formal permission of the copyright holders.

**CURVE is the Institutional Repository for Coventry University**

<http://curve.coventry.ac.uk/open>

# Children's Services Intervention Rates: an inequalities issue



**PAUL BYWATERS, GERALDINE BRADY, TIM  
SPARKS, ELIZABETH BOS  
COVENTRY UNIVERSITY**

# Presentation for Coventry Children's Services Managers

2

**Aim: to demonstrate forms of data analysis using deprivation, age and ethnicity**

**NB**

**Data is from March 2012**

**Data has been 'cleaned': intervention rates will be lower than published**

**The data and publications are available at MSOA level at [www.coventry.ac.uk/child-welfare-inequalities](http://www.coventry.ac.uk/child-welfare-inequalities)**

# Child Welfare Inequalities: Definition



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

**Parallels inequalities in health.**

# Child Welfare Inequalities: 5 Key Dimensions



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

# Deprivation and Children's Services Outcomes

5

## **The Coventry University study**

### **Aim:**

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

# Study Methods

6

## 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

7

Sorted LSOAs (or 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 in the midlands sample that are in the 10% **most** deprived LSOAs nationally. Decile 1 are the LSOAs amongst the least deprived 10% nationally.



# Misleading Statistics

8

- You cannot get an accurate comparison of intervention rates between LAs without taking into account the population, deprivation and ethnicity.

# Deprivation Amongst Child Population

9

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	2.4%	3.8%	8.2%	18.5%	66.9%
Warwickshire	30.3%	24.4%	20.5%	16.8%	8.0%
Deprived Third	2.6%	5.2%	9.5%	18.9%	63.8%
COVENTRY	3.5%	14.1%	21.4%	15.5%	45.4%
COVENTRY 0 - 4	2.3%	11.7%	20.1%	15.9%	50.0%

