

# *Changing Context for Head Start: Kids, Moms, QRIS*

Presentation to WA Head Start Directors Association

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# Presentation Outline

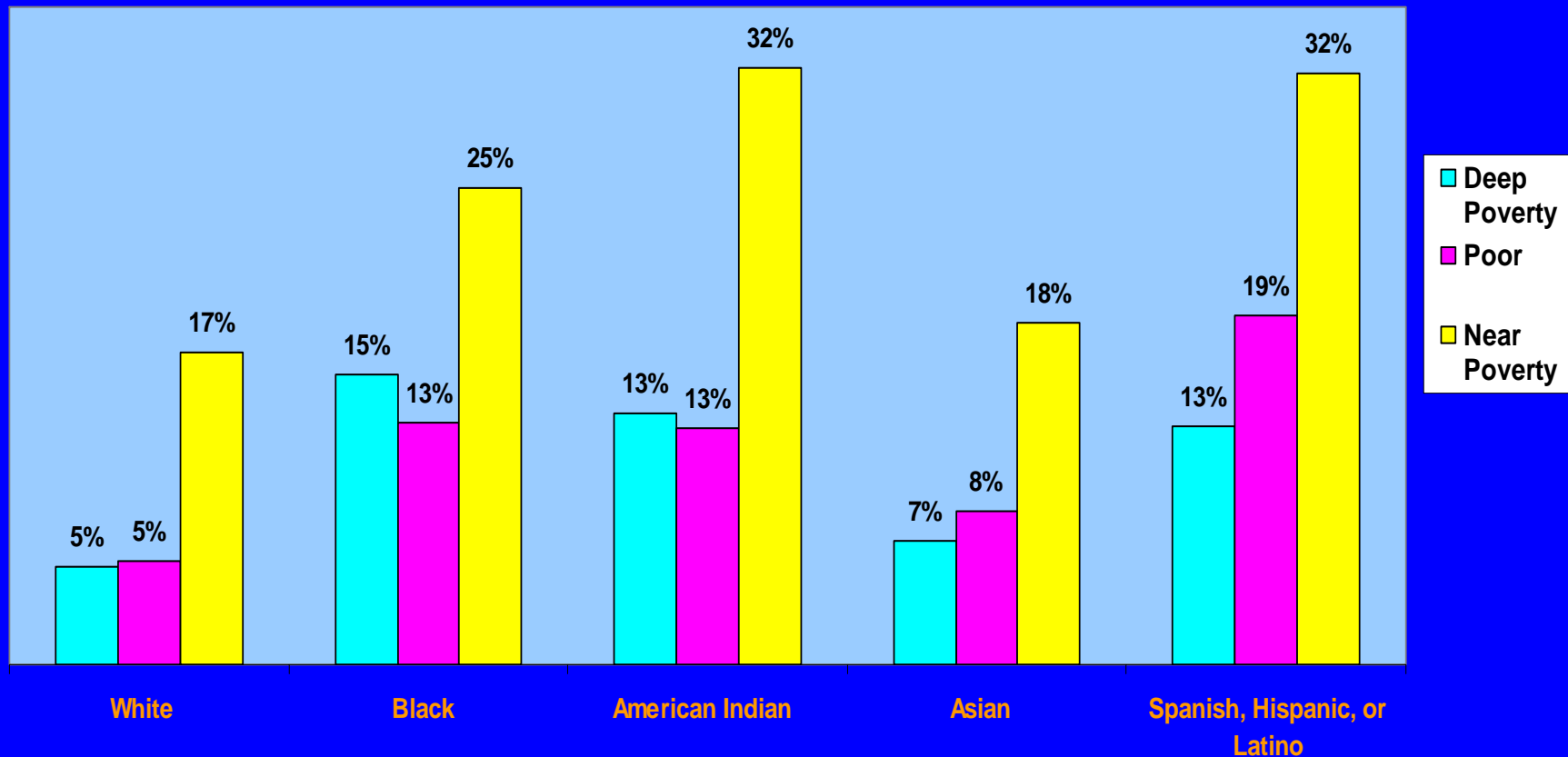
## Three Dimensions of Context:

- ❑ Demographics: Kids at Risk
- ❑ Kids and Moms: 2-Generation Challenges
- ❑ Changing ECE Context: QRIS

## There Are About 1.5 million Children Age 0-17 in Washington:

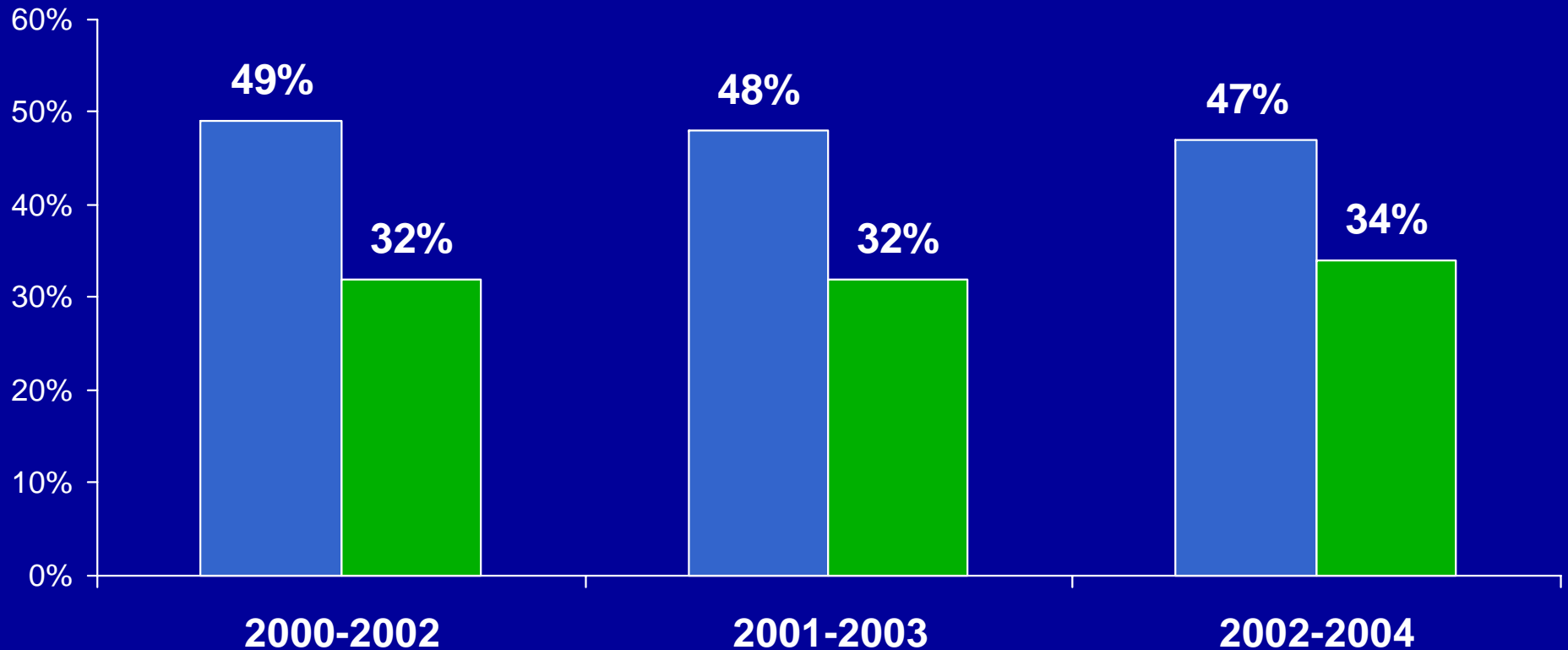
- ❑ One in five (339,000) has no parent employed full time, full year
- ❑ One in nine (146,000) has a mother with no high school degree
- ❑ One in sixteen (91,000) have all parents with a disability that affects employment
- ❑ One third (512,000) live in low income families:
  - 7% in deep poverty (<0.5 FPL), 8% in poverty (0.5-1FPL)
  - 19% in near poverty (1-2 FPL)

