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Development**

Continuity and discontinuity in kinship placements: The need for holistic, evidence-based policy and practice

FAMILY AND KINSHIP IN EAST LONDON – YOUNG AND WILMOTT (1957)



50th Anniversary

"the voices they found described a world rich in social relationships, networks of dependence and mutual support that were central to the people's resilience in facing the adversity of insecure and low paid employment."

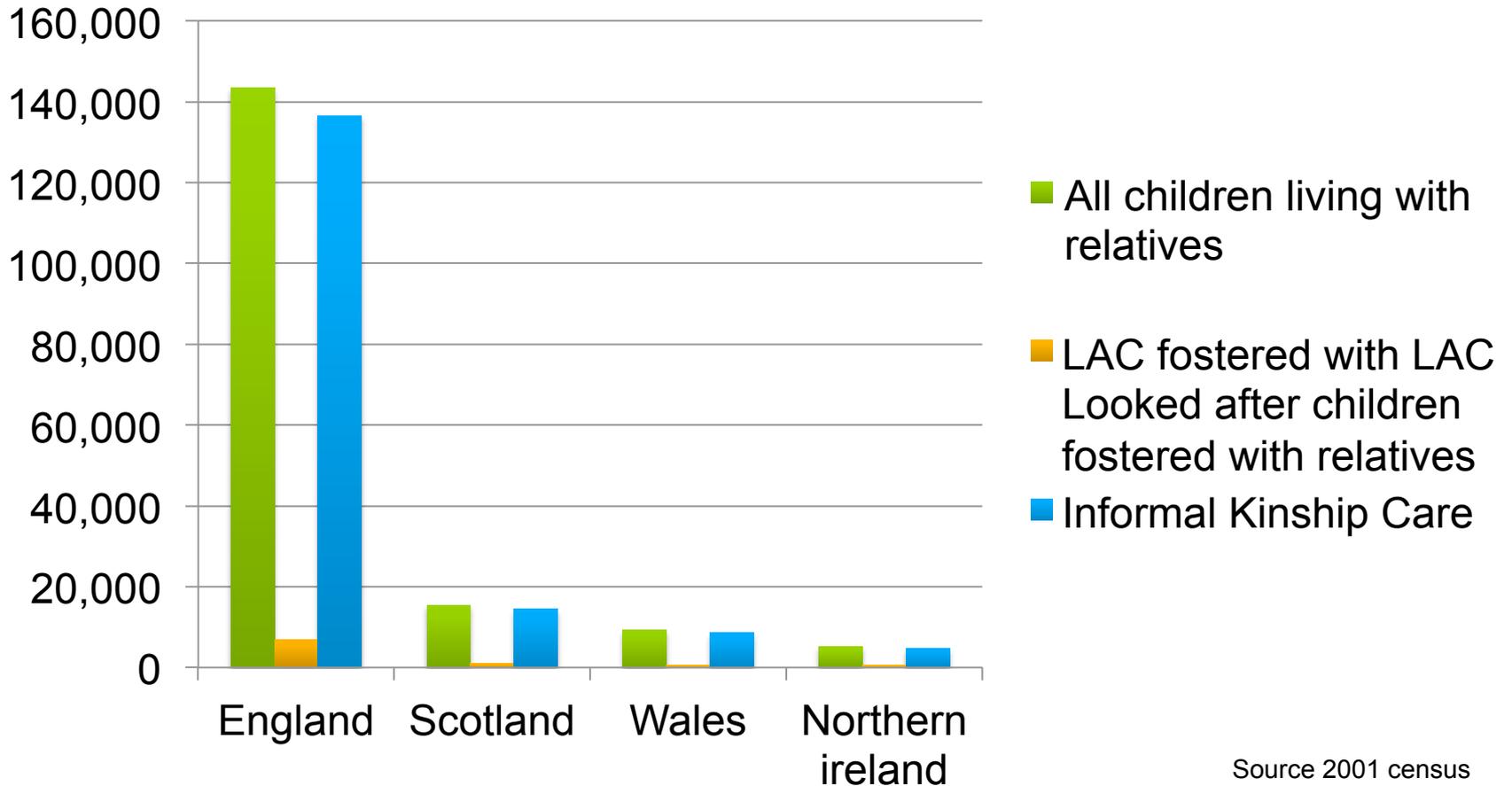
Madeline Bunting

Question???