# Key Findings 1: Very Large Inequalities

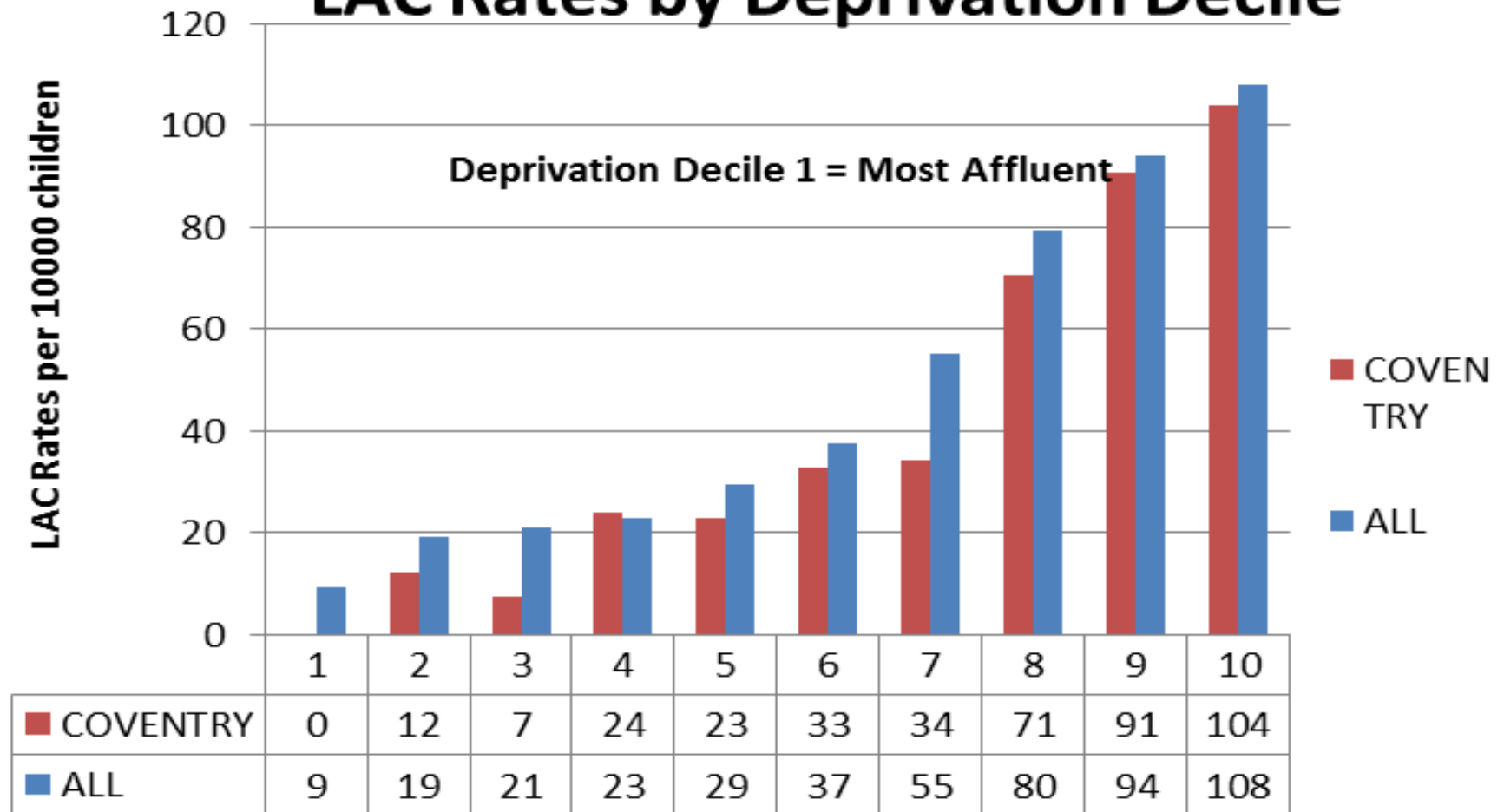
10

**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

11

## LAC Rates by Deprivation Decile



# Key Findings 1: Very large inequalities

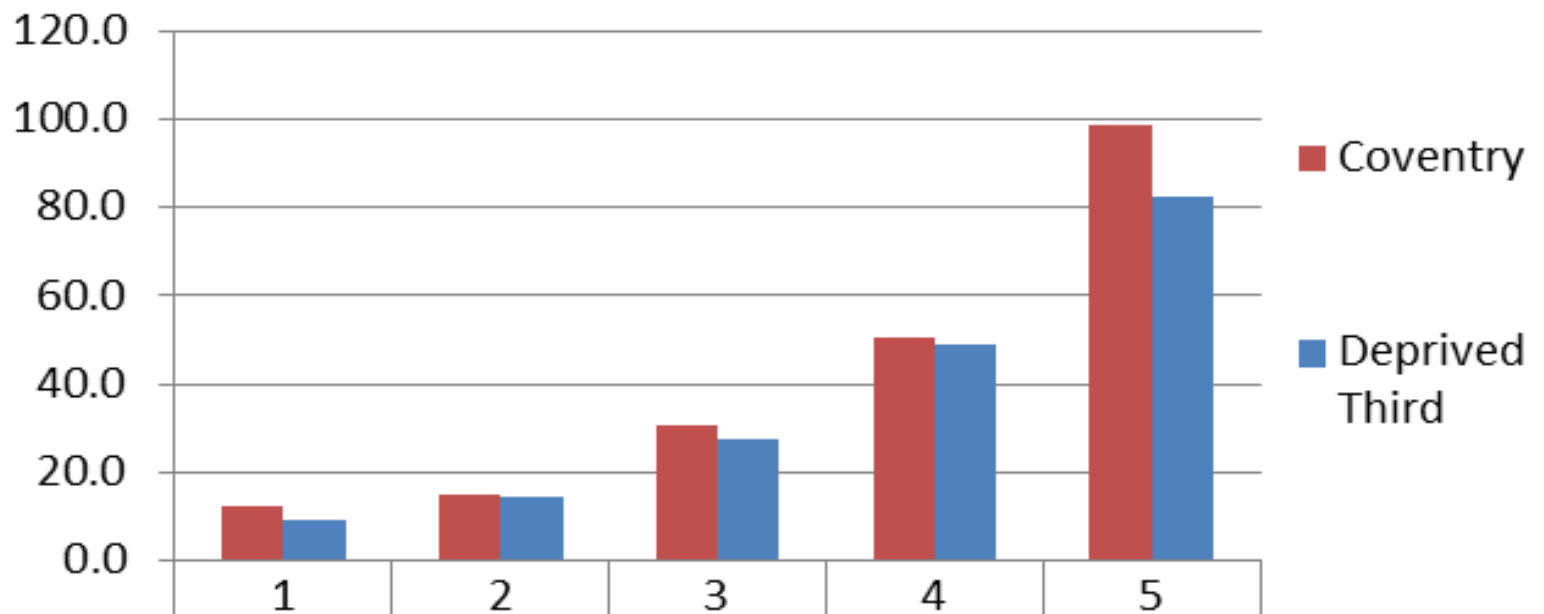
12

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
Coventry	Decile 2	Decile 10	Decile 2	Decile 10
Rates	41.1	93.2	12.2	103.8
Numbers	1	176	3	196
Ratio	CPP	1:176	LAC	1:65

# Coventry comparison

13

## LAC Rates: Coventry and Bottom Third of Midlands LAs by Deprivation



Coventry	12.2	15.1	30.5	50.3	98.4
Deprived Third	9.1	14.5	27.8	49.1	82.4

# Key point

14

- This does not necessarily mean that Coventry rates are too high. Other LA rates may be too low.
- Resource implications?
  - Allocation between neighbourhoods.
  - Priorities for work – which children (age, ethnicity) in which areas.
  - Priorities for work – balance of prevention and intervention
  - Prevention: where to focus

# Key Findings 2: A Gradient of Inequality

15

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

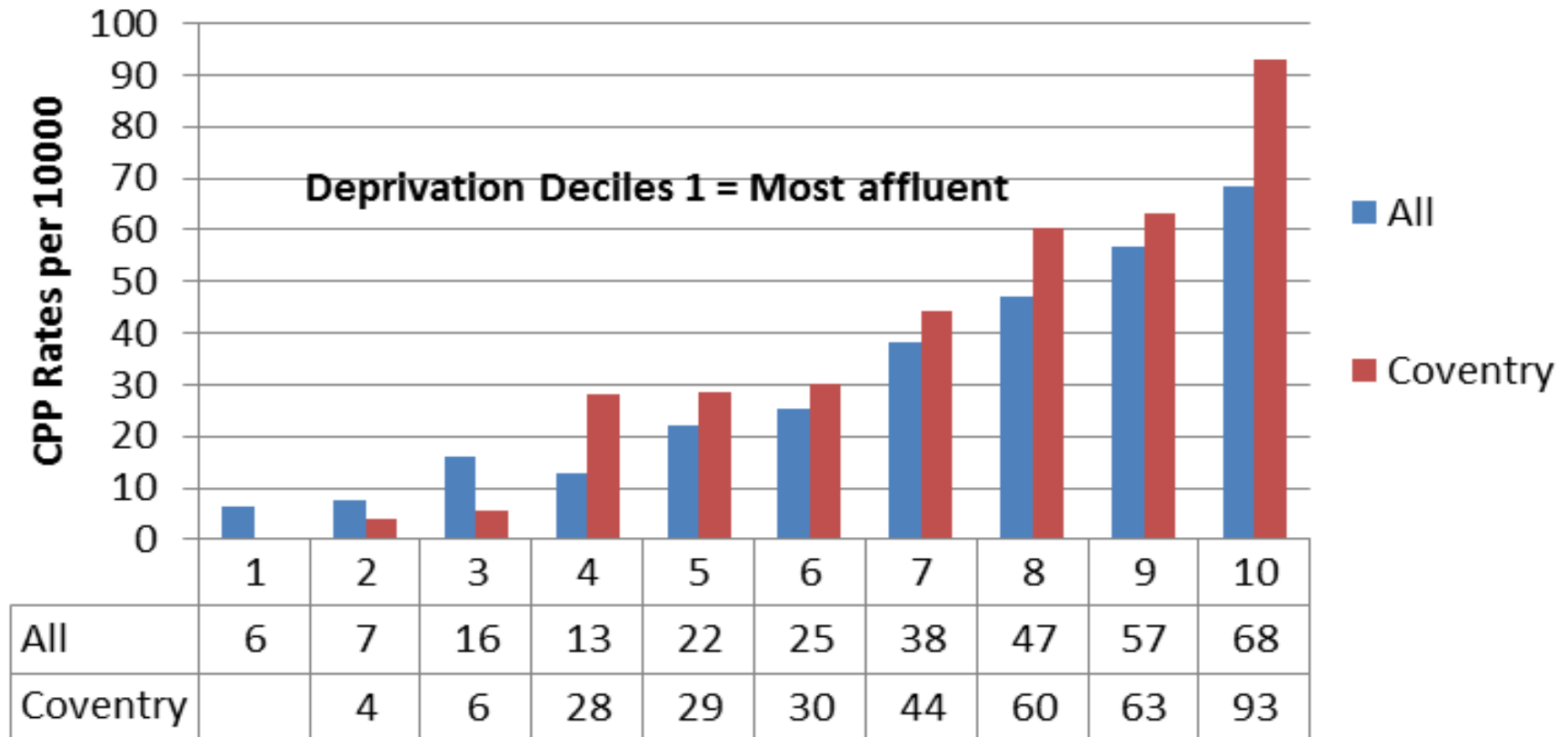
**In Coventry: 31% of CPP and 27% of LAC come from families living outside the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods nationally.**