## Percent of Children Age 0 to 17 In Low Income Households, by Selected Racial/Ethnic Groups



Deep = <0.5 FPL; Poor = 0.5-1FPL; Near-poverty = 1-2 FPL

# Child Poverty by Immigrant Status (Below 200% FPL)



■ Children in immigrant families ■ Children in U.S.-born families

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# Compounding Risk

## HSPC Risk Factor Analysis

Low income

Zero or one parent

No parent employed FT/FY

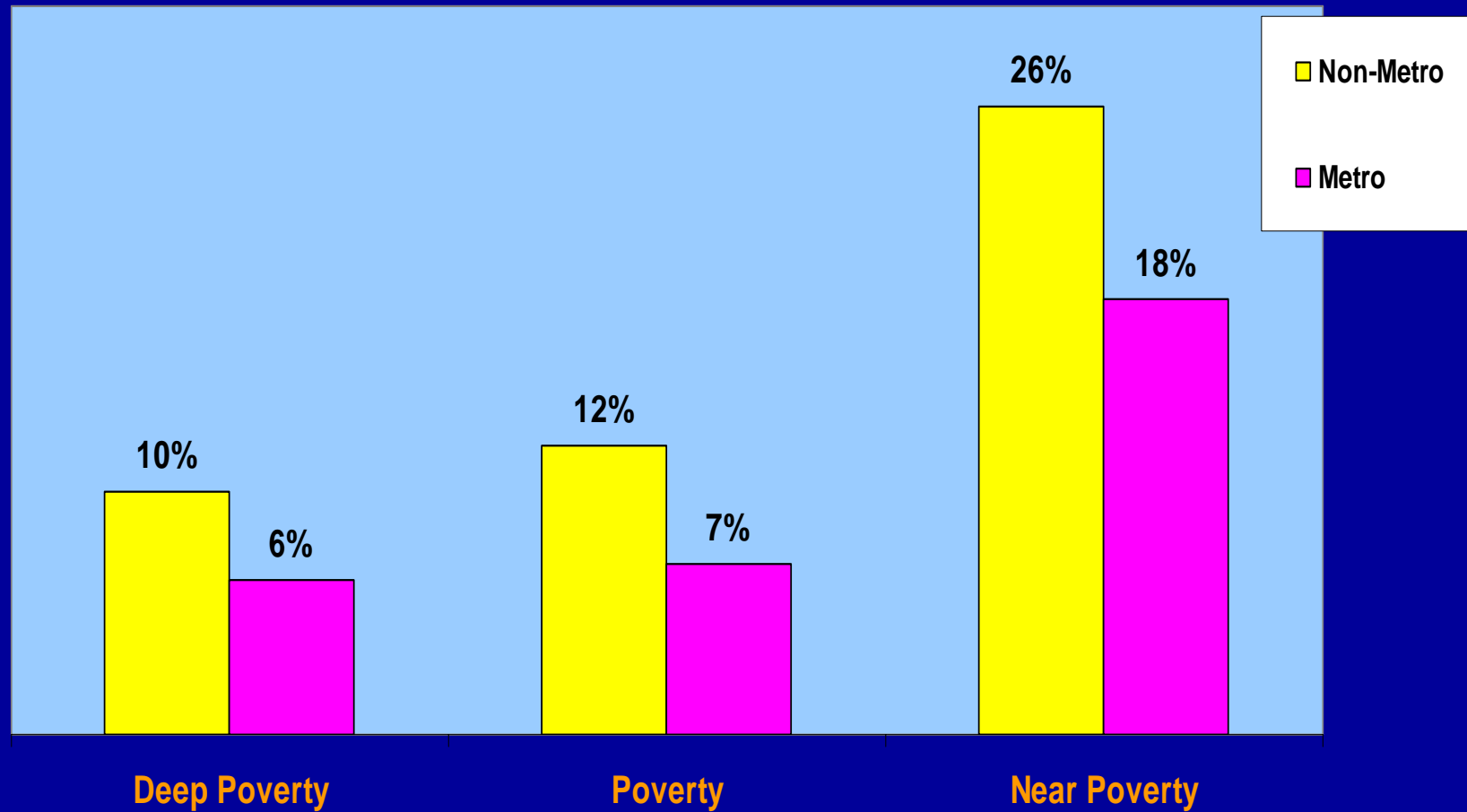
All parents with disability

Mother's education <HS

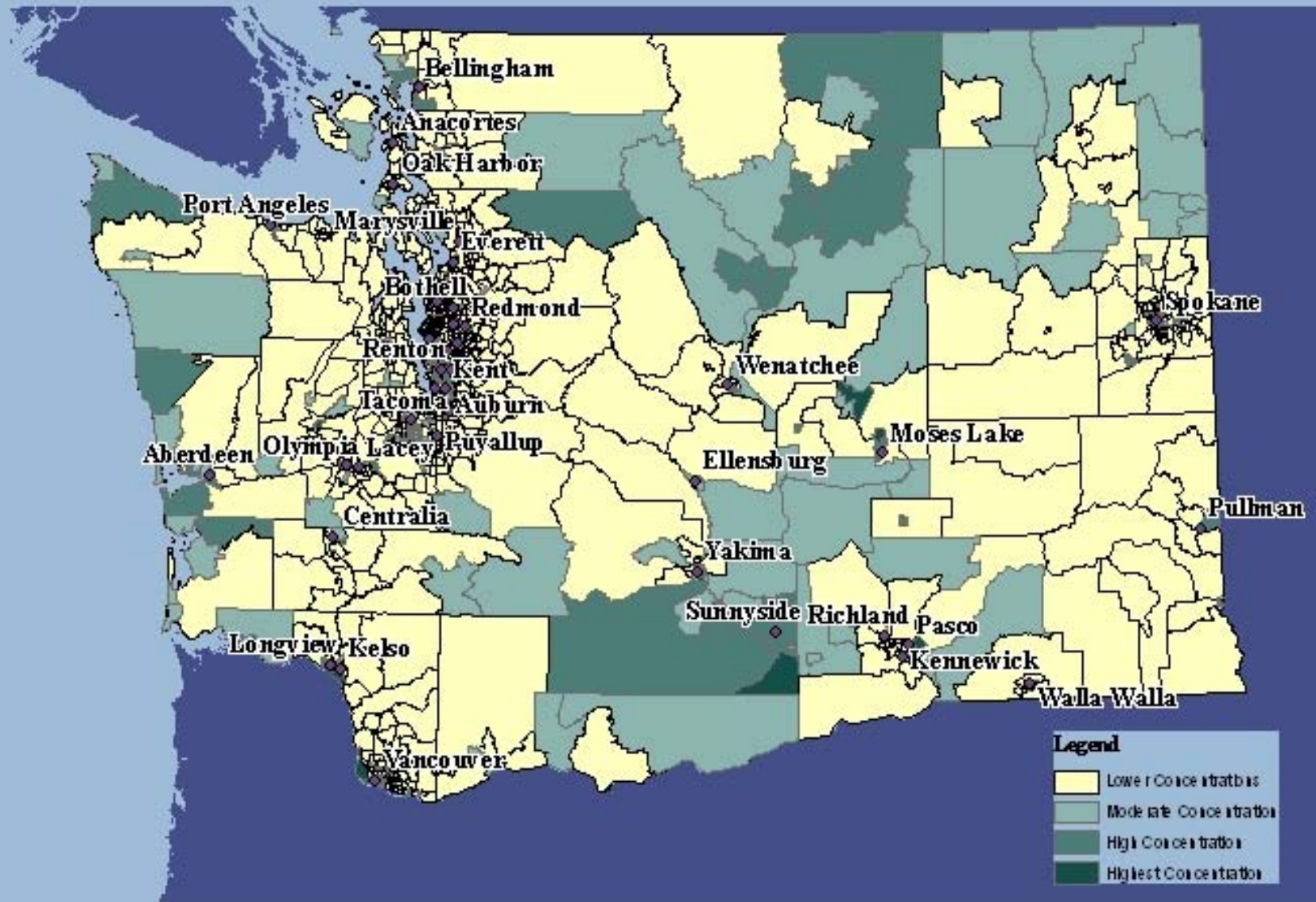
Child with LEP

- ❑ **Children with multiple risk factors are much more likely to suffer adverse outcomes:**
- ❑ **1 in 10 WA children have 3+ risk factors**
- ❑ **1 in 5 children of color have 3 or more**