- If a child in your extended family were to lose their parents – temporarily or permanently - which would you opt for –
 1. The local authority to step in and care for the child?
 2. To step in and care for the child yourself?

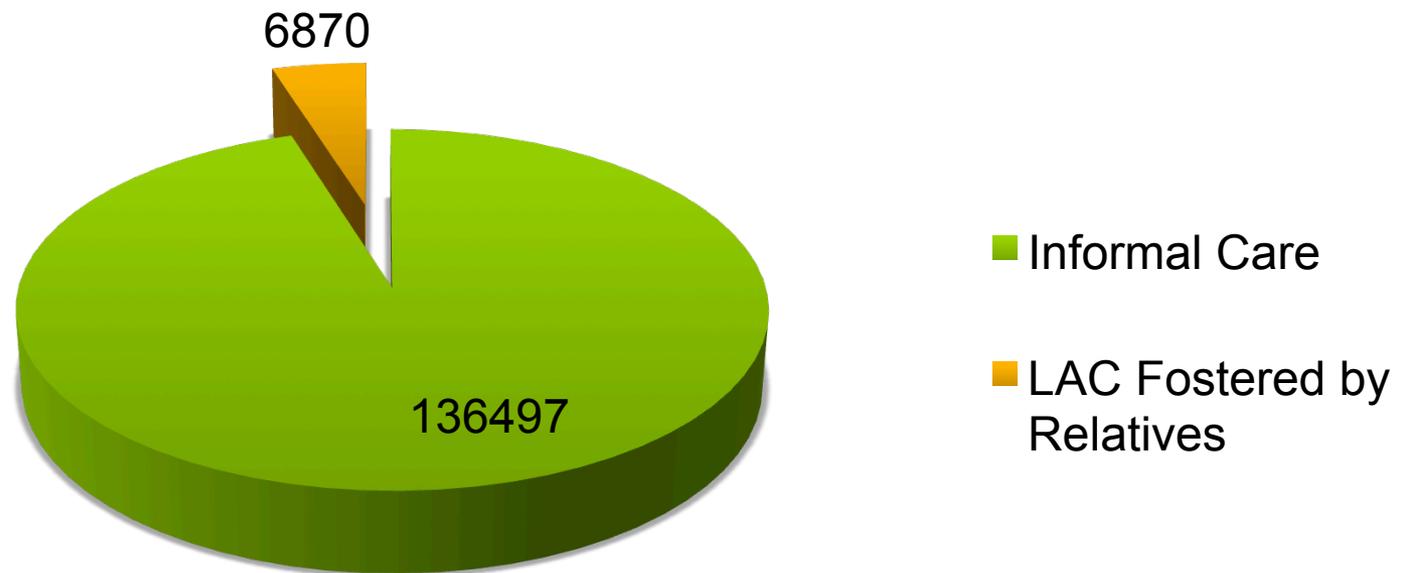
Can you foresee any circumstance in which you would opt for 1) rather than 2)?

