

# Exclusion from School: compounding or tackling inequality?

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# Aims today

## **‘Evaluation of Education Provision for Children and Young People Educated Outside the School Setting’**

- Contexts: political and policy background in Wales
- Core issues
- Research aims
- Methods
- Draft Findings
- Emerging issues and questions

# Context

- Political context
  - Devolution in Wales 1999
  - Labour Government
  - Culture and language
- Policy background
  - Explicit commitment to children's rights
  - Explicit commitment to raising achievement in education
- Core issues

# Wales: Background

- Largely agricultural economy
- Population – 3 million
- Official languages; Welsh, English (around 20% Welsh speakers)
- Highest proportion of UK children living in severe poverty (NAW 2011)
- Higher proportion of 25-64 year olds with low or no qualifications than both the OECD average and the UK overall.
- Mean scores for both reading and mathematics for 15 year olds below the OECD average
- Higher proportion than the OECD average of young people not in education, employment or training.

# Political priorities



First Minister: Carwyn Jones. He is a member of Amnesty International, Unison, Unite and the Fabian Society. He has been a Labour Party member since 1987 and played an active role in the 'Yes for Wales' campaign to extend the law-making powers of the National Assembly for Wales. He is a fluent Welsh speaker.

# Children's Rights in Wales

- First UK Government to enshrine the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in its own legislation

# Exclusion: the issues in Wales

- unlawful exclusion
- Disproportionate rates of exclusion for some groups of young people
- an unacceptably wide degree of variation in provision for those excluded from school
- poor educational outcomes
- lack of reintegration into school
- inappropriate use of physical intervention and restraint
  - (Butler, 2011, Estyn 2011, 2012, Welsh Assembly Government 2008, 2011)

# Research Aims

- evaluation of the exclusion process
- an evaluation of the delivery, planning and commissioning of education provision for children and young people educated outside of the school setting
- make recommendations for policy development



# Methods

- Statistical and policy analysis of publicly available data
- interviews with key informants
- a survey of local authorities
- interviews with children and young people, their families and a range of professionals working to support them in education settings outside mainstream schools.

# Participants

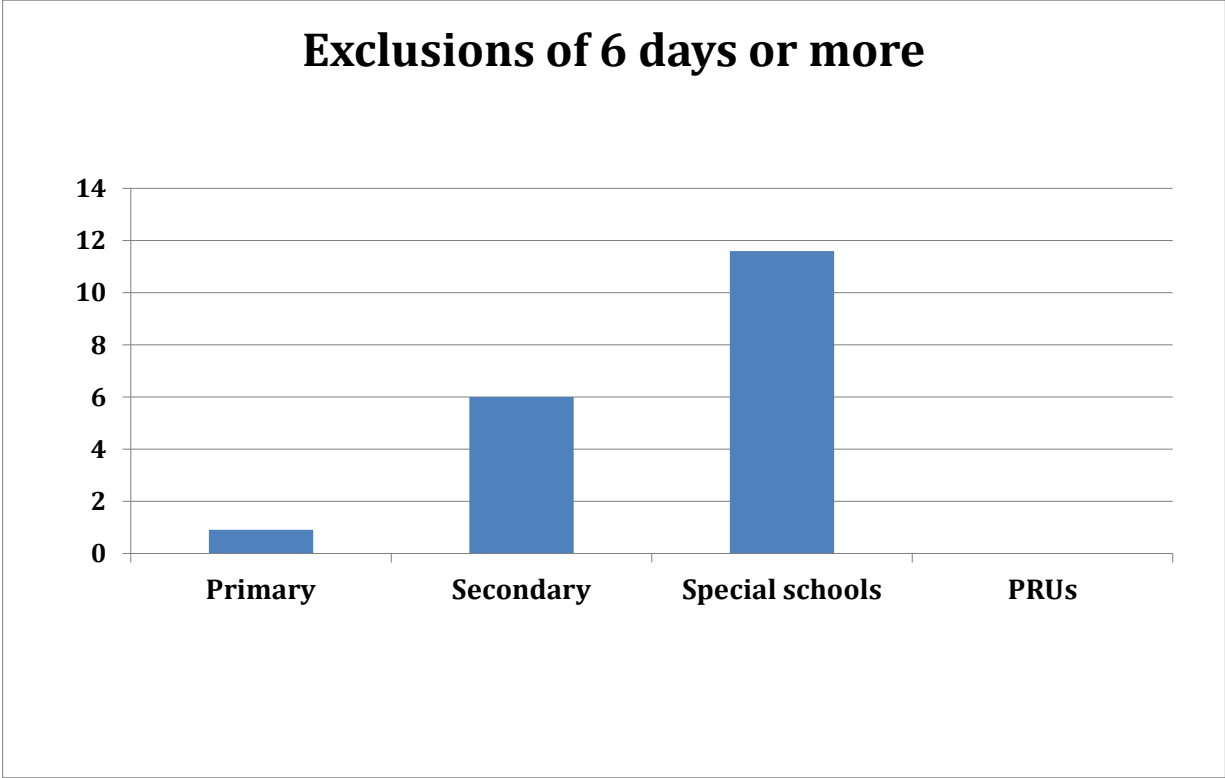
## Participants in the Research

Key stakeholders	16
Local authority personnel	26
Children and young people	48
Parents/carers	15
Professionals working with children and young people	51
Total	156