## Percent of Children Age 0 to 17 In Low Income Households, by Metro/Non-metro Residence

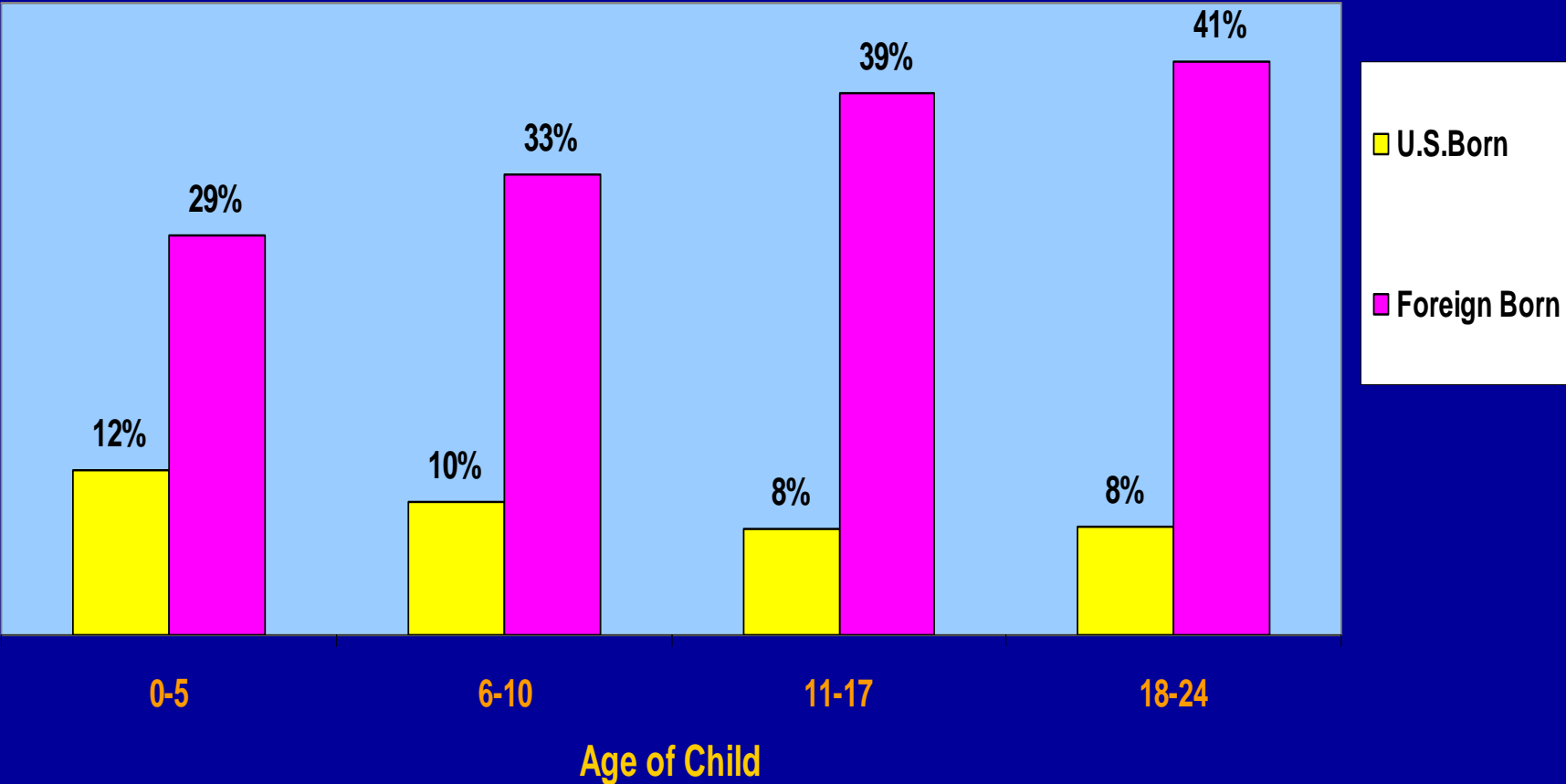


# Concentrations of At-Risk Youth

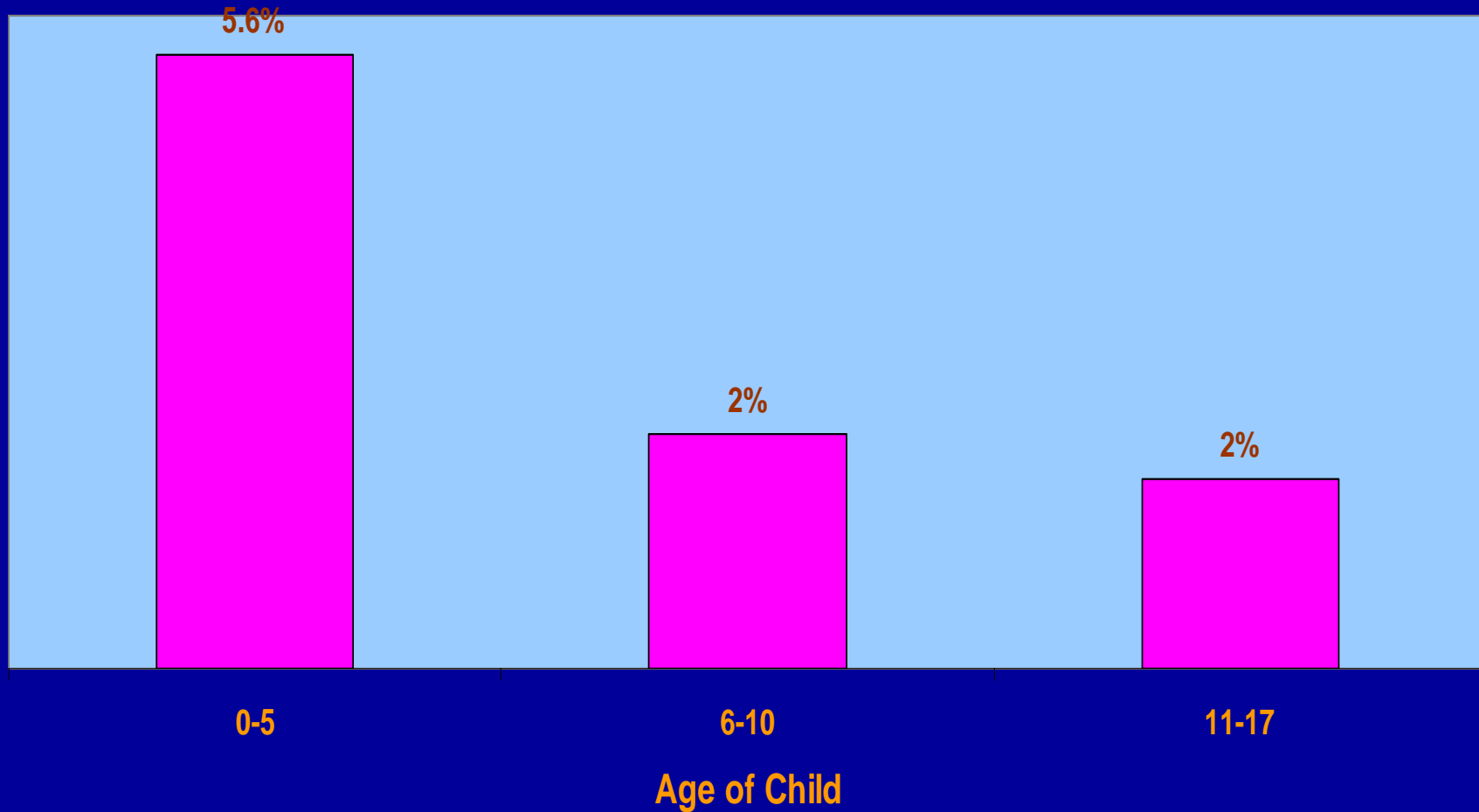


Kids and Moms:  
Two-Generation Challenges  
Mothers Age 18 - 21

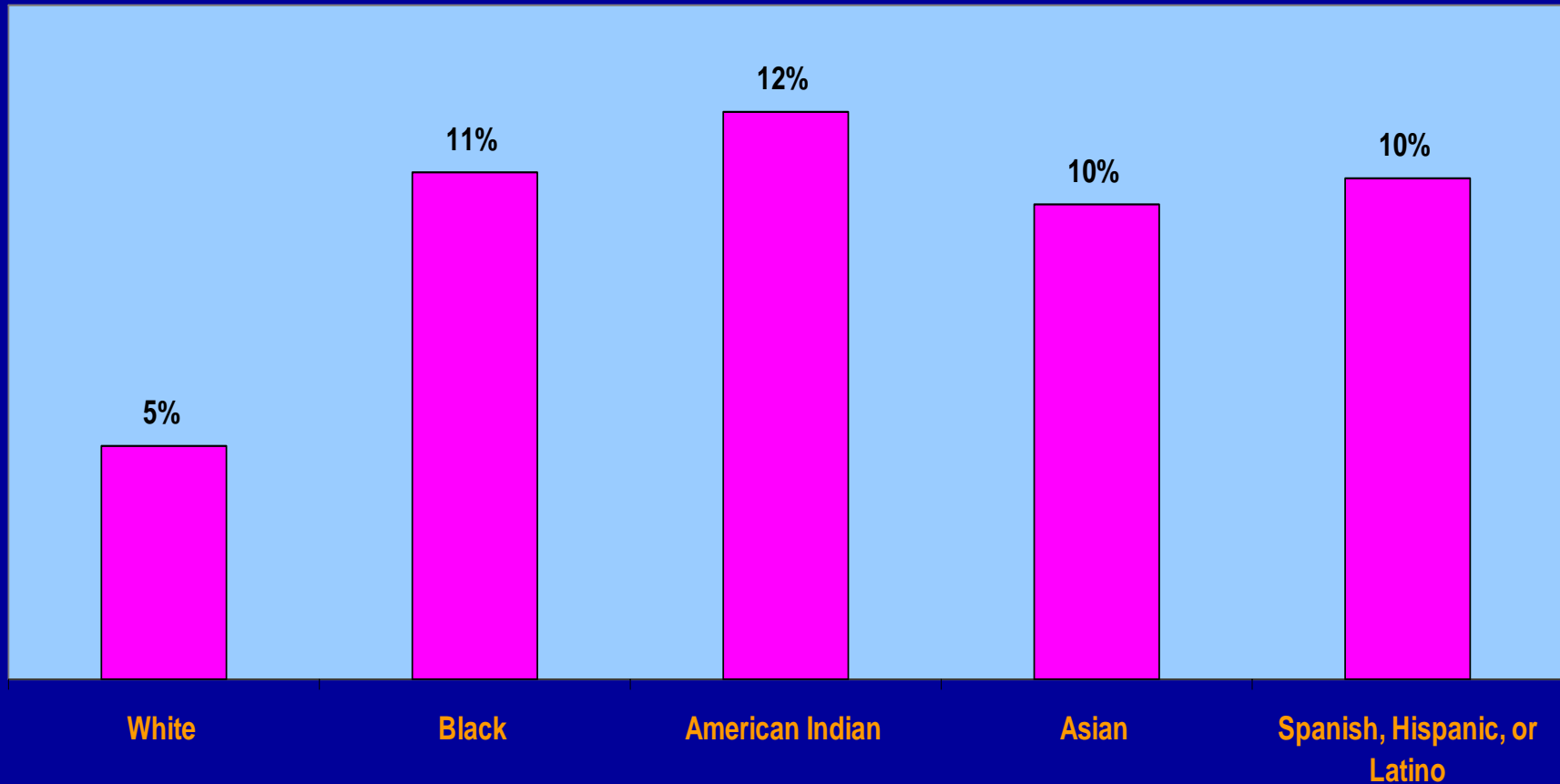
**Percent of Children 0-17 Whose Mother Lacks a High School Degree by Age Group and Child's Nativity (US vs. Foreign Born)**



## Percent of Children 0-17 Who Have No Parent Who is Fluent in English, by Age Group

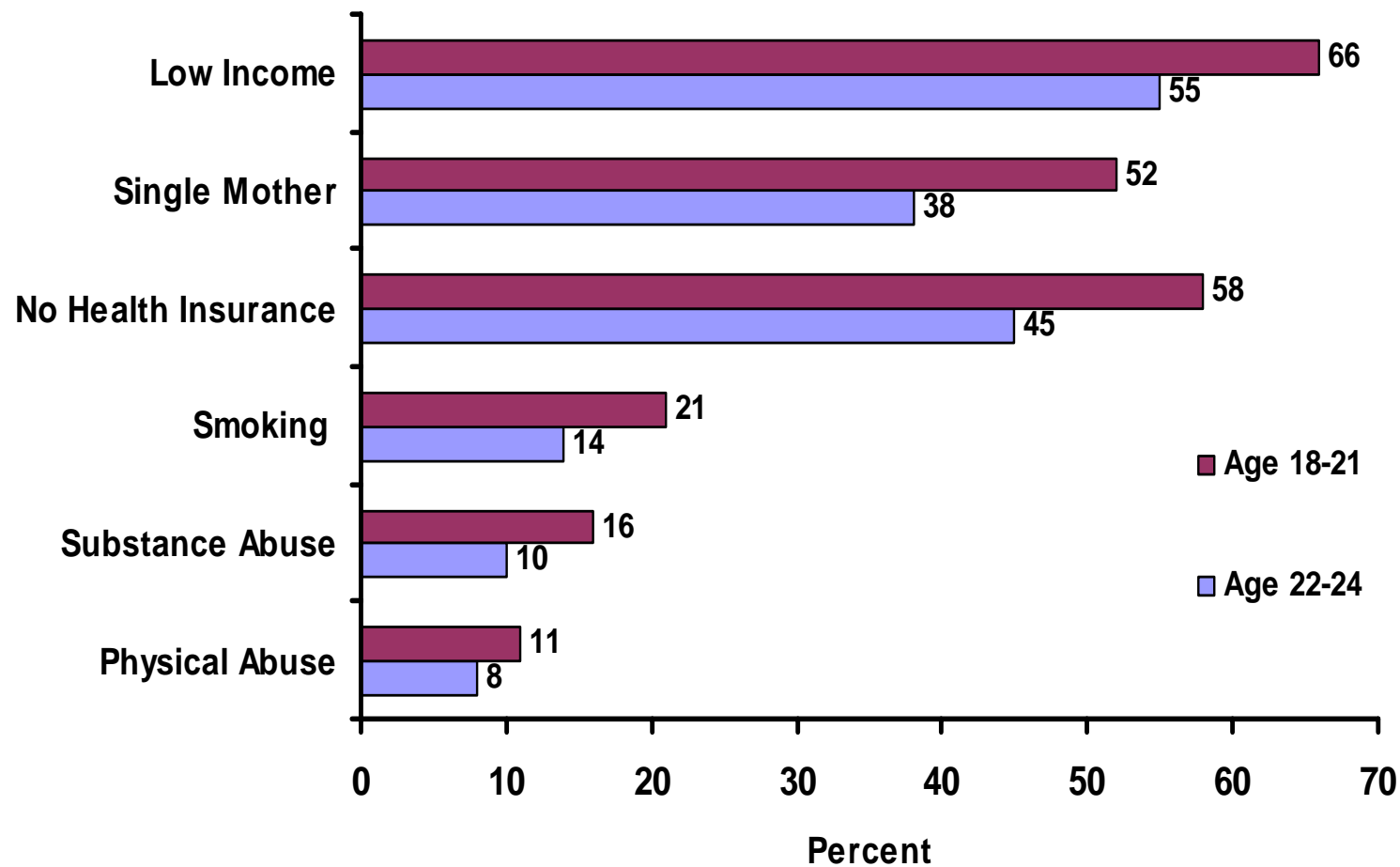


**Percent of Children Age 0 to 17 with All Parents in Household Having a Disability that Affects Employment, by Selected Racial/Ethnic Categories**