Number of children in kinship care

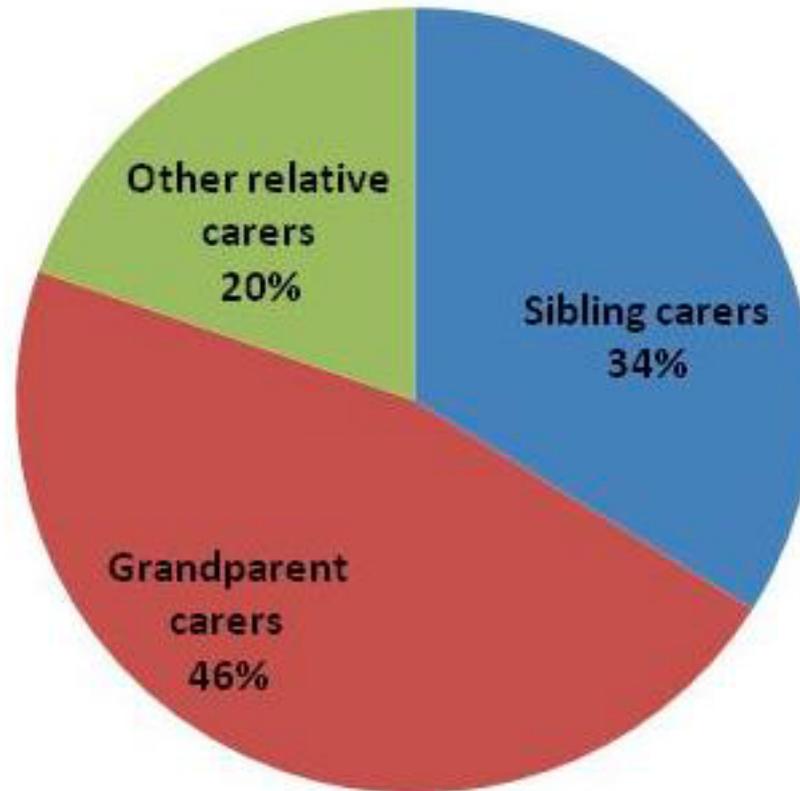


Source 2001 census

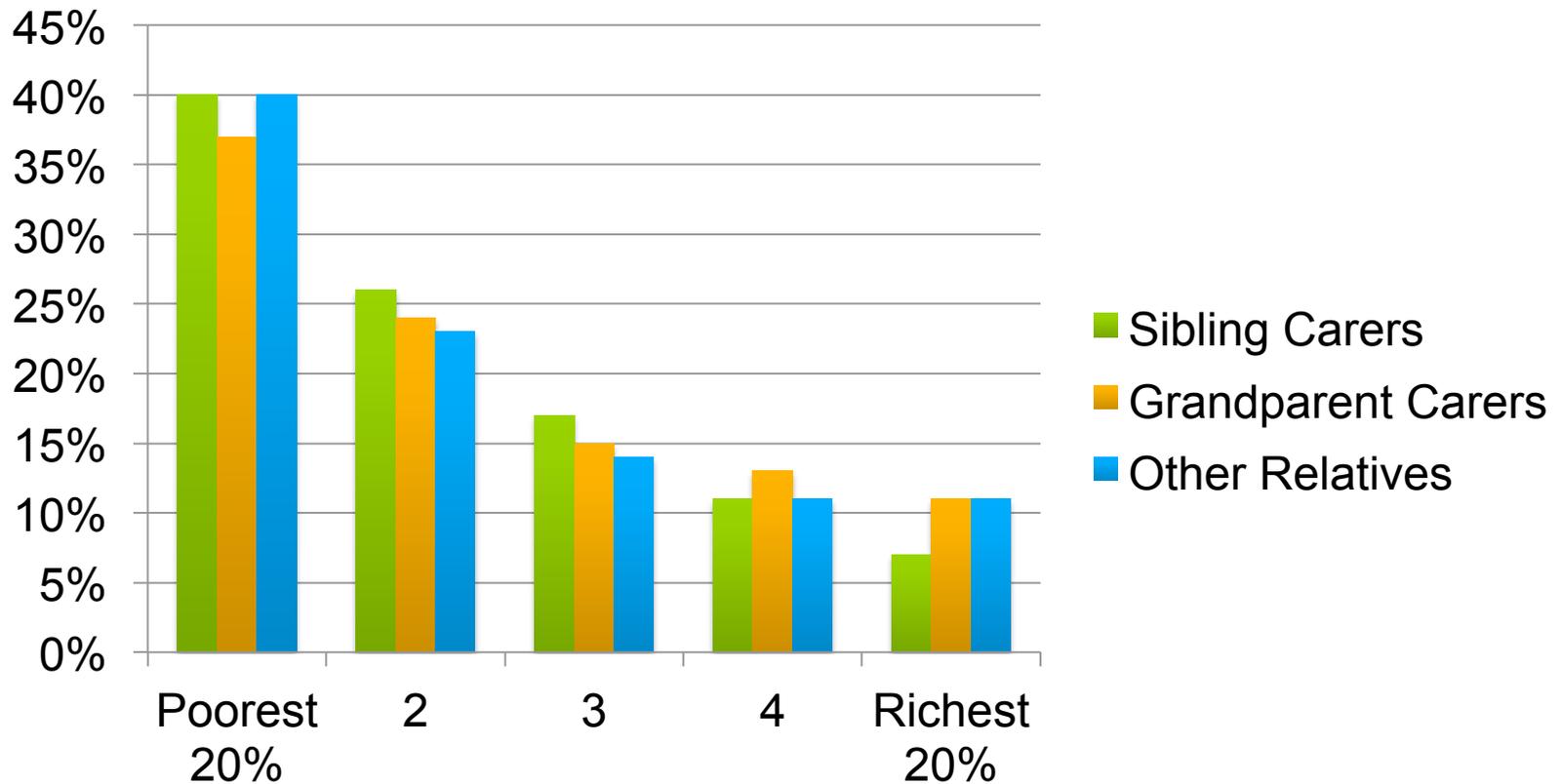
Proportion of Children in Kinship Care in England – Informal vs. LAC