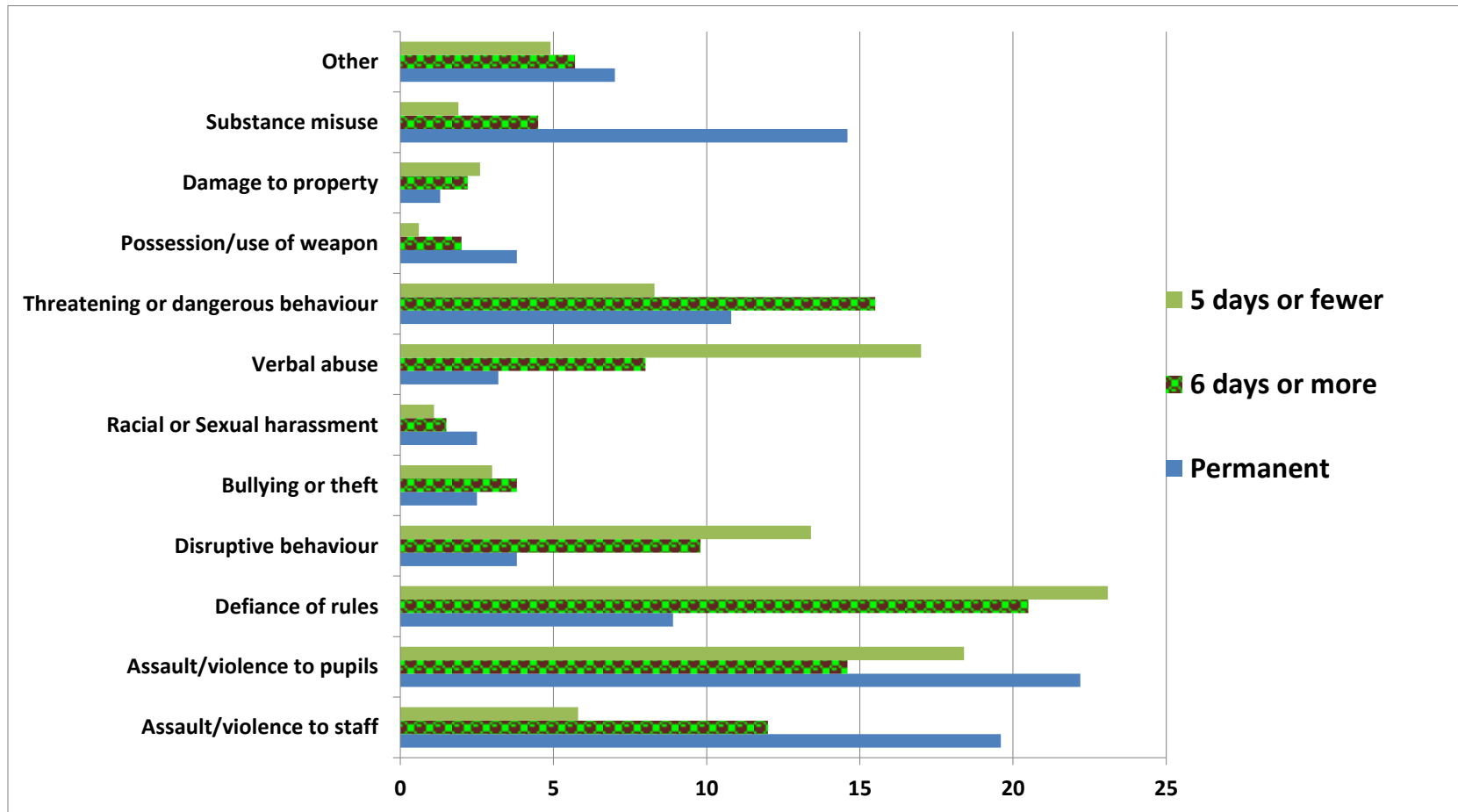
# Findings: Exclusion

- Rates of permanent exclusion are decreasing but...
- Illegal exclusion still happening
- Reasons given for exclusion problematic
- Some children missing
- Lack of focus on reintegration
- Some groups excluded more than others
- Parents often felt exclusion process was unfair and complex