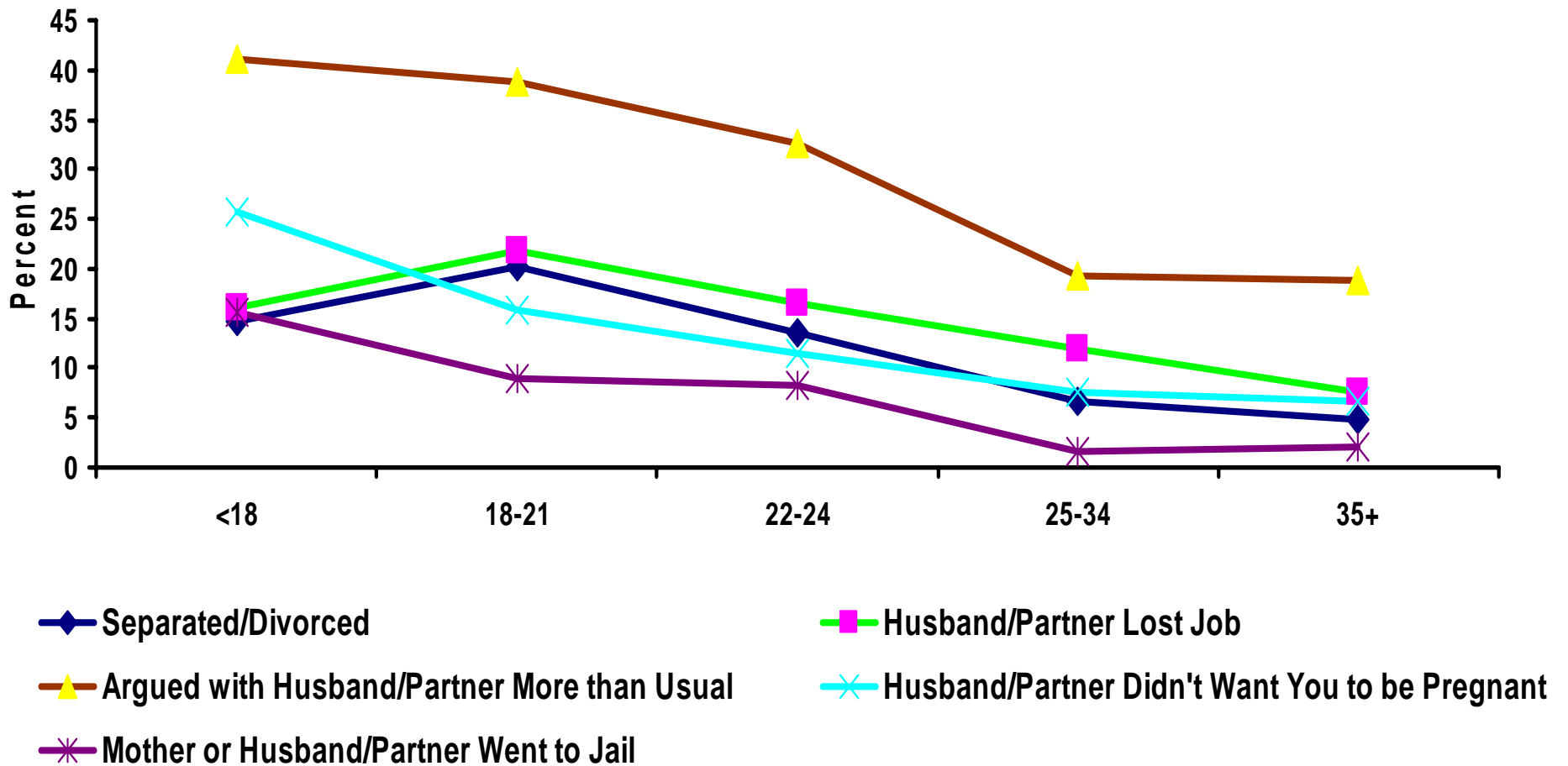


# Young, Single Mothers Have Highest Levels of Poverty, Risky Behavior

Percent of Mothers with Risks for Poor Child Outcomes by Mothers Age

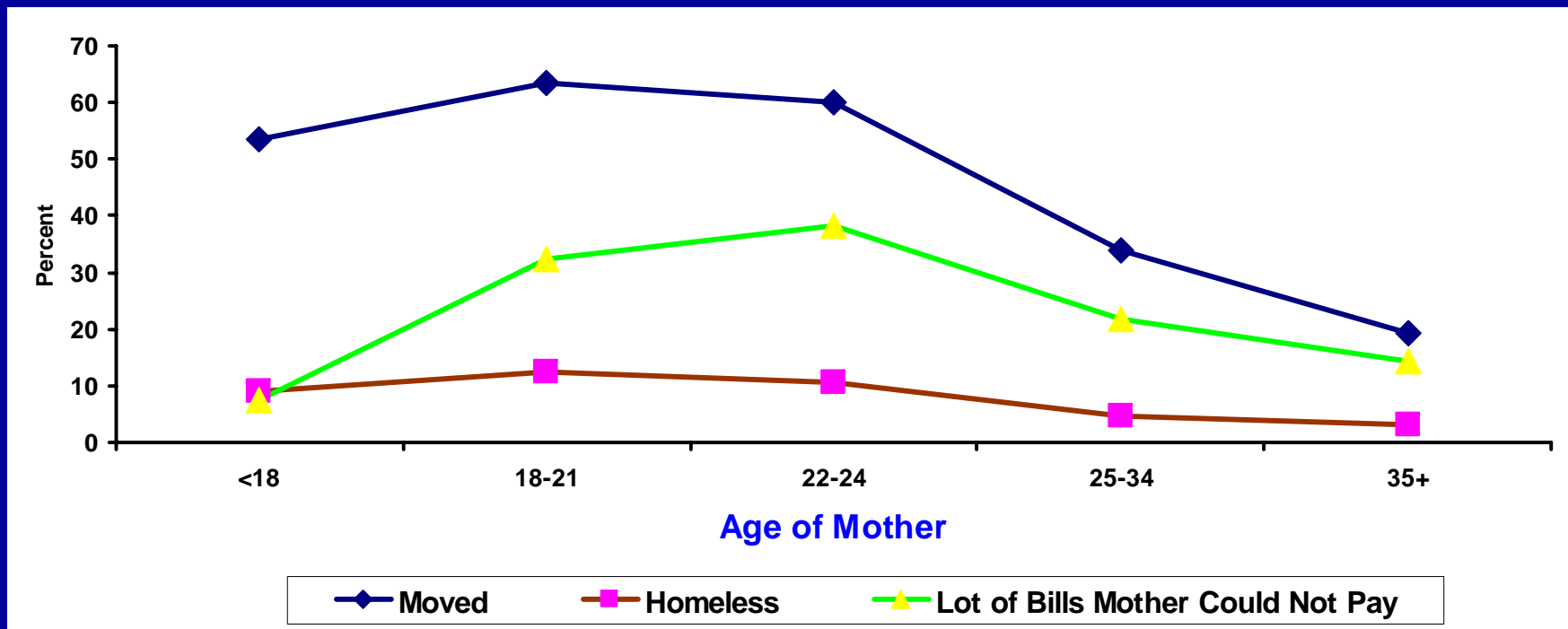


# Young Mothers Have Family Stress



# Barriers : Early Child Bearing

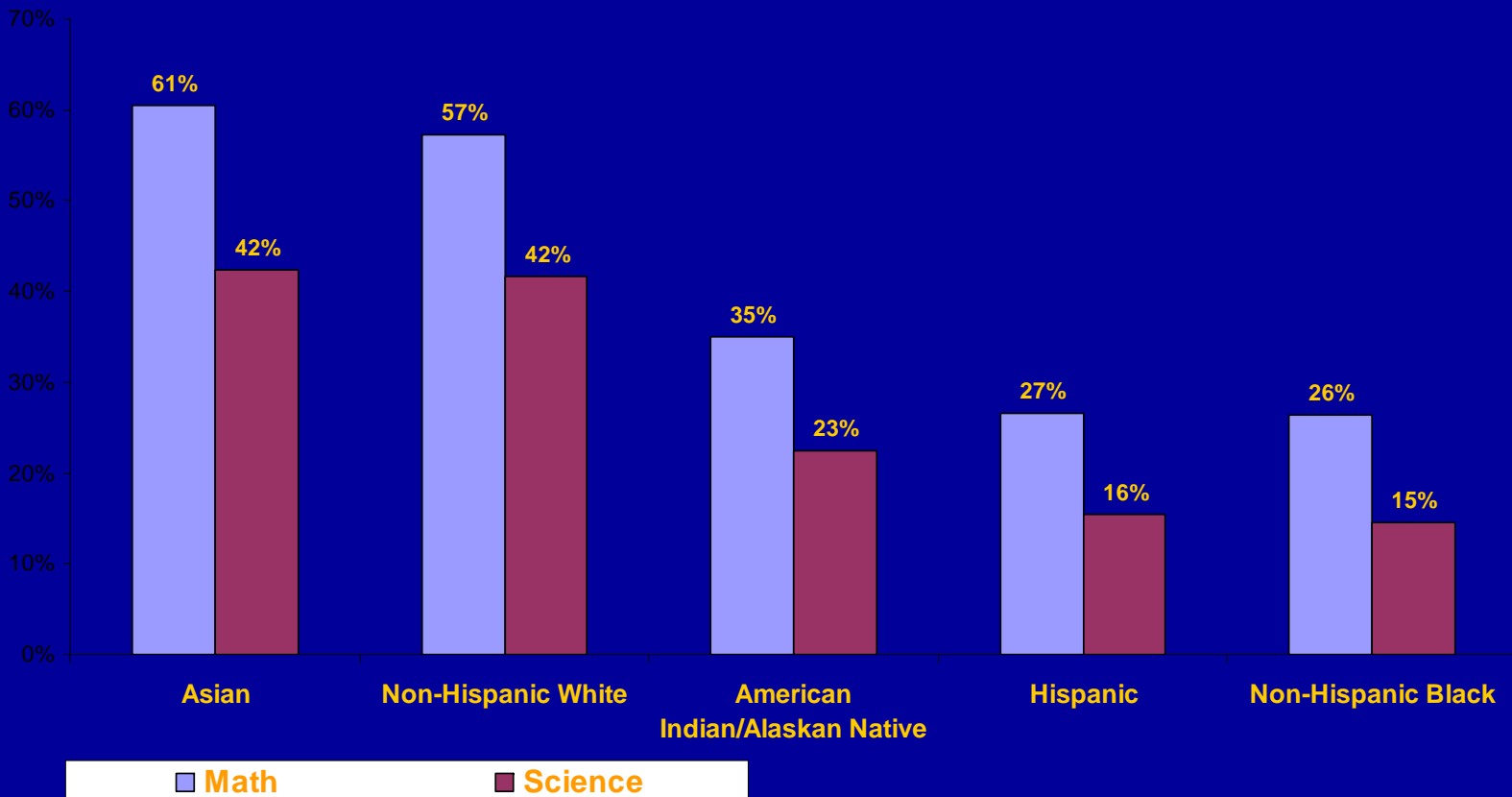
## Housing & Stress Factors in Year Before Baby was Born Washington, 2003



# Special Challenges Start Young:

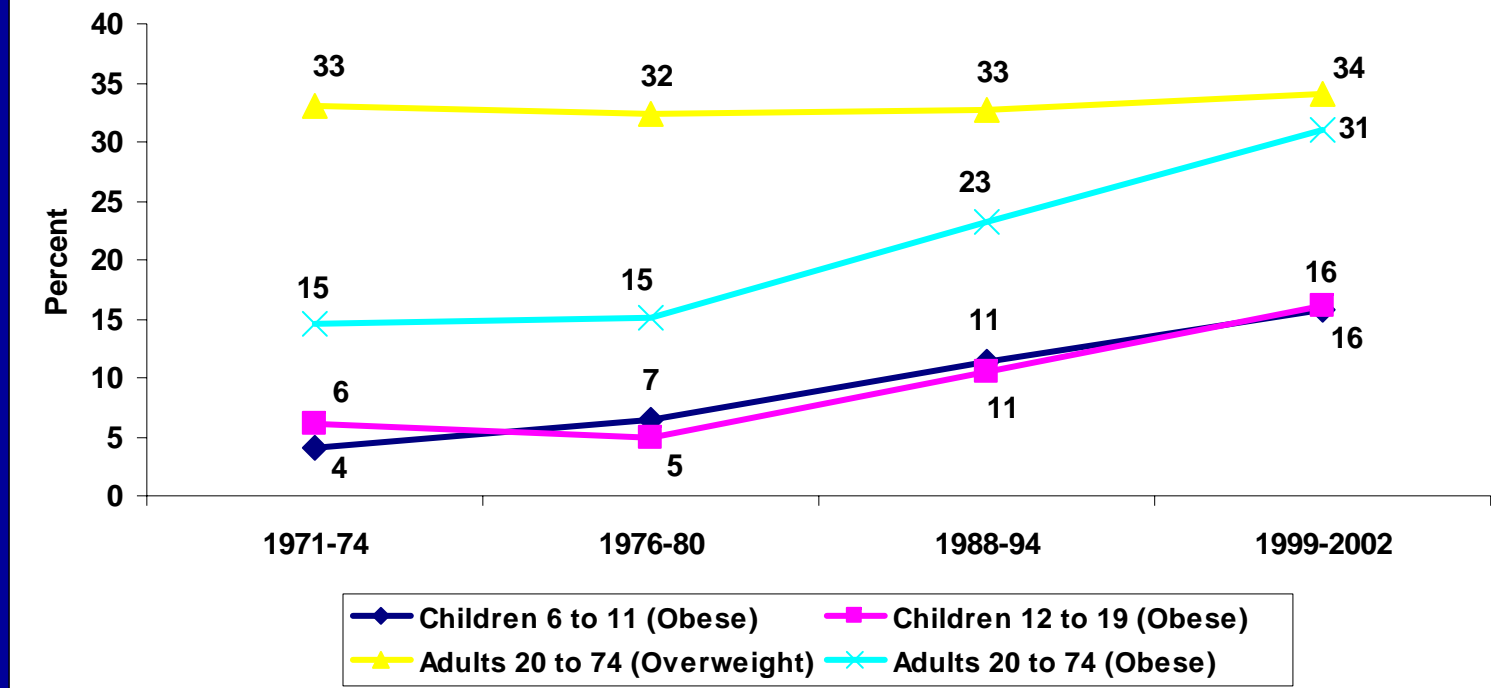
- ❑ Math/Science skills
- ❑ Overweight/Obesity

## Percent of 10th Grade Females Meeting Math and Science WASL Standards, by Race/Ethnicity Washington State 2005-2006



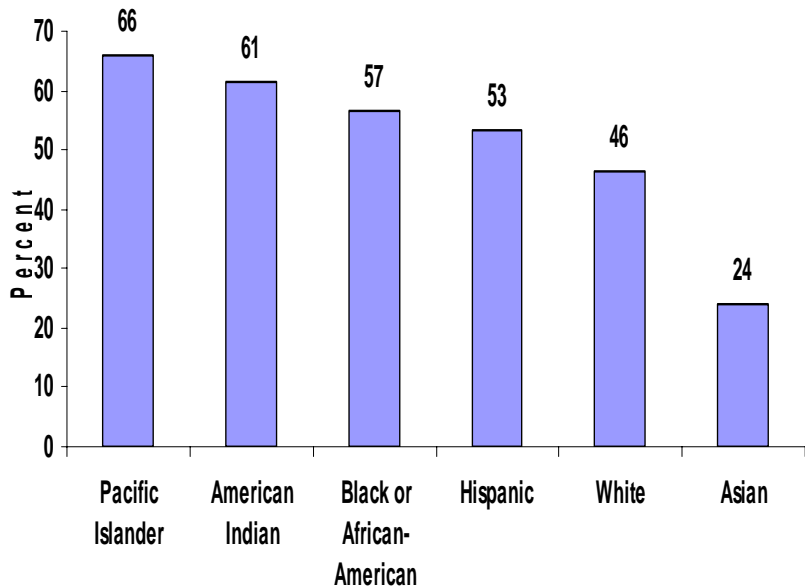
Source: Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
2006

Trends in Obesity & Overweight Among Adults and Children  
United States, 1971-2002

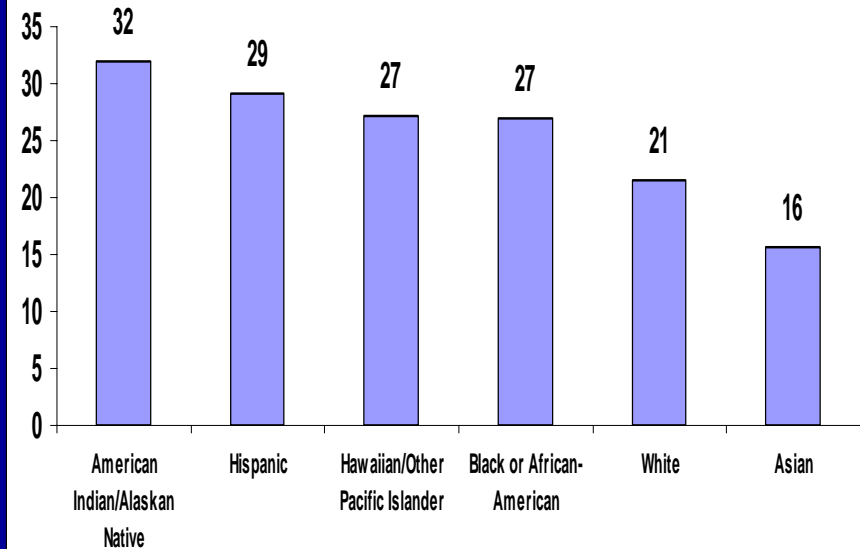


- ❑ Overweight/obesity linked to maternal characteristics
- ❑ OW/OB starts early, can be influenced by ECE setting

Prevalence of Obesity/Overweight (Combined) among Women Who Gave Birth in WA State in 2003, by Race/Ethnicity



Percent Obese/Overweight (Combined) by Race/Ethnicity Washington 10th Graders, 2002-2004



□ OW/OB patterns start with mothers, carry on through early childhood, youth and adult ages

Changing ECE Context:  
Focus on High Quality  
Early Learning Experiences

## Context:

### Shift from Access to Quality-based (QRIS)

- ❑ Growing recognition that more qualified staff will cost more money – how much, who will pay, how assure quality in return?
- ❑ QRS as increasingly popular mechanism to set standards, 12+ states underway, 30 devel.
- ❑ Early learning within P-12 or P-20 contexts – pressures to align with elementary-secondary teacher standards and student performance measures.

# WA QRIS Context

- ❑ Pilot: 3 counties, 2 communities
- ❑ Quality rating for Centers, FCC
- ❑ Standards to be determined: DEL and sites
- ❑ Support for providers: professional development
- ❑ Support for parents: information; money?
- ❑ Multi-dimensional UW evaluation: quality, outcomes, market impact

# Challenges

- ❑ Challenge of Measuring Quality:
  - Structural vs. Observational Measures;
  - Scales
  - Costs in time and money
- ❑ Operational Challenges of monitoring agencies and providers
- ❑ Improving an ECE system vs. rewarding better providers – dynamic ratings
- ❑ Market feasibility: assistance to providers, families to afford higher QRS levels. Reimbursement reflect actual cost – transitional vs. ongoing.