# Key Findings 2: A Gradient of Inequality

16

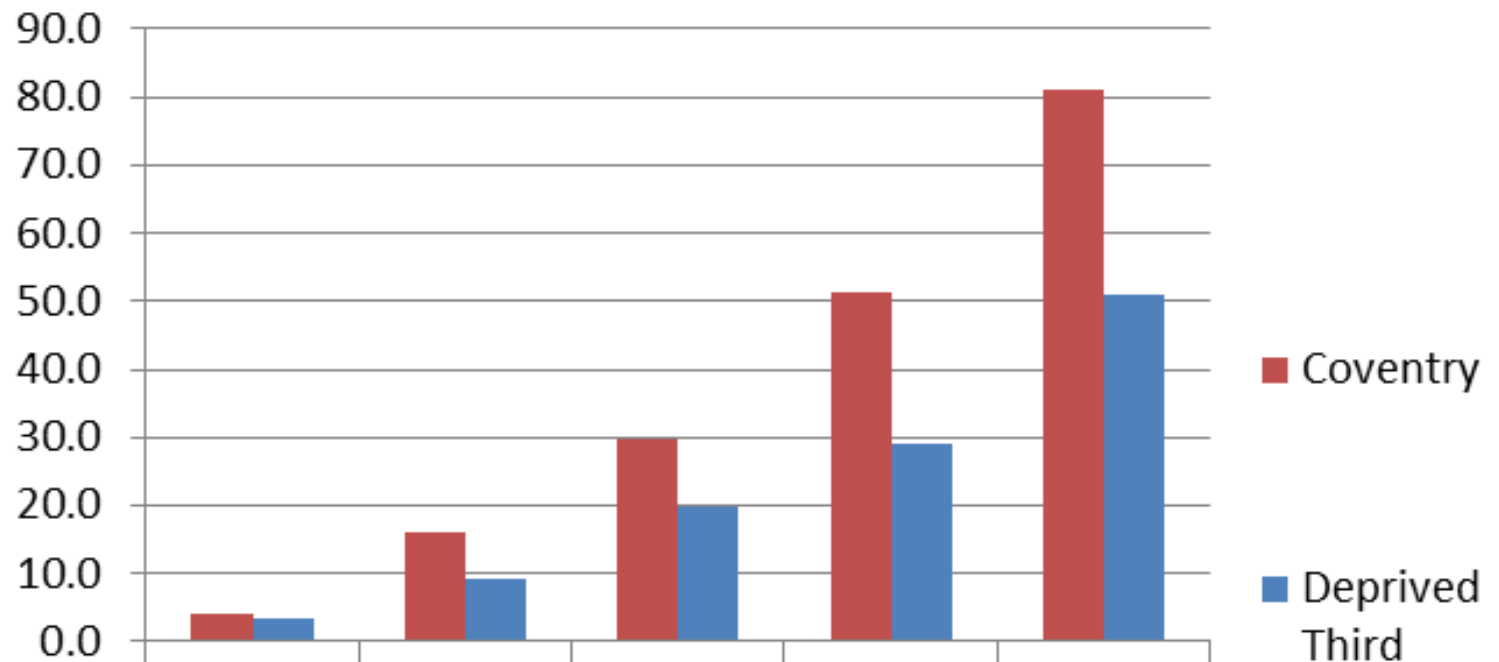
## CPP Rates by Deprivation Decile



# Coventry Comparison

17

**CPP Rates: Coventry and Bottom Third by Deprivation**



Coventry	4.1	16.1	29.8	51.2	80.9
Deprived Third	3.3	9.3	19.8	29.1	51.0

## Key Findings 2: A Gradient of Inequality

18

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 points

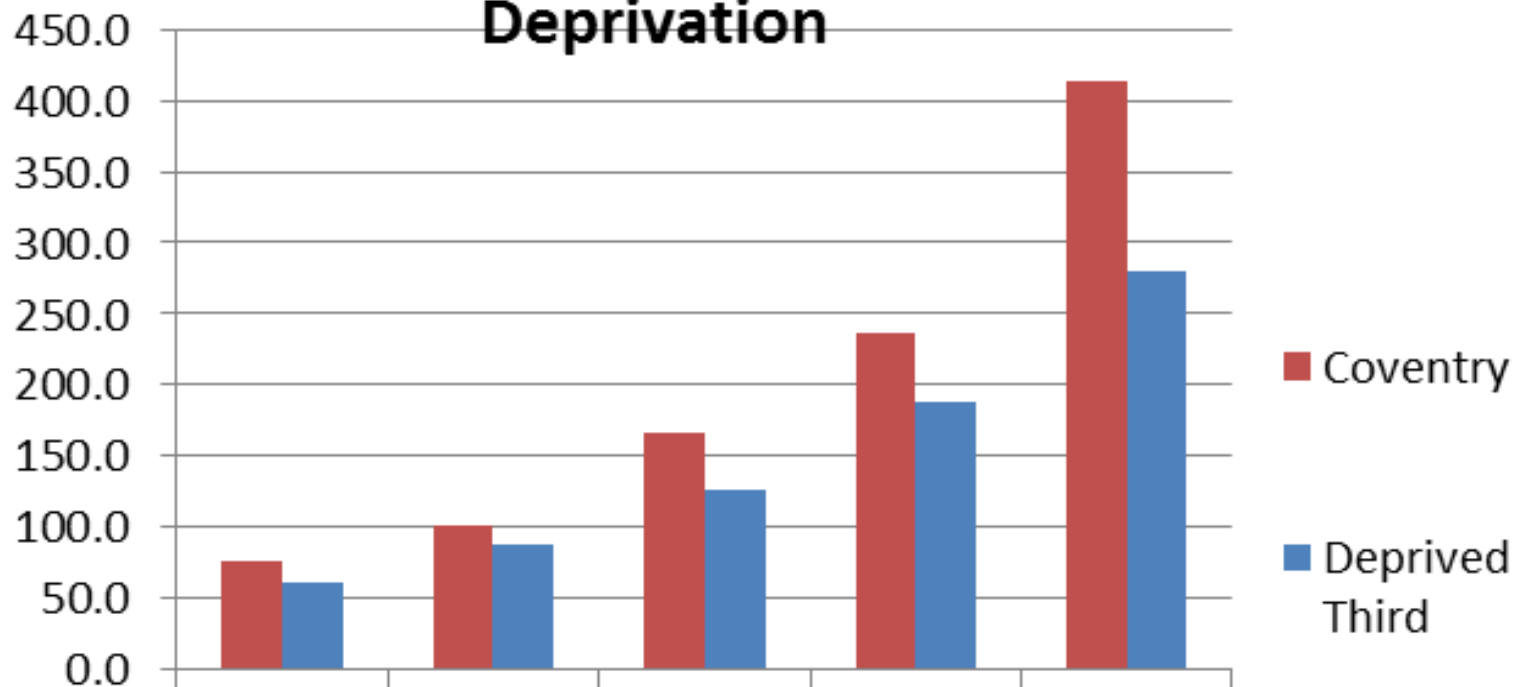
19

- The gradient in Coventry is steeper than for bottom third LAs by deprivation. Each step increase in deprivation has greater impact on intervention rates.
- This does not necessarily mean that Coventry rates are too high. Other LA rates may be too low.
- Coventry CPP rates are higher than the bottom third LAs at every level of deprivation.
- The difference between Coventry and these other LAs is greater for CPP than for LAC.