# Exclusions of 6 days or more by sector, rate per 1000, 2010-11



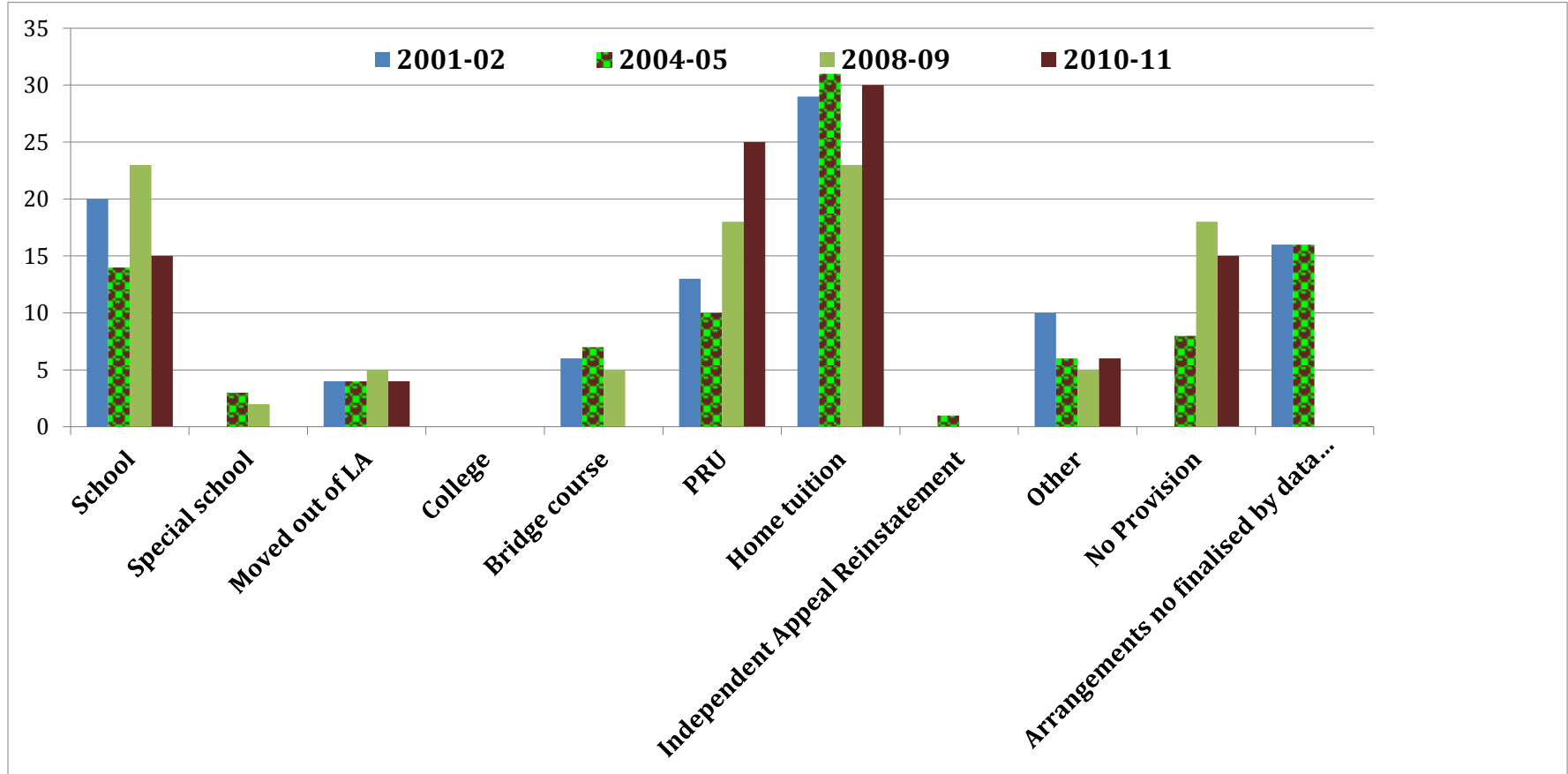
# Reasons for exclusions, percentage, 2010-11



# Findings: Education outside School (EOTAS)

- Nearly 90% of learners in EOTAS have special needs
- Nearly 70% are entitled to free school meals
- 75% of learners in EOTAS are male
- Provision is variable e.g. curriculum, hours per week, opportunities for success, accommodation,
- Most learners and families we spoke to were happy with the placement
- Use of restraint and physical isolation
- Reintegration rates improving

# Provision for pupils permanently excluded from school, percentage over time



# Discussion

- Improvements happening:
- Curriculum, focus on achievements, flexibility, communication between schools and local authorities

but issues remain:

- Disproportionate rates of exclusion
- Unlawful exclusion
- Use of restraint, and physical isolation
- Low levels of achievement



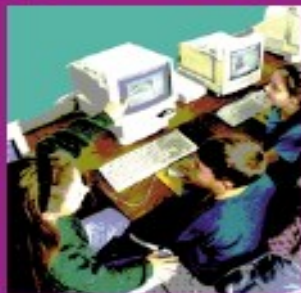
# Who gets excluded from school?

- Male
- Living in poverty
- Age 13-15 years
- Looked after by the local authority
- Have special educational needs/additional support needs
- Have family who have experienced more ill health, trauma and bereavement than the norm
- Of African-Caribbean origin
- School-aged mothers
- Have a low level of educational attainment
- Of Gypsy, Roma or Traveller heritage.



# Children and Young People

A Framework for Partnership  
- consultation document



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru  
The National Assembly for Wales

# Safe and effective intervention – use of reasonable force and searching for weapons



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)



## Guidance

Guidance document No: 041/2010

Date of Issue: October 2010

# Finally,

Exclusion from School:  
compounding or tackling inequality??

# Thank you

Contact

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