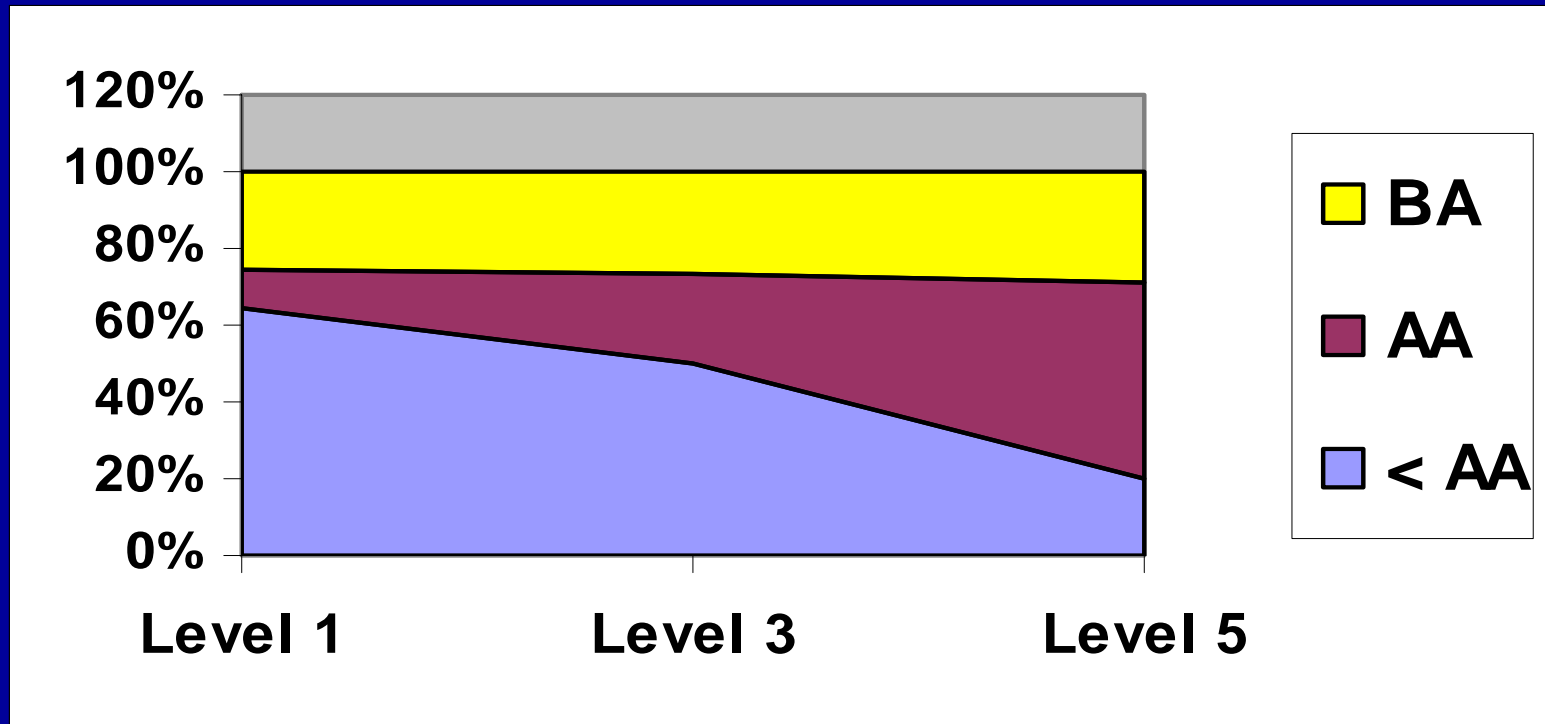
# Opportunities

- Accountability and public/policy-maker support: directly link quality, actual costs and payment rates.
- Way to get from 'here' to 'there.'
- Promote, monitor and examine process of quality improvement.
- Synchronize parent and professional views of quality.

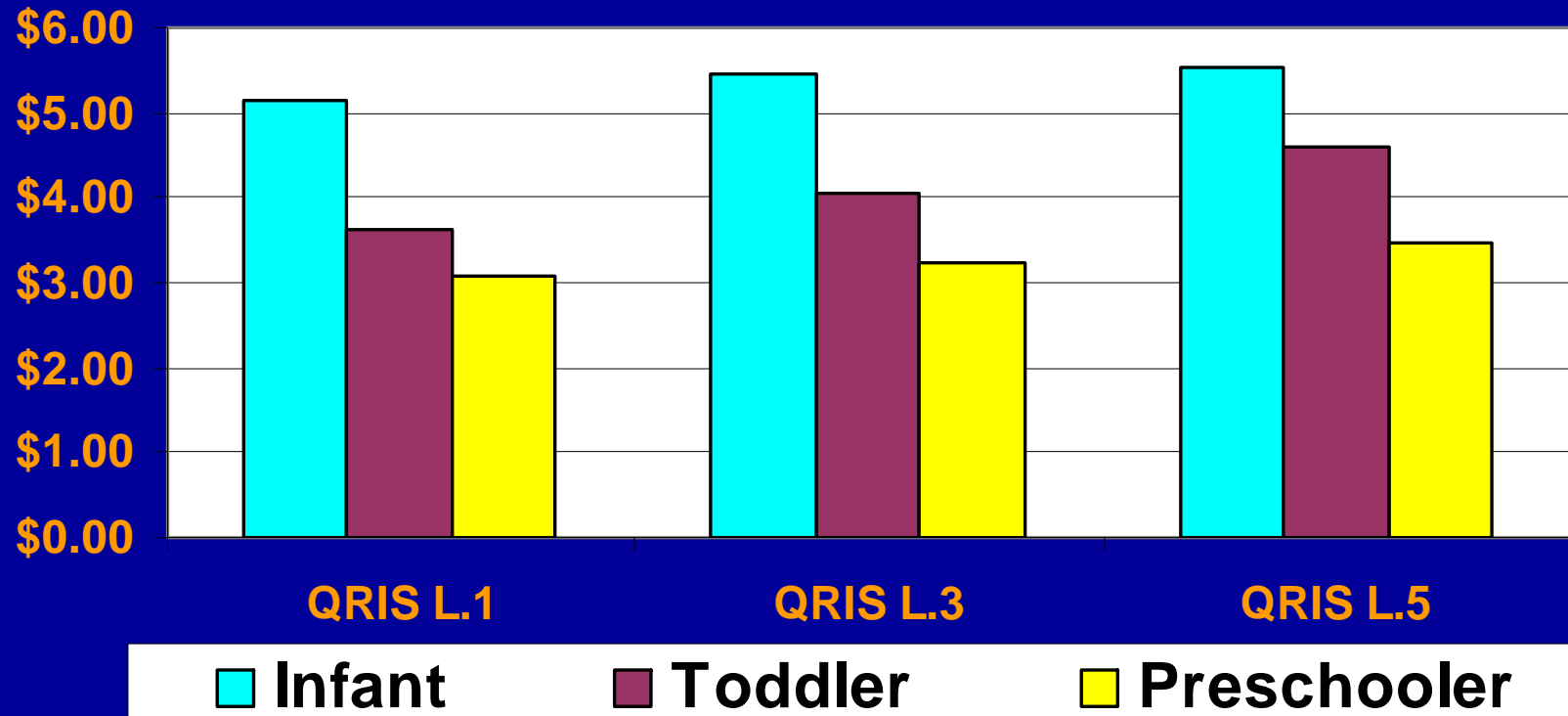
# Professional Qualifications in QRS

- ❑ *Complex matrices vary staffing by: age of child, responsibility (director; lead/assistant teacher) and QRIS level. Less ed focus for FCC.*
- ❑ *NAEYC accreditation guideline of moving toward BA's in each class often top level; work out more like Head Start = majority with college degree (AA, BA, MA)*
- ❑ *Example, WA: lead teachers, average across ages [see chart]:*
  - L1 = 65% <AA, 10%AA, 25%BA*
  - L3 = 50% <AA, 23%AA, 27%BA*
  - L5 = 20% <AA, 51%AA, 29%BA;*

# Educational Qualifications: ELC Advisory

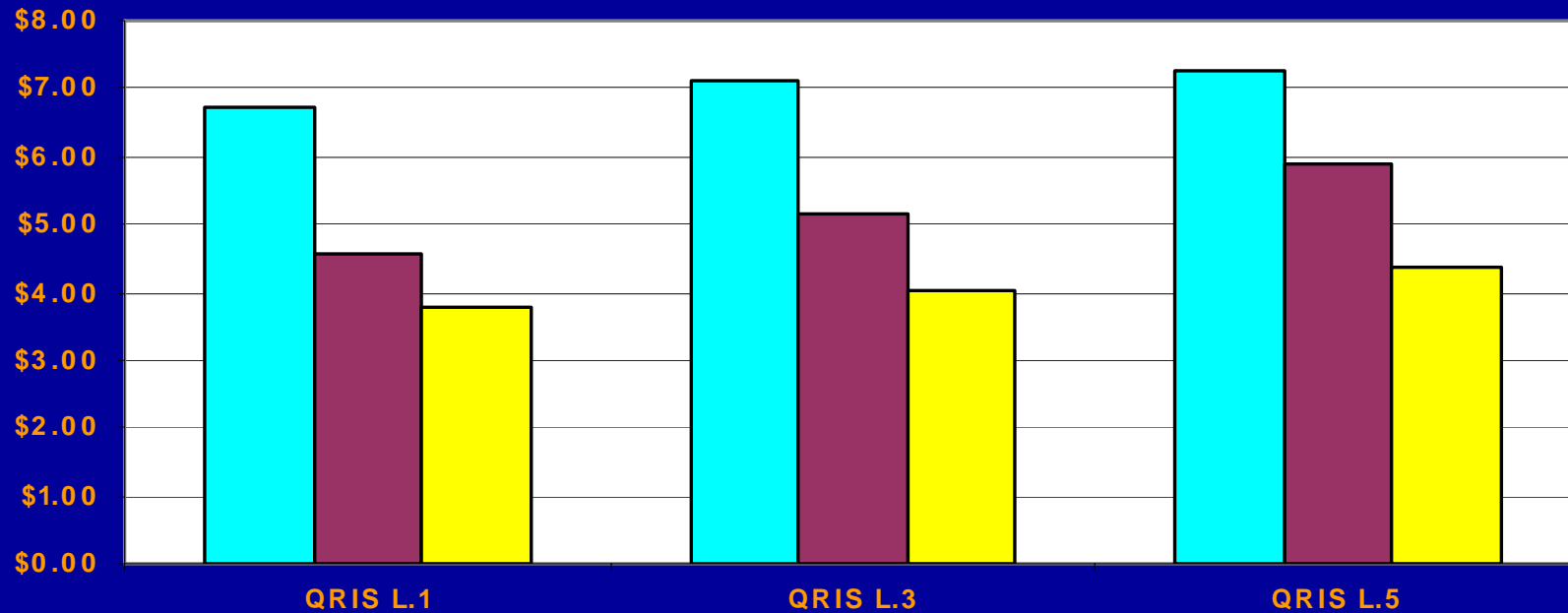


## Hourly Cost of High Quality Early Learning, Centers - Moderate Compensation Range



- Level 1 costs near 50-th Percentile
- Infant = \$5-5:50/hr; toddlers = \$3.50-4.50; preschoolers = \$3-3.50
- Increases between Levels 1-3, 3-5 of 6-14%; greatest for Toddlers
- Cost per middle income without assistance = 17-20%