# CIN Rates



**CIN Rates: Coventry and Bottom Third by Deprivation**



Coventry	77.0	100.6	165.7	236.9	414.1
Deprived Third	61.2	87.5	126.5	188.9	279.9

## Key Findings 3: An Inverse Intervention Law

21

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

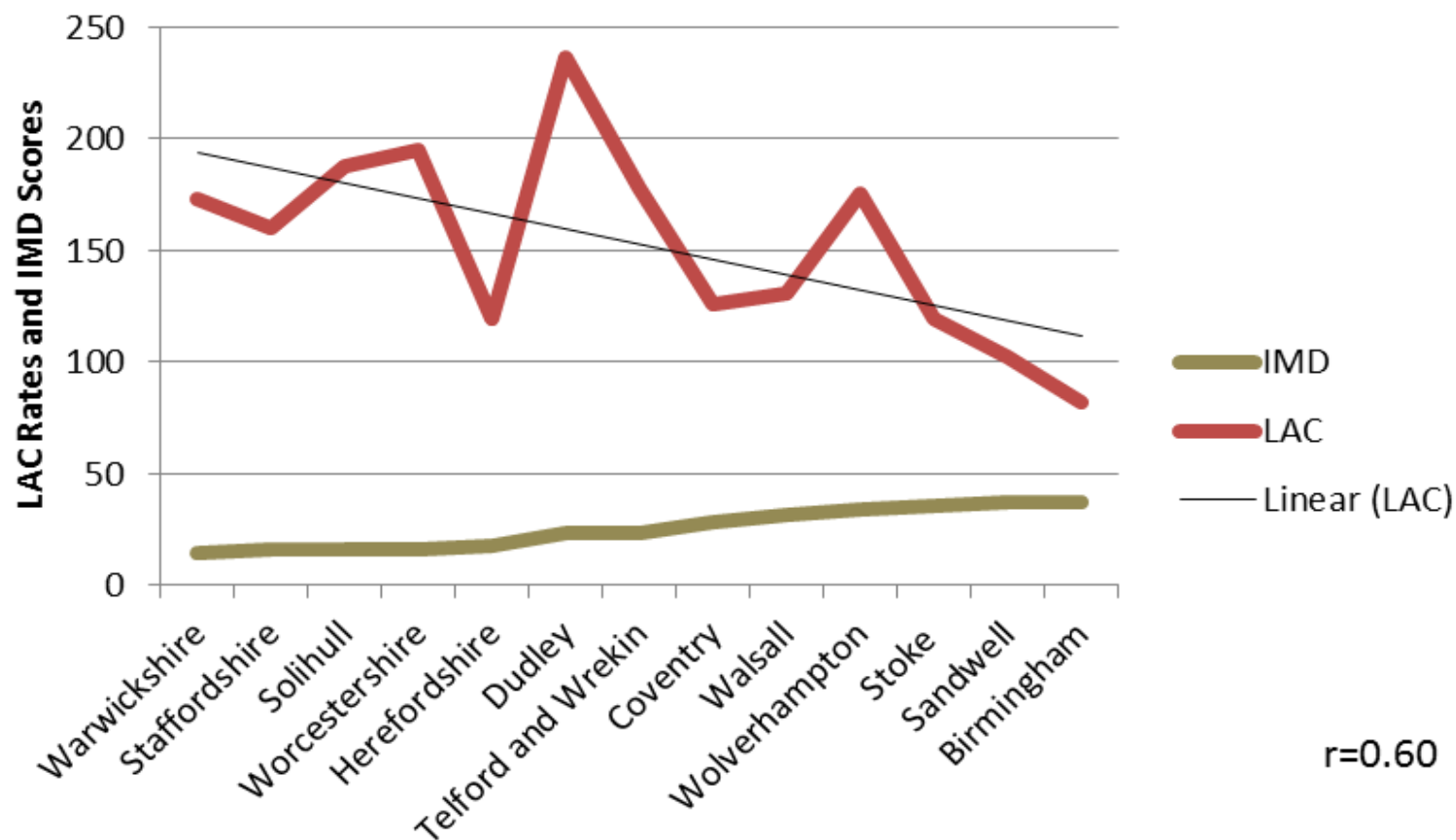
22

LA	IMD score	CPP Rate in Overall CPP		
		Decile 10	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

23

**LAC rates in most deprived decile of neighbourhoods by overall deprivation (IMD) Score**

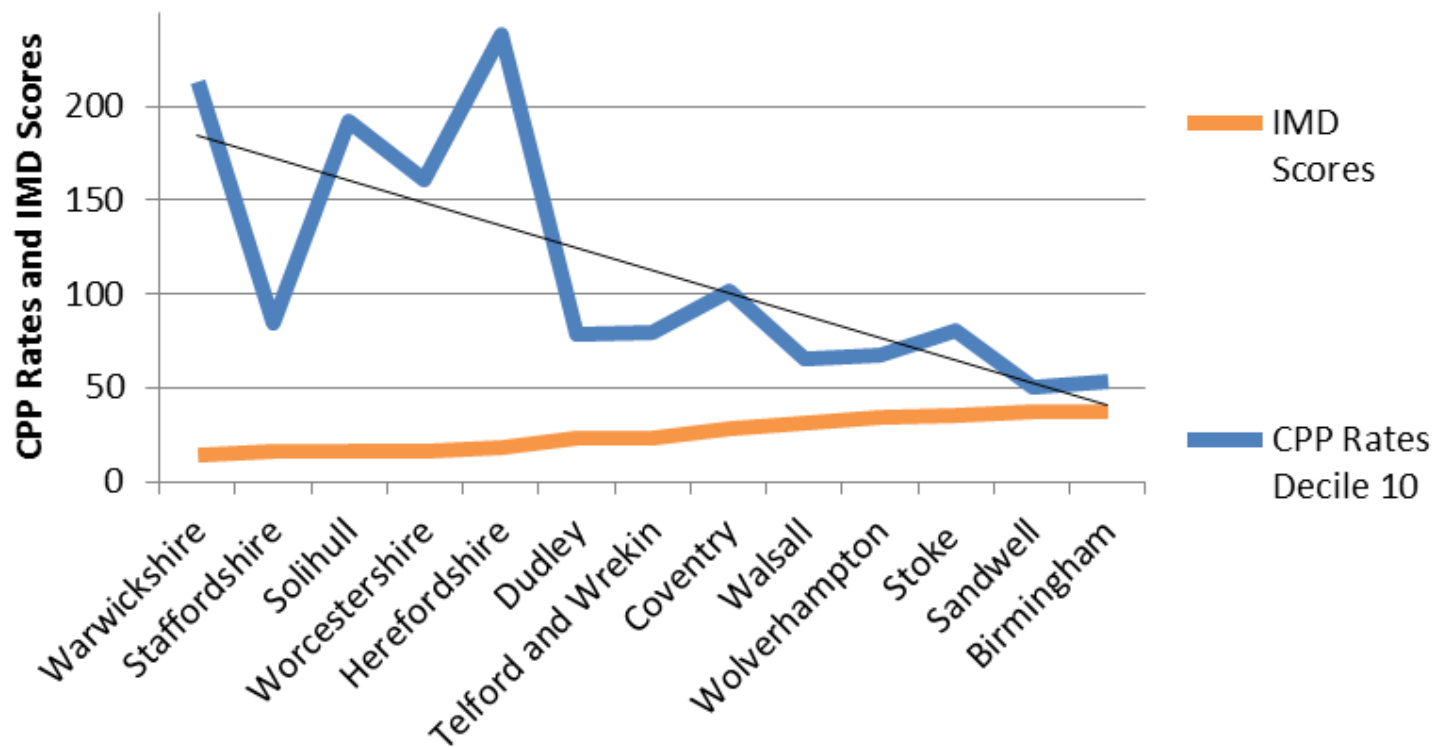




# Key Findings 3: An Inverse Intervention Law

24

**CPP Rates in the most deprived decile of neighbourhoods by overall deprivation (IMD) score.**



# Key point

25

- We don't know why this inverse relationship exists.
- Dudley and Telford have high rates for the level of deprivation. Is it possible that Coventry (IMD Score 28) is closer to Dudley and Telford (IMD score 23) in structure, than the other more deprived midlands LAs with scores over 31?