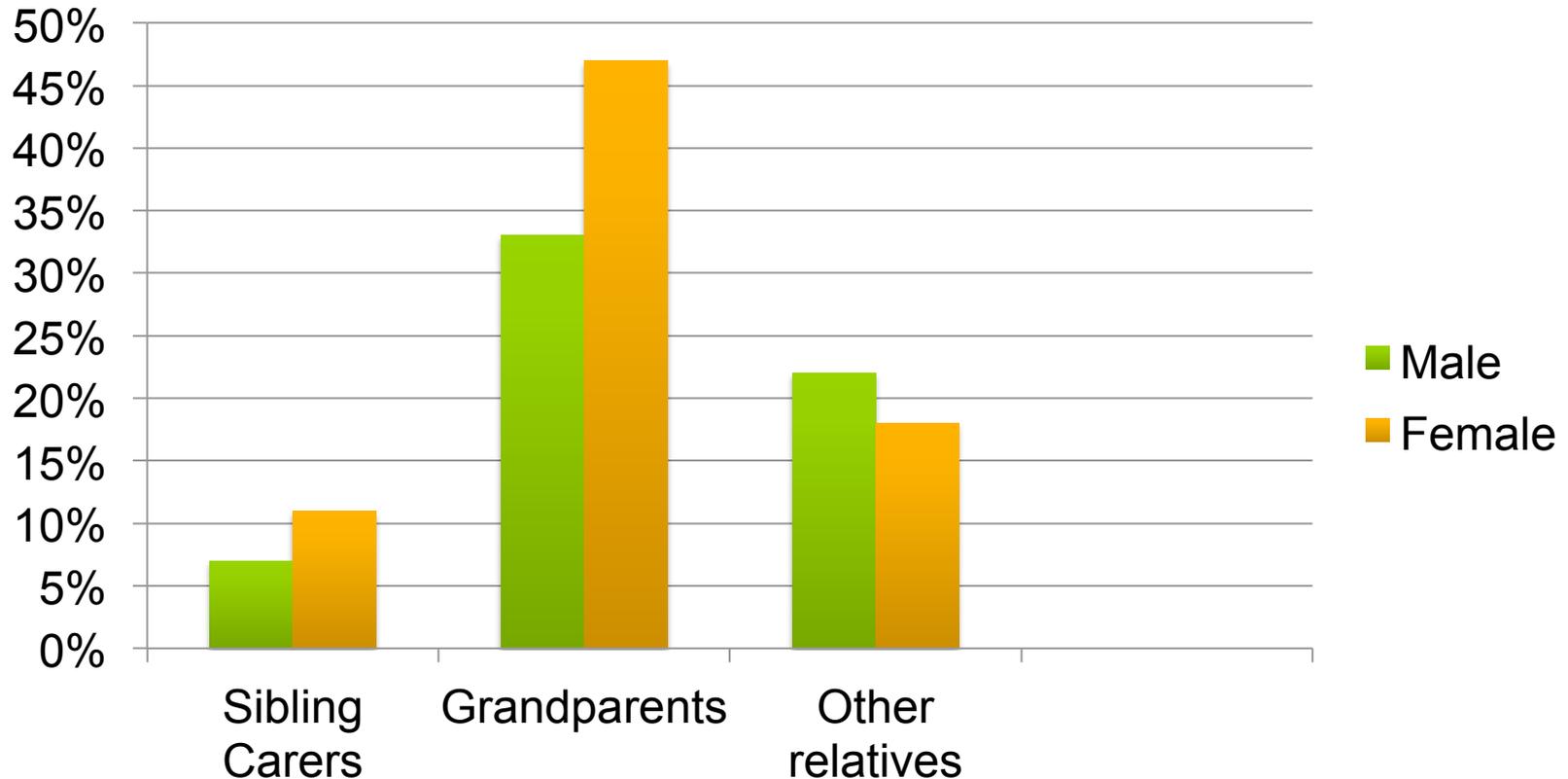
Distribution of Kinship Carers in England, (2001)N=117,100