## Hourly Cost of High Quality Early Learning - Centers, Higher Compensation Range



■ Infant

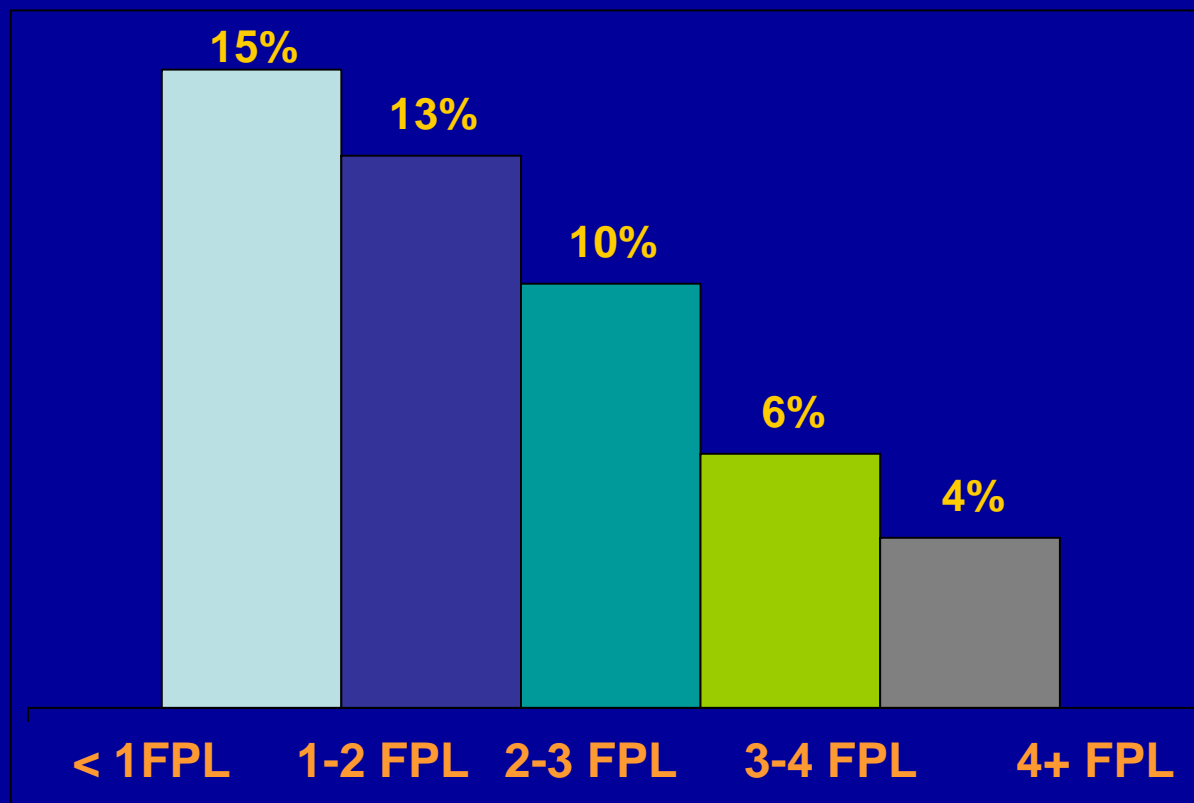
■ Toddler

■ Preschooler

- Level 1 costs near 75-th Percentile
- Infants = \$6-7/hr; toddlers = \$4.50-6/hr; preschoolers = ~\$4/hour
- Increases between Levels 1-3, 3-5 of 6-15%; greatest for Toddlers
- Cost per middle income without assistance = 21-25%

# Barriers: Access to Early Learning

## Percent Family Income Paid for Child Care

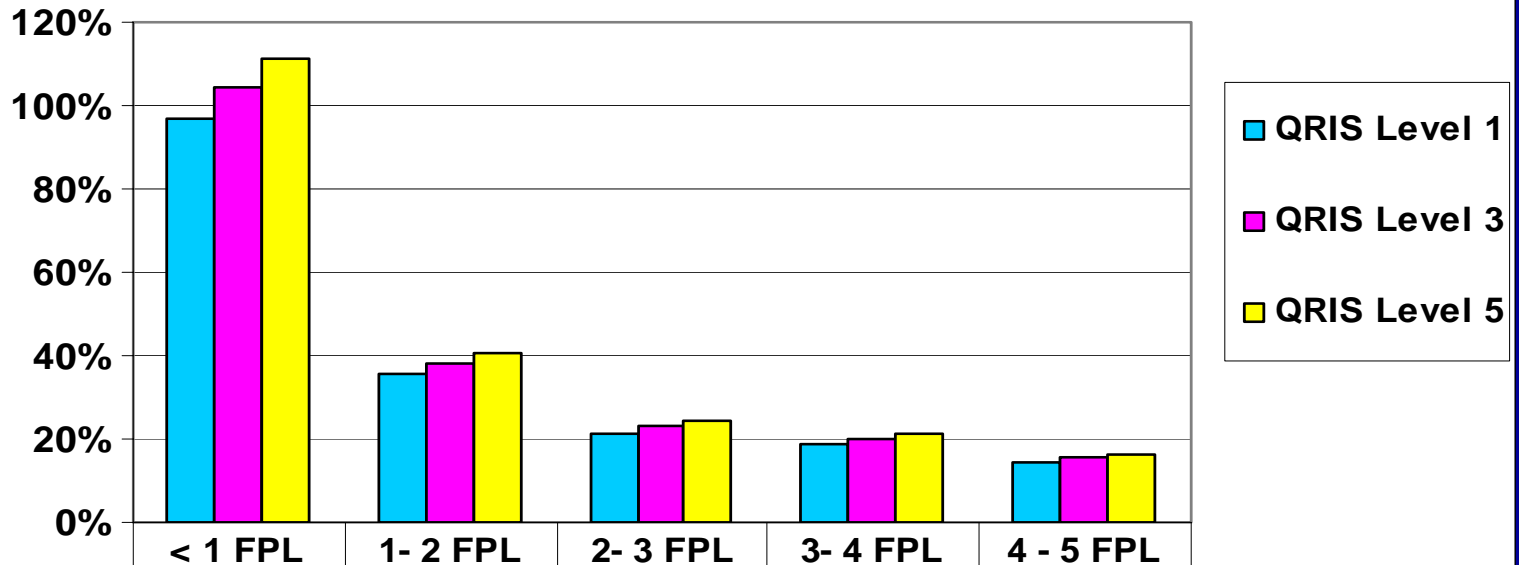


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# Affordability: Middle Income Families Will Require Assistance to Access High Quality ECE

**ECE Cost as Percent of Net Family Income, Per Child Without Assistance, By QRIS Level**



QRIS Level 1	97%	35%	21%	19%	14%
QRIS Level 3	104%	38%	23%	20%	15%
QRIS Level 5	111%	41%	25%	21%	16%

# Conclusions

- ❑ Continued challenge of serving children with multiple risk factors, urban and rural needs
- ❑ Two-generation approach: working with families, especially young mothers
- ❑ Shift of state policy toward high-quality early learning/QRIS offers new partnership opportunities and challenges, ranging from math/science preparation to obesity prevention

For More Information:

[www.hspc.org](http://www.hspc.org)

Look for:

WKC:

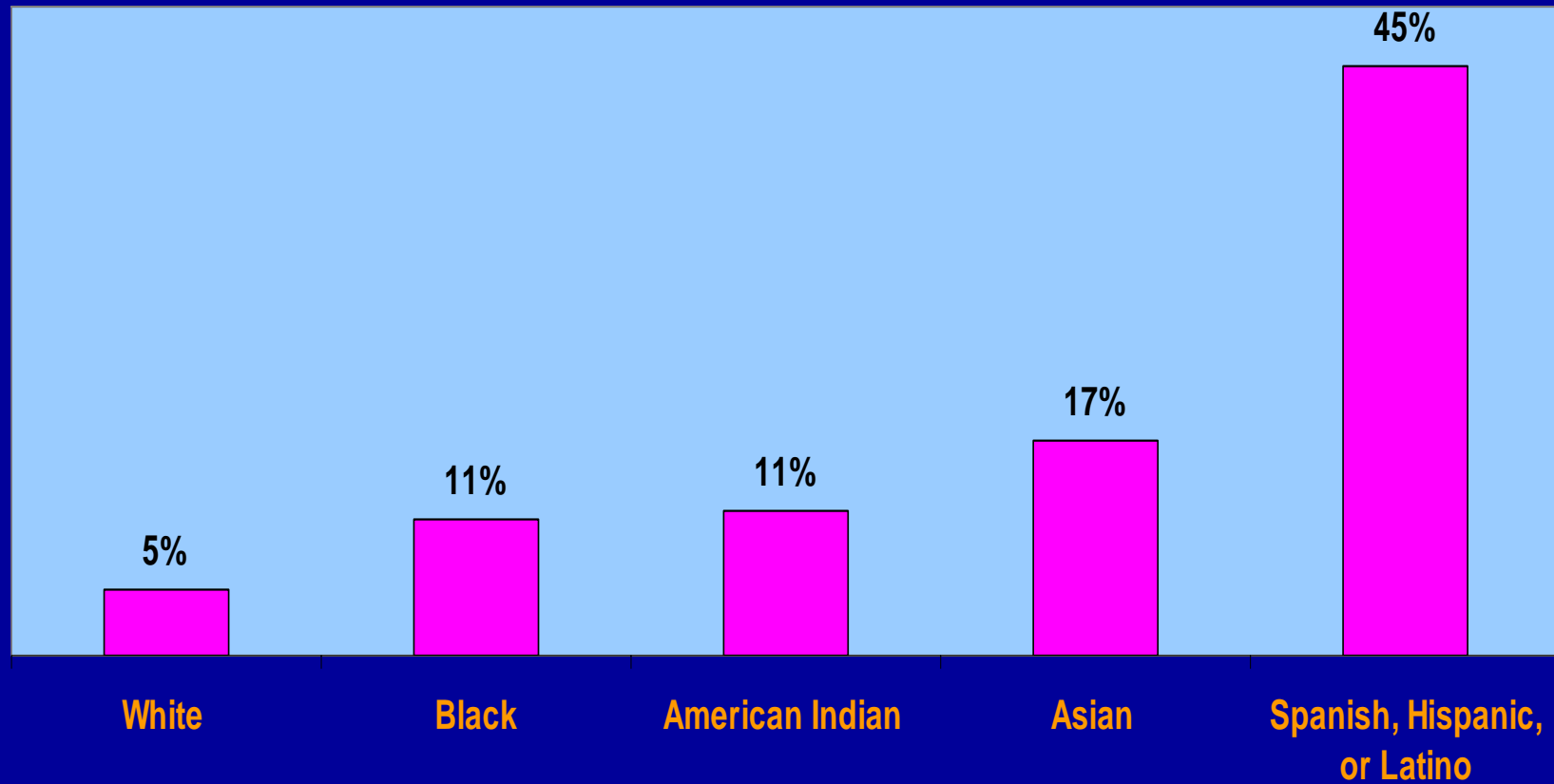
[http://www.hspc.org/topics/wa\\_kids\\_count.aspx](http://www.hspc.org/topics/wa_kids_count.aspx)