# Key Finding 4: Inequalities by Ethnicity

26

**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)**

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

27

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

Quintile	Deprived Third		Coventry	
	4	5	4	5
White	22.8	54.8	15.5	38.4
Mixed	18.2	68.4	16.9	52.7
Asian	13.5	74.6	16.9	53.1
Black	11.9	81.1	11.8	75.2

# Child population 0-4, deprivation and ethnicity

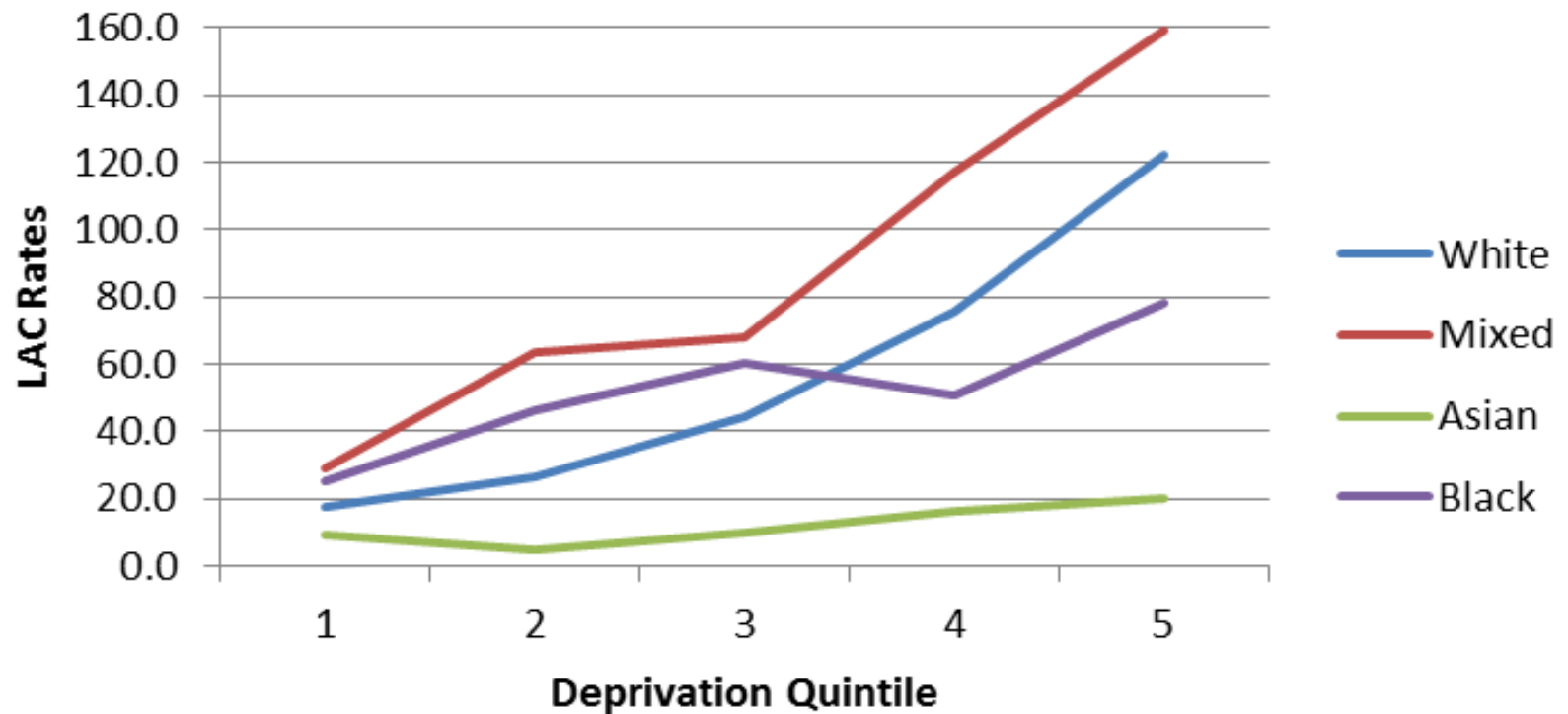
28

IMD Quintile		%					
Pop 0-4	W	M	A	B	O		
1	73.2	3.6	18.9	0.8	3.4	100.0	
2	76.9	4.9	15.1	1.9	1.2	100.0	
3	73.6	6.2	14.3	4.8	1.1	100.0	
4	62.9	8.0	20.3	7.3	1.5	100.0	
5	53.0	7.6	20.4	16.0	2.9	100.0	

# Key Finding 4: Inequalities by Ethnicity

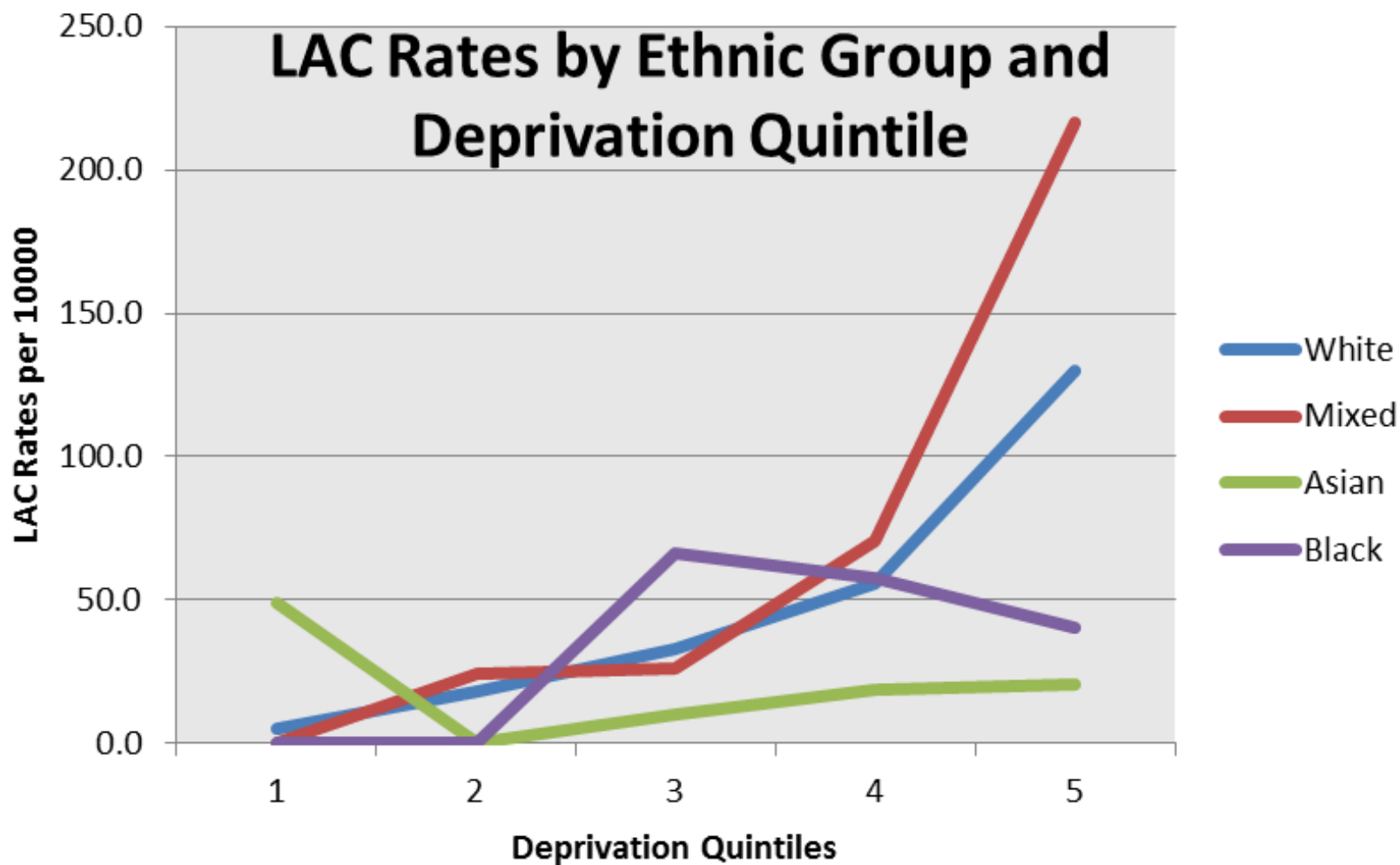
29

**Chart 3: LAC Rates by ethnic group and deprivation quintile**



# Inequalities by Ethnicity: Coventry

30



# LAC Numbers and Ethnicity: Coventry

31

	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other	
<b>LAC</b>						
<b>Number</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>434</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Child Population</b>						
<b>Number</b>	<b>46145</b>	<b>4198</b>	<b>12844</b>	<b>5905</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>70425</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>100</b>