Income Distribution among Kinship Carers



Proportion of kinship carers with long term illness or disability



MALTREATMENT - KINSHIP CARE AS AN INTERVENTION

- Local Authorities largely remove children where there is evidence of maltreatment – neglect and abuse
- Is there any evidence that placing children in their extended family is an effective intervention for children who have experienced significant maltreatment?

Cochrane Review 2014

- International review of research evidence comparing children placed in kinship care and those in non-kinship
- Identifies children in care having significantly worse outcomes than peers
- Does this result from –
 - Lasting impact of maltreatment
 - Poor quality placements
 - Inadequate children's services system

Summary Conclusions

Children in Kinship Care experience fewer behavioral problems, fewer mental health disorders, better well-being and less placement disruption.

The Child

- Preparation of the child – *‘What happened to Mummy and Daddy and why you are coming to live with us forever.’*
- Adjustment and settling in – *Building relationships – establishing trust*
- Life Story Work – *Who are you, what has happened to you, who are the most important people and what have been the most important experiences in your life?’*

Kinship carers

- Understanding the life long commitment to the child
- Understanding your legal status and the nature of parental responsibility.
- Understand your entitlements.
- Understanding the entitlements of the birth parents
- Managing contact with birth parents
- Resolving issues in the past, establishing trust with your own children
- Understand the issues for the child (loss, trauma) and their development over time
- Understanding entitlements to on-going support

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- As humans, we need to adapt to survive,
 - We need to learn to trust in order to learn, grow and prosper
 - Relating and Relationships are core to building Trust
 - Family Life in its many forms is key to relating and relationships

In the context of maltreatment, we cannot underestimate the challenge to already vulnerable families in re-building trust and relationships with the child at the centre.

Responsive, non-blaming, evidence aware family support services are absolutely key.

But how far have we resourced and developed these services to ensure that when we make decisions about the future of vulnerable children, we are confident about what is going to re-built?