ECE:

<http://www.hspc.org/publications/financeECEpubs.aspx>

# Extra Slides

**Percent of Children Age 0 to 17 Whose Mothers Lack a High School Degree,  
By Selected Racial/Ethnic Groups**

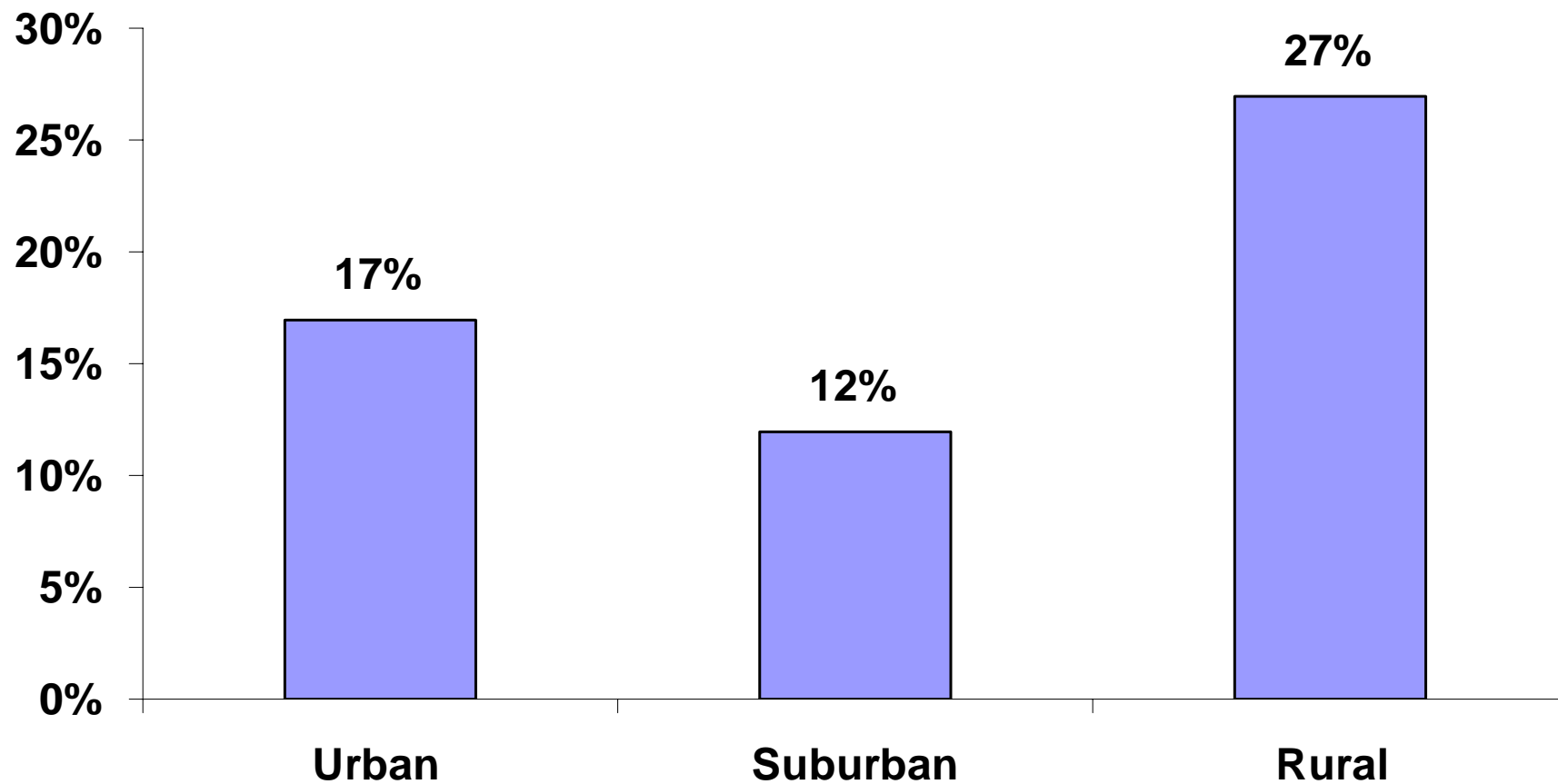


# Poverty and Employment

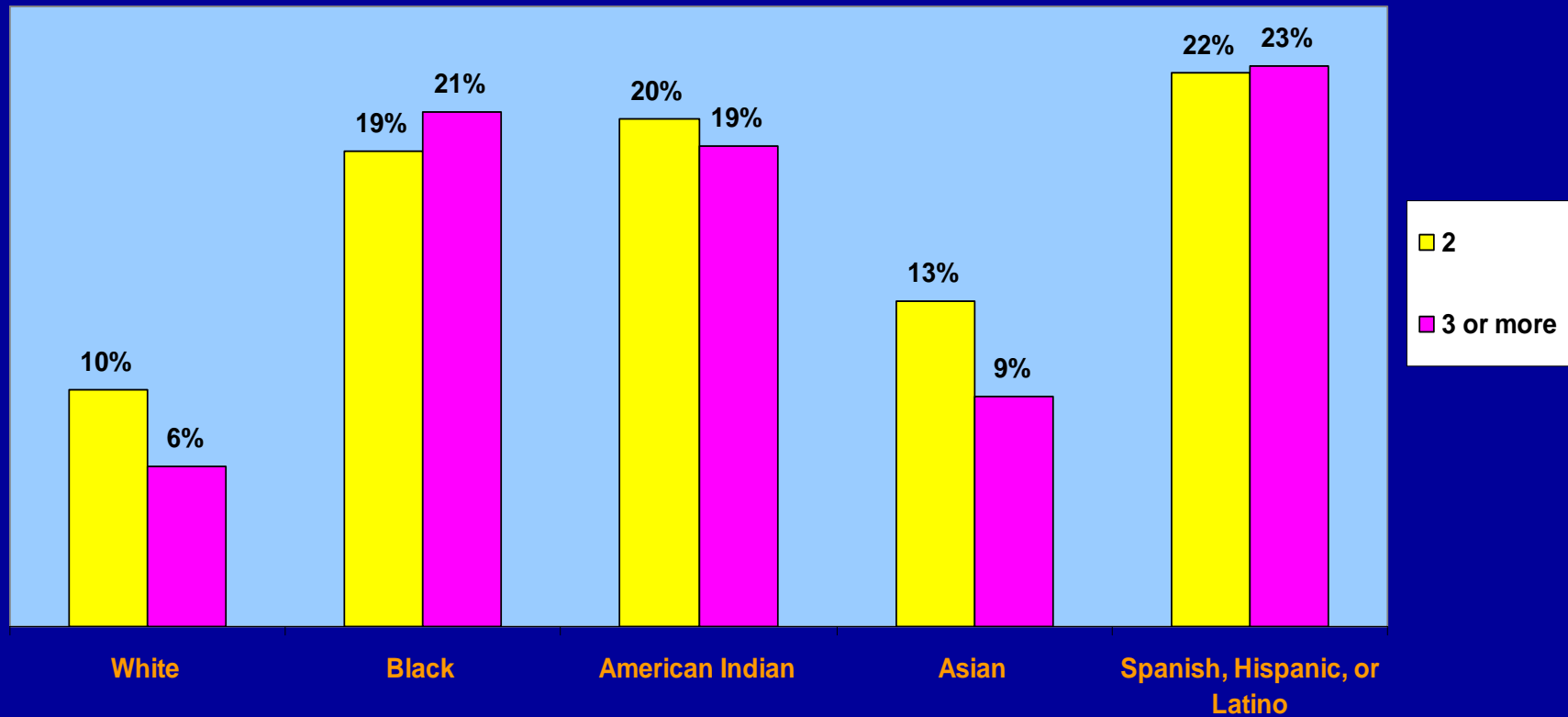
Parents are working but poor: 80% of poor children have > one parent working FT/FY

- ❑ One in five (339,000) has no parent employed FT/FY – low education, disability, wages:
- ❑ One in nine (146,000) has a mother with no high school degree
- ❑ One in sixteen (91,000) have all parents with a disability that affects employment
- ❑ Chronic unemployment in half WA counties

# WA Child Poverty by Location 2002-2004



## Percent of Children Age 0-17 with Multiple (2 or 3+) Risk Factors, by Racial/Ethnic Category



*Risk Factors:* Low income; zero or one parent; no parent employed FT/FY; all parents with disability; mother < High School degree; No parent fluent in English.