# Coventry CPP Rates by deprivation and ethnicity

32

CPP Rates	White	Mixed	Asian	Black
1	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
2	16.6	24.0	0.0	139.9
3	21.6	104.8	44.4	0.0
4	58.6	84.6	23.1	0.0
5	108.5	117.3	22.0	56.3
	59.2	97.7	22.6	45.7
N =	273	41	29	27

# Coventry LAC Rates by deprivation and ethnicity

(33)

LAC Rates	White	Mixed	Asian	Black
1	5.3	0.0	48.8	0.0
2	17.9	24.0	0.0	0.0
3	32.9	26.2	9.9	66.6
4	55.8	70.5	18.5	57.4
5	130.0	216.6	20.5	40.5
	70.0	133.4	17.1	44.0
N =	323	56	22	26

# Actual/Expected CPP: Coventry and Deprived Third

34

Excess	CPP	Numbers					
	1	2	3	4	5	ALL	
White	0	6	4	20	71	101	
Mixed	0	0	3	3	10	16	
Asian	0	0	7	1	-2	6	
Black	0	1	0	-2	10	9	
Other	0	0	2	2	-2	3	
All	0	7	16	24	86	134	

# Actual/Expected LAC: Coventry and Deprived Third

35

Excess	1	2	3	4	5	ALL
White	0	2	2	1	29	34
Mixed	0	-1	-2	-2	15	11
Asian	1	0	1	2	0	3
Black	0	0	0	0	-17	-17
Other	0	0	0	1	1	2
All	1	1	1	2	28	33

# Actual/Expected CIN: Coventry and Deprived Third

(36)

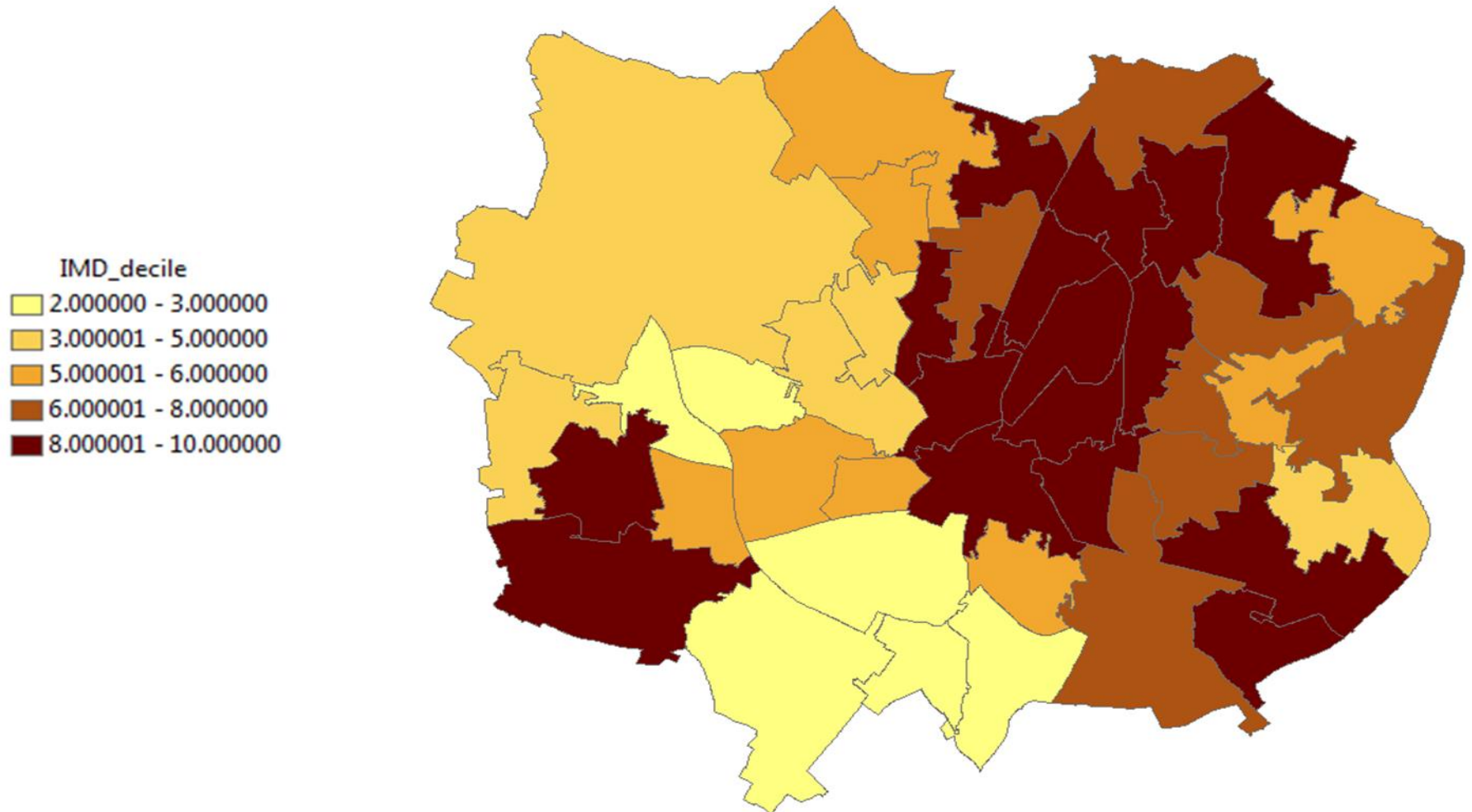
	1	2	3	4	5	ALL
White	1	11	44	41	251	349
Mixed	1	0	0	2	76	79
Asian	3	1	4	5	41	53
Black	0	2	-1	5	-9	-3
Other	0	0	4	1	4	8
All	4	14	51	54	363	486

# Key Points

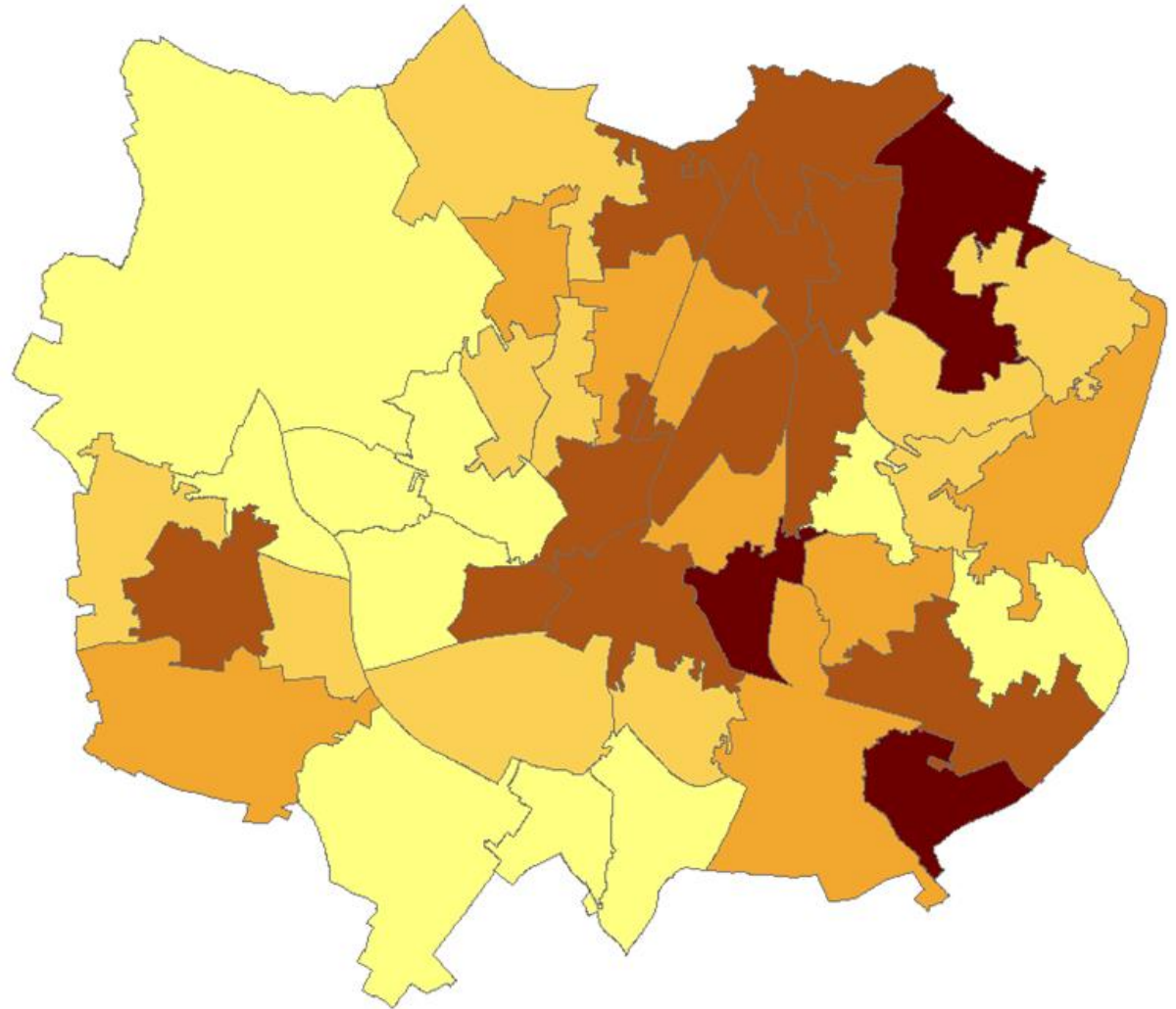
37

- This does not necessarily mean that Coventry rates are too high. Other LA rates may be too low.
- 'Excess' in CPP greater than LAC
- 'Excess' greater than expected for White children: 80% of excess White; 73% of CPP +LAC White
- Could identify 'excess' at neighbourhood level

# Coventry Deprivation Scores (MSOA)

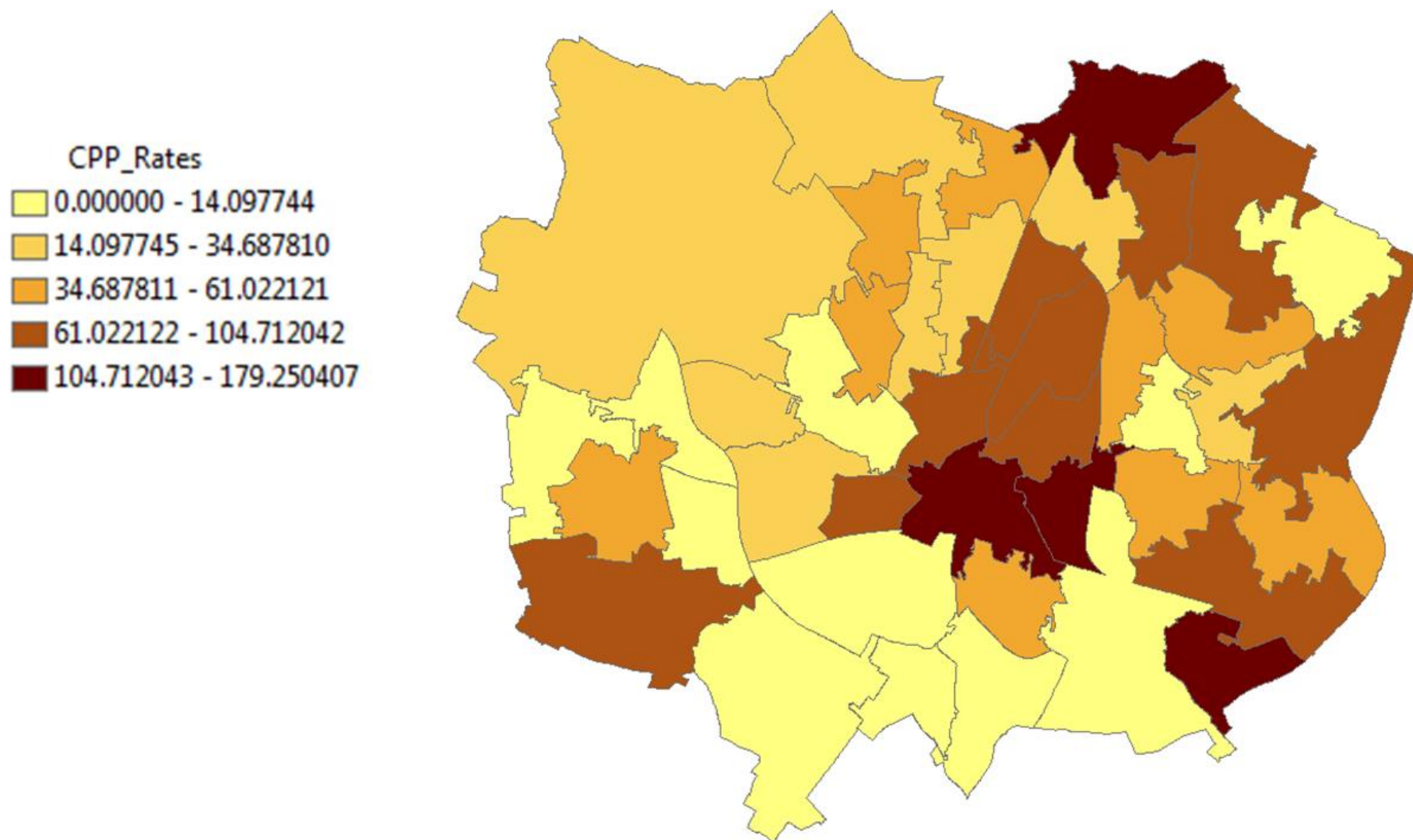


# Coventry CIN Rates (MSOA)

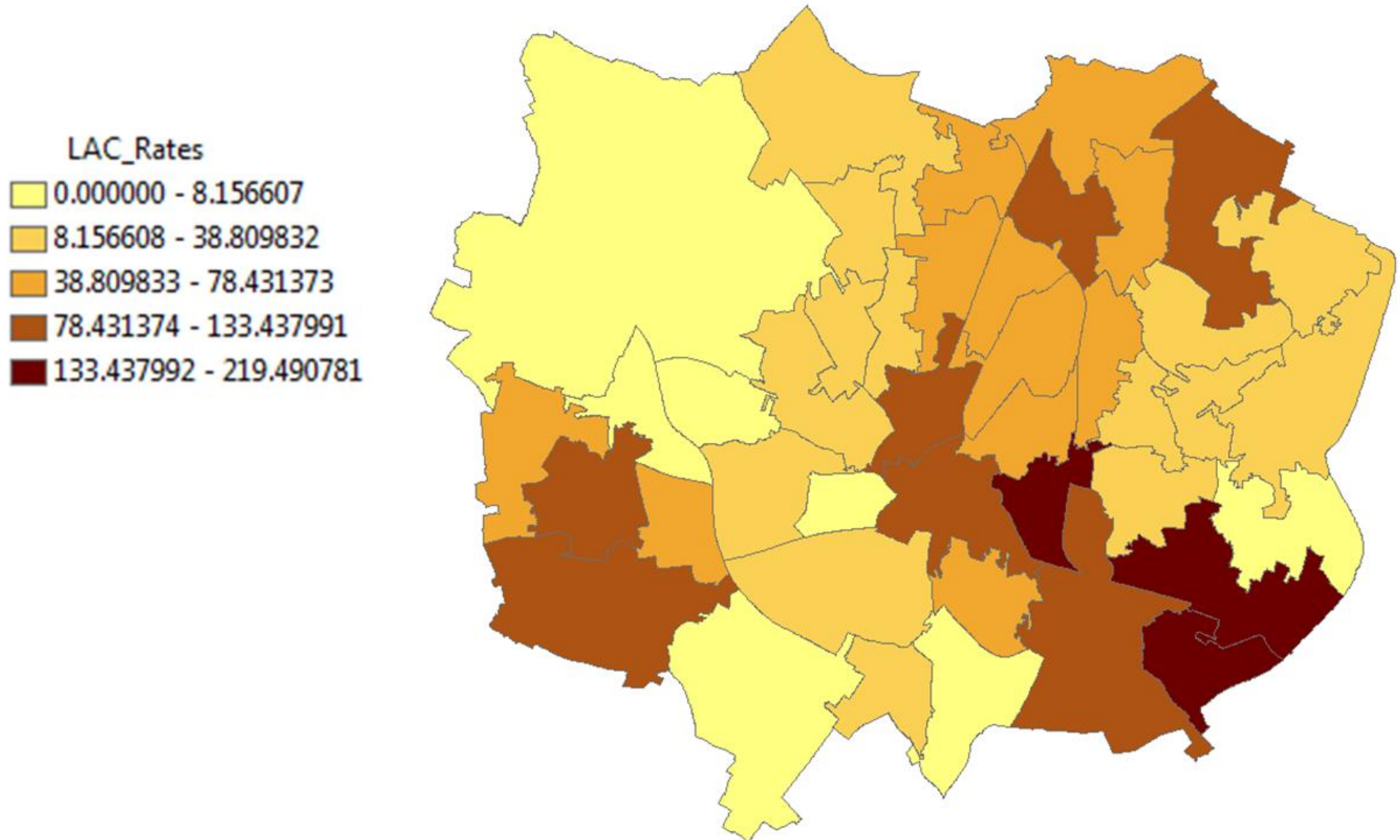




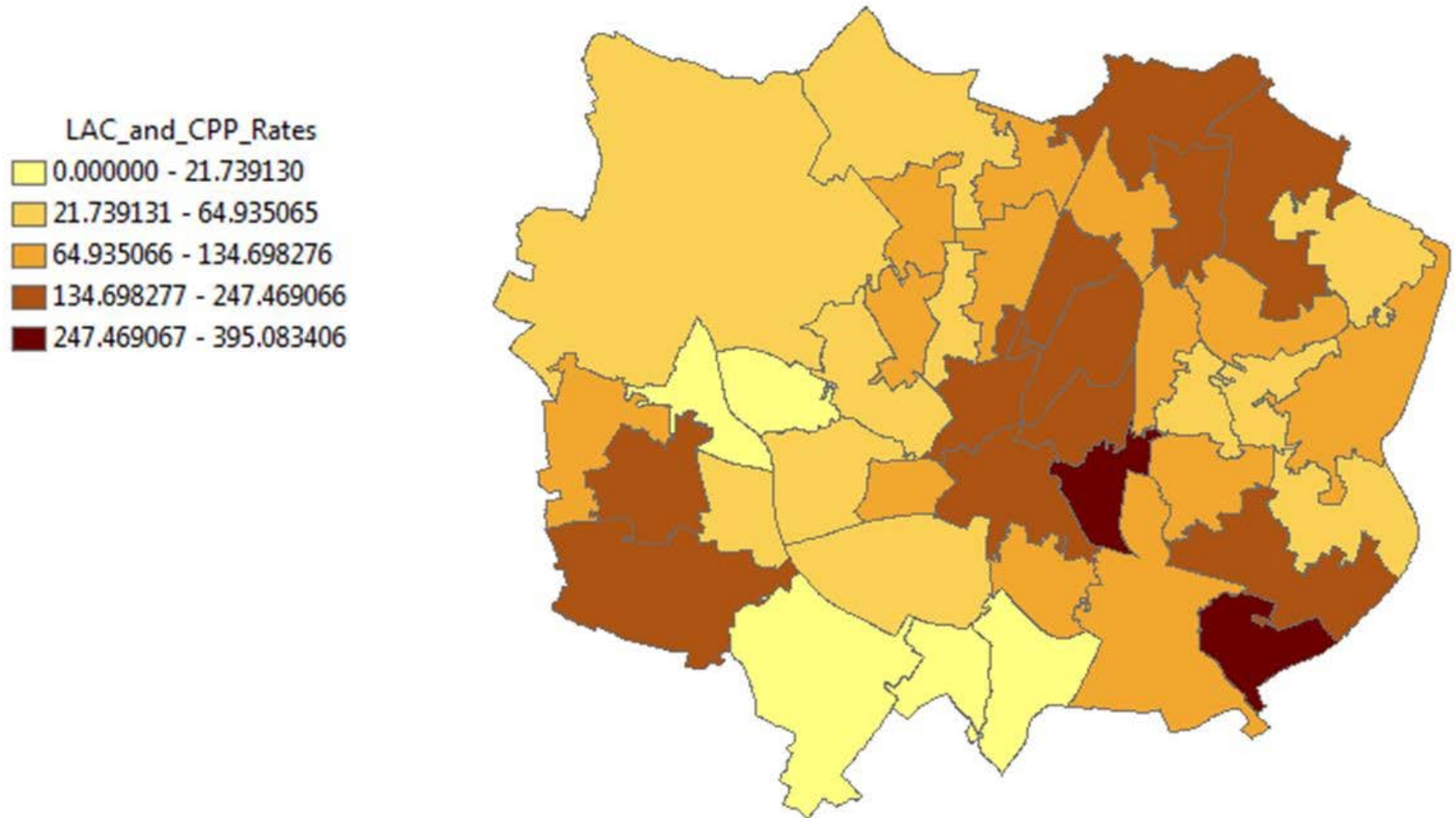
# Coventry CPP Rates (MSOA)



# Coventry LAC Rates (MSOA)



# Coventry CPP + LAC Rates (MSOA)



# Acknowledgements

43

Thanks to the Nuffield Foundation for funding the study, to the participating local authorities and especially their information managers and to the Family Rights Group and Research in Practice for support in carrying out the project.

For further details:

Bywaters, P., Brady, G., Sparks, T. and Bos, E. (2014)  
'Child Welfare Inequalities: new evidence, further questions', Child and Family Social Work

Web Address

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

Or contact P.Bywaters@coventry.ac